

Great Barrington Selectboard
Town Hall, 334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Minutes of April 2, 2018, meeting

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m. Attending were Sean Stanton, Steve Bannon, Dan Bailly, Ed Abrahams and Bill Cooke by speakerphone.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Jennifer Tabakin reported that Manitou Inc. of Peekskill, N.Y., has been selected to perform the fire department audit and consultancy. A contract is in the works. On the review committee were the town manager, Fire Chief Charles Burger, Selectman Abrahams, Town Planner Chris Rembold and two firefighters.

She said she and Mr. Rembold are meeting regularly with the Housatonic School developer, who is actively seeking tenants.

Non-Financial Warrant Articles

The Board continued discussion of a proposed marijuana bylaw. The Planning Board has held a public hearing on its proposed wording, but Selectboard members plan to present amended wording on the town meeting floor.

Much of the discussion focused on which should be the special permit granting authority: The Planning Board or the Selectboard. Planning Board members Jonathan Hankin and Malcolm Fick said their board has more planning expertise. Mr. Cooke said he agreed with the Planning Board being SPGA. Selectboard members Stanton, Bannon, Bailly and Abrahams said their board has permitting experience and represents a broader range of interests including public safety, neighborhoods and general environment. The Selectboard is the town's SPGA in most matters, an exception being those involving pre-existing, non-conforming entities, which the Zoning Board of Appeals handles.

There was also discussion of zones in which marijuana cultivation, whether indoor or out, would be permitted. Planning Board member Pedro Pachano also made comments.

Mr. Abrahams itemized several suggested wording changes. The board will give them a final review at their next meeting and likely present the proposed amendments with a PowerPoint screening at town meeting.

In answer to a question from the audience, Ms. Tabakin said a proposed 3 percent local option tax would be on retail sales.


Regarding a town meeting warrant item on disposal of wet wipes, Chairman Stanton said the board is unlikely to have anything ready for town meeting as the issue is somewhat complex.

Citizen Speak

Michelle Loubert of Housatonic said Berkshire Regional Transit Authority plans to cut back on Great Barrington service as of July 1. She listed planned daytime public hearings on the new schedule. Mr. Bannon said Mr. Cooke is the board's representative to BRTA. Mr. Cooke's phone call had ended by this point.

On a motion by Mr. Bannon, seconded by Mr. Bailly, and voted by all board members in attendance, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Bernard A. Drew
Recording Secretary