

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY JUNE 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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*****ALL VOTES ARE ROLL CALL*****

6:30 pm - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair S. Bannon started the meeting at 6:31 pm. Those virtually present were, L. Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, Town Manager M. Pruhenski, C. Rembold, and Special Project Manager, J. Grochmal.

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

General Comments by the Board

- L. Davis thanked the GBPD for their help at the protest on Saturday.
- K. Burke wanted to ask about the (WEB Dubois) statue and when the renaming of the middle school happen. She said there 55 copies of W.E.B Dubois books to give to the graduating seniors from Great Barrington and Housatonic. She would like to keep momentum and looked into NAACP and shared the document with Town Manager; she wants to put on a future agenda.
- B. Cooke, wanted to know about the closing of Railroad Street for the restaurants.
- E. Abrahams said that all Selectboard members were at the protest.
- S. Bannon read a written statement. The statement addressed the massive turn out at the protest and the amount of hard work ahead. He continued by saying words can only start to solve the problem. Actions are going to be essential for change to change. Selectboard sees Saturday action as a mandate to take action. He thanked the police also. Lastly, he commended the high school seniors graduating in such an unusual time. He was proud of the community and the Fire Department, Police Department, and everyone that helped make it memorable for them.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Update from Chief William Walsh
 - Chief Walsh thanked everyone for the compliments. He stated that Minneapolis was disgraceful! He feels that 98% of Officers are concerned about their community and want to serve.
 - He reminded the audience that the Great Barrington Police Department had been awarded accreditation twice for their upstanding Department, and is the only Department in Berkshire County to do so.
 - He went to a meeting in Washington DC after the Ferguson incident in 2016, set up by the Obama administrations, called "21 Century Policing". The commission set up a protocol with six (6) pillars of training, policy, technology/ social media, community placement/ crime reduction, training, education, safety, and well-being. More information is on the PD's website.
 - Training is ongoing. The officers are trained by an outside organization which is certified by the State (Massachusetts). The officers have had trainings in mental health. There is a partnership with the Brien Center where they can come and talk to the officers in South County; she is available 2x week. Everything on the website, to be proactive and transparent.
- Joe Grochmal, Special Projects Manager
 - He stated that he had three things he wanted to discuss tonight. Social Media Strategy: he wanted to access the social media information and "jazz it up" without getting too wild, keeping the Town's image. He is trying to add more photos, videos, etc. He was able to get 180 pictures to add to the website. He asked a couple of Town employees/leadership to write up a "story" for some news and media platforms. He commended M. Pruhenski for

his wonderful and creative story of the parallels of bread baking and launching new Town incentives in A Polical (UK publication). LinkedIn updates for all employees to be more unified and more professional.

- @GB Labs internship and fellowship program: He began by screen sharing a slide presentation. He had been talking to the EDC talking about small business development. He realized that there are a lot of college students home for the pandemic. Wants to engage the brightest people here in Town. Summer plans are in flux for many students. The population is again, and it has been historically challenging to maintain young people (18-30). Two-phase program. First is the recruiting of young people to begin an 8-week unpaid fellowship. Act like a "lab" by gathering information and bringing it back to the Town Manager. They will look for trends, to look ahead. There will be an 8-week internship with small businesses in the area also. Mr. Grochmal will be the supervisor of the program. Eileen Mooney had a question of what the fellow would be doing. Mr. Grochmal said each fellow would be doing a different task or project depending on interest.
 - He went on to talk about the E-government program, to improve the efficiency of the Town government, unlocking potential, and connect us. To present the idea of E- Government. It is the idea of using the internet to achieve better government, to improve services, improve government interaction with the private sector, and empower citizens to access information. Looking at the government to citizens. How to make services more efficient. Connect improvements in communications with citizens, providing them better tools. Such as MyCivic/ Tyler technologies, to pay bills, etc., read articles, and ClearGov, is a service of Financial Literacy, to take complex data and spreadsheets to make it understandable for average citizens.
- M. Pruhenski had a couple of updates. Town Hall will open Monday, June 15, 2020, by State guidelines. Plexiglas shields will be installed, and sanitizer available. Senior Center and two libraries hold off until Phase three. Wants to avoid gatherings. The Mason Library has curbside pick-up available.
 - Town officials have had many requests for wave parades. He wanted to streamline the process—one sheet application on the website to fill out. Town Manager can sign off after Staff has approved.
 - Outdoor dining, Staff is committed to open streets after retailers close. He ill brings to Selectboard requests. The State has made it easier to have outdoor dining. Restaurateurs can let Town Hall know wishes so that the requests be on the agenda.
 - K. Burke asked about tag sales this summer.
 - L. Davis wanted to know if Railroad Street could be closed, wants to have this decision made sooner than later. She continued on Lake Mansfield playground. S. Bannon spoke that the lake would be open soon. The playground equipment will not be available. Lifeguards staffed by Berkshire South.
 - M. Pruhenski continued that there isn't a safe way to have vehicles on Railroad Street with outside dining. He will make sure that there is handicap access and public safety. B. Cooke asked if Elm Street could be two way?
 - Dropbox is available at Town Hall to drop off payments.
 - Lastly, David Soule will be retiring after 27 years in Great Barrington. He wishes him well, would like to acknowledge his contributions to Town.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Continuation of Special Permit Application from MRI Investments, LLC for a medically supervised substance abuse detoxification facility at 438-446 Monterey Road, Great Barrington per Sections 3.1.4 B (10) and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. (Discussion/Vote)

Open Public Hearing: E. Abrahams made a motion to Open the Public hearing, B. Cooke, seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor. 5-0.

Explanation of Project: N. Arienti, Esq., spoke of the proposal; he said the applicants would be amenable to outdoor lighting, well and septic upgrades, and sufficient access to emergency vehicles. He spoke of the chapter 6.1.9 by-laws of Special Permits to authorize to deviate from the requirement of off-street parking of nonresidents in the front yard. The parking already exists in the parking lot, enough parking for the facility. The last request is pursuant to Section 10.54 Great Barrington Zoning by-law; he wants a waiver from

the traffic impact assessment requirement. He feels it is unorthodox in scope. He stated that it would be low traffic to the site. Matt Putin on line, to talk about the sewer.

Speak in Favor/Opposition: Alexandra Glover, Esq. spoke that she wanted to make specific categories of the facility by Selectboard. E. Abrahams posed the question to the applicants what they believe the facility to be. N. Arienti, Esq. spoke, that this was brought up last time. He replies that this fits the Hospital definition. He suggested that Selectboard talks to Town Counsel about this definition.

E. Abrahams read the six criteria

1. Social and economic, and community needs are served by this proposal. (Page 36, 37, 38).
2. Traffic flow and safety, including parking and lodging. E. Abrahams asked about the waiver for the study.
3. Adequacy of utilities.
4. Neighborhood Character and Social structures.
5. Impacts on Natural environment: septic/water system, already spoke of it, seems okay.
6. Potential of Fiscal impact and Town Services.

Conditions that are possible, E. Abrahams spoke of the eliminations of "16 beds"; no additional buildings executed the easement and the finishing of site plan review. Nick Arienti said on Thursday he has a Planning Board meeting to finish the site plan review.

E. Abrahams said if Planning Board has conditions, the Board can consider when meeting to vote.

Alexandra Glover spoke, the definition of the facility. She feels that Mr. Arienti did not answer the question.

L. Davis spoke of the condition of security fencing, be included.

Motion to Close or Continue Public Hearing: E. Abrahams made a motion to Continue the Public Hearing to Wednesday, July 1, 2020, 6:30 pm, by zoom, B. Cooke, seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.

LICENSES OR PERMITS

- Emily Irwin, Joshua Irwin & William Paul /Mooncloud d/b/a Mooncloud for Amended 2020 Common Victualler License for Outdoor Seating for Wednesday thru Sunday, from 3:00 pm – 1:00 am in the sidewalk area in front of 47 Railroad Street and along the pedestrian alleyway towards Castle Street, as per Exhibit A attached. (Discussion/Vote)
 - Selectman E. Abrahams made a motion to accept the Amended 2020 Common Victualler License for Outdoor Seating for Wednesday thru Sunday, from 3 pm. to 1 am, Wednesday thru Sunday, on the sidewalk in front of 47 Railroad Street and along the pedestrian alleyway, B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.
- Emily Rachel Erwin/Mooncloud, LLC – Request to Approve First Amendment to the Sidewalk Agreement dated August 26, 2019, between the Town of Great Barrington and 47 Railroad LLC, Landlord, and Mooncloud LLC, Tenant at 47 Railroad Street, per Plan attached.
 - E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the First Amendment of the sidewalk agreement dated August 26, 2019, between the Town of Great Barrington and 47 Railroad LLC, Landlord, and Mooncloud LLC, Tenant 47 Railroad Street, Plan attached.
B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.
 - Mooncloud LLC/Mooncloud, William John Paul, Manager to Amend All Alcoholic Restaurant Liquor License to extend service of alcohol to outside patio/sidewalk area in front of 47 Railroad Street and along pedestrian alleyway towards Castle Street for occupancy of 40 for Local Licensing Authorities' Approval of Outdoor Seating, as per Governor Bakers' Order of June 1, 2020. (Discussion/Vote)
 - K. McCormick Esq. spoke of the request for Mooncloud, and would like to open by following Governor's phased opening. She is requesting an amendment to the current sidewalk agreement, an amendment to the Liquor License cover additional sidewalk space. Wants to go into the sidewalk to the alleyway by crystal essence. The request of 20 seats by 47 Railroad Street and 20 seats by crystal essence, the configuration would be 2/ 6 tops and 4/2 tops outside 47 Railroad Street; and 1/6 top, 3/ 2 top, and 2/ 4 top in an ally way. The manager will be outside, with rope off to

control area. She would like to leave tables out for the Permit time period. S. Bannon asked about the hours of 3 pm. to 1 am.; seems kind of late. K. Burke said this is the local hours. K. McCormick, Esq. said, would like to operate normal hours, use the "good neighbor" rule. K. Burke has concern for ADA requirements and the space needed. Attorney stated will keep the ADA space. L. Davis asked if keeps the same number of permitted people? She replied that it is 40 instead of 49.

- E. Abrahams made a motion to Amend All Alcoholic Restaurant Liquor License to extend service of alcohol to outside patio/ sidewalk area in front of 47 Railroad Street and along pedestrians alleyway toward Castle Street for occupancy of 40 Local Licensing Authorities Approval of Outdoor Seating, as per Governor Baker's Order of June 1, 2020; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; Al
- Emily Irwin, Joshua Irwin & William Paul /Mooncloud d/b/a Mooncloud for Thirty (30) One Day All Alcoholic Liquor Licenses on Saturdays and Sundays from June 20 to September 27, 2020, from 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm, on Castle Lane, per Exhibit A attached.
 - Attorney McCormick spoke of Massachusetts nonprofit to invite people Downtown again. Mooncloud will cater and serve drinks up by old Railroad Station. One Day License on Saturday and Sundays, noon to 8 pm., from June 20 to September 27.
 - E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the 30 One Day All Alcohol Liquor License on Saturday and Sundays, from noon to 8 pm, on Castle Lane, for Emily Irwin, Joshua Irwin, and William Paul/ d.b.a Mooncloud; B. Cooke seconded, (K. Burke, recused); Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; 4-0-1.
- Robert Coyle, Esq./Valkyrie Cannabis Inc. – Discussion/ Update on Waiver from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) for Community Outreach Meeting. (Discussion/Vote)
 - Robert Coyle Esq., trying to start a retail cannabis business. He had reached out to CCC. They withdrew the waiver administratively, and in doing so, they issued an administrative order number 2, allows for web-based outreach Community meetings. He is asking Board for written permission to have these web-based meetings.
 - E. Abrahams made a motion to authorize the chair to sign permission letter for R. Coyle, Esq., to have met virtually; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.
- Emily Jones/Green Mind Events LLC for One Day Weekday Entertainment License for July 10, 2020 from 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm at GB Fairgrounds, 684 S. Main Street. (Discussion/Vote)
 - Ms. Jones spoke of the event on July 10, 2020, from 12:00 - 8:00 pm., at Great Barrington Fairground. E. Abrahams spoke that he asked the Board of Health about this. She said it was okay if in Phase 3. M. Pruhenski mentioned that it is best to check with the Board of Health.
 - E. Abrahams made a motion to approve Emily Jones/ Green Mind Events LLC for One Day Weekday Entertainment License for July 10, 2020, from 12:00–8:00 pm., at the Great Barrington Fairgrounds, subject to the approval of Board of Health approval, B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "nay"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; S. Bannon, "nay"; 3-2; passes.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Annual Town Meeting – Planning/Details. (Discussion)

- M. Pruhenski had a few updates about the evening. He proposed a one-night drive-in meeting at Monument Mountain High School. The Town Clerk will check-in at the driveway entrance. The citizens will listen to their radios in cars. A band platform will be erected for Town Moderator, Town Clerk, and Town Council will be up on the platform. The Selectboard, Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Department Heads nearby to answer questions. A few pop-up tents will be used to cover microphones. Nonresidents can attend. Michael Wise reassured that the meeting would be as normal as possible. He continued that if a thunderstorm, will need a second date. No PowerPoint presentations won't be able to be available that evening. Wants to encourage early arrival and those citizens can set up a lawn chair for themselves.
 - L. Davis asked about nondrivers.
 - M. Wise mentioned that there would be lawn chairs for nondrivers.
 - M. Pruhenski mentioned that there would be transportation for the elderly and handicap residents.

- D. Bailey asked about the voting; he continued that it is usually by site. He wanted to know the procedure for counting the votes.
- M. Wise will have "tellers" available to count sections.
- E. Mooney wanted to know if can go to 1/ 12 Budget process until we can have a meeting in person. S. Bannon thinks there is not any advantage to do this. A. O' Dwyer wanted to know of restroom availability. M. Wise mentioned that the school would be open. M. Loubert asked about late arrivals, would they be able to enter?
- M. Wise said "yes".
- She continues, what is the Plan about the 31 Warrant Articles?
- M. Pruhenski replied that the Citizen's Petitions were added because, initially, there would be two nights with the Citizens Petitions on the second night. Town council recommendation was to have one night, and include the petitions, ask voters to "pass over" them, and have a Special Town Meeting, where a more in-depth conversation can happen. She continued with her disdain for this Plan, she feels that the Petitioners have put a lot of work into preparation, which seems unfair.
- E. Mooney asked if a voter does not want to skip over zoning articles.
- M. Wise replied that the Town Meeting would take it up then.
- Chairman Bannon asked for June 23, 2020, as a rain date for the Annual Town Meeting, as requested by Moderator, E. Abrahams, so moved; B. Cooke, seconded, Rolls Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment of Member at Large to the Economic Development Committee.
 - Mr. Pruhenski asked to pass over this item and would like to advertise this position first, will keep B. Holcomb application file, bring this up at a later meeting.
- Appointment of Election Workers. (Discussion/Vote) Town Manager asked to skip, as the Town Clerk feels she has adequate Staff.
- FY 21 Appointments and Reappointments. (Discussion/Vote)
 - E. Abrahams made a motion to Selectboard reappointments, FY21, KP Law and Valerie, Dominello & Hillman LLC, Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Jonathan Hankn, Lara Yaple; agricultural Commission, Krystal Kurzyca; Board of Registrars, Marie Ryan; Commission on Disability, Dennis Flynn and Trevor Cobb; Conservation Commission, Jeff Cohen; Economic Devolpment Committee, Tim Newman, A. O' Dwyer, and Vivian Orłowski; Fence Viewer, Bernie Drew and Kurt Barbieri; Historic District Commission, A. Schroeder; Historical Commission, Paul Ivory and B. Napping; Tree Committee, S. Evans and E. Ward; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; and S.Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.
- Letter of Support for Application for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant. (Discussion/Vote)
 - Assistant Town Manager, C. Rembold, spoke of the report, from the presentation of March 9, 2020. He would like to apply for funds for the areas that were found that need addressing. Town wants to involve those most impacted and get them involved.
 - E. Abrahams made to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter of support, L. Davis seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.
- Correction to FY 21 SB/TM Budget Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article.(Discussion/Vote)
 - E. Abrahams made a motion to accept the correction, FY 21 SB / TM Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article, on line item total, (voted on correct amount), B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.
- Review and Approve Final DRAFT of 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles.(Discussion/Vote)
 - E. Abrahams made a motion to approve Warrant Articles 1-22, in order; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams, "aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.
- Review of Trust Policy/Formation of Review Committee. (Discussion/Vote)

- K. Burke asked for this to be placed on another meeting, July 1, 2020.
- Set Next Selectboard Meeting – Board Re-organization. (Discussion/Vote)
 - Chairman said the meeting had been set already for July 1, 2020.

8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- Dan Bailey, Housatonic, wanted to state that the Selectboard has a fiduciary responsibility to all members of the community. Please vote as a community.

9. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

- K. Burke, thanked the kids that put on the protest on Saturday.

10. MEDIA TIME

- No one spoke at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm, by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie M. Minacci Recording Secretary