

August 23, 2021 Regular Selectboard Meeting via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00pm; those present via zoom: Ed Abrahams, Leigh Davis, Eric Gabriel, Garfield Reed, and Town Manager Mark Pruhenski. Sean VanDeusen and Sue Carmel panelists.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. July 27, 2021 minutes (updated July 26, 2021) – E. Abrahams made a motion to approve minutes; G. Reed seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye,” Steve Bannon (not present). All in favor, 4-0

3. SELECTBOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. Leigh Davis – Follow up on Monument Mountain Regional High School entranceway accident and safety concerns. Stakeholders met and identified issues. Plan is to rework turning lane and create warning system to remedy situation.

4. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works – Engineers’ presentation/report can be found on town website and recorded meetings on CTSB website.
- b. GB Fire District-Billing/Collection – Clarified Town’s role re: Fire District. The District is quasi-municipal and has its own governance. It is not a Town department. The Town is an outside contractor providing billing and collection for the District.
- c. Board and Committee Vacancies – There are a number of vacancies for boards/committees. List on Town website. Encouraged those interested to contact Town Manager’s Office.
- d. Town Buildings Masking Policy – Masks are required for Town Hall and for anyone using town vehicles.
- e. Housatonic Sidewalk Project Updates – S. VanDeusen provided an update on Housatonic sidewalk repairs and new road signs for pedestrians.
- f. Paving Project Updates – S. VanDeusen provided an update on Taconic/Triplex parking lot repaving/sidewalk work and installation of electric charging stations; landscaping in town; retaining wall repair on Taconic Ave; Town Hall steps repair; review of bids for eight more paving projects; and roundabout construction project.
- g. 5-year Rooms/Meals/Cannabis Revenue Report/Presentation – Sue Carmel provided local option revenue overview for 1) Rooms occupancy tax 2) Meals tax and 3) Cannabis tax.
 - i. L. Davis: What is timeline for Cannabis Community Impact funds? S Bannon replied it is a five-year contract that can be renewed.

5. LICENSES AND PERMITS

- a. Great Barrington Land Conservancy c/o Janice Kabel, President, for permission to use Town roads for the 2021 Run for the Hills event on Sunday, October 10, 2021.
 - i. L. Davis asked to add to each motion that approvals are given with the condition that the applicant comply with local board of health or state guidelines around COVID regulations in place at the time of the event. S. Bannon replied yes, we should include that.

L. Davis made motion to approve use of Town roads for the 2021 Run for the Hills event; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye.” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye,” All in favor, 5-0.

- b. Karen Beckwith/Great Barrington Fish and Game, 338 Long Pond Road, for 11-One Day Beer and Wine licenses for their Annual Turkey Shoots on 9/12/21; 9/19/21; 9/26/21; 10/3/21; 10/7/21; 10/10/21; 10/24/21; 10/31/21; 11/7/21; 11/14/21; and 11/21/21 from noon to 6:00 PM.

L. Davis made motion to approve the Great Barrington Fish and Game 11-One Day Beer and Wine licenses for Annual Turkey Shoots; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” E. Gabriel recused. All in favor, 4-0.

- c. Karen Beckwith/Great Barrington Fish and Game for 1-One Day Beer and Wine License for their Relay for Life Event on September 25 from noon to 6:00 PM

L. Davis made motion to approve the Great Barrington Fish and Game 1-One Day Beer and Wine License for their Relay for Life Event; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye,” E. Gabriel recused. All in favor, 4-0.

- d. Amy Rudnick/Fairview Hospital for a Weekday Entertainment License for their Gala event on the Lawn behind the Daniel Arts Center at Simon’s Rock on Saturday September 18, 2021, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

- i. S. Bannon noted he is an employee of Fairview Hospital, but not required to recuse.

L. Davis made motion to approve Fairview Hospital Weekday Entertainment License for their Gala event; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye.” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 5-0.

- e. Amy Rudnick/Fairview Hospital for a One Day All Alcoholic License for their Gala event on the lawn behind the Daniel Arts Center at Simon’s Rock 84 Alford Road on Saturday September 18, 2021, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

L. Davis made motion to approve Fairview Hospital One Day All Alcoholic License for their Gala event E. Abrahams seconded.

- i. G. Reed asked about set-up and safety measures – Amy Rudnick explained they are planning to have a tent, but there is adequate ventilation. Masks are required only when not eating/drinking. Inside events will be masked.

Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 5-0.

- f. Amy Rudnick/Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for a Sunday Entertainment License for their Annual Gala to be held at Memorial Field on Sunday October 10, 2021 from 5:00PM to 8:00 PM

L. Davis made motion to approve Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for a Sunday Entertainment License for their Annual Gala; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye.” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye,” All in favor, 5-0.

- g. Amy Rudnick/Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for a one day All Alcoholic Liquor License for their Annual Gala to be held at Memorial Field on Sunday October 10, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

L. Davis made motion to approve Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for a one day All Alcoholic Liquor License for their Annual Gala; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye,” All in favor, 5-0.

- h. Janis Martinson/Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for a One Day Weekday Entertainment license for a free concert at Memorial Field on Monday October 11, 2021 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

L. Davis made motion to approve Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for a One Day Weekday Entertainment license for a free concert; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye,” All in favor, 5-0.

- i. L. Davis asked about events previously held at the gazebo behind town hall. Amy Rudnick replied Fairview wanted a change in venue and Mahaiwe would have used the gazebo/town hall area, but regrading for new playground make it unsafe for tables, etc. Discussing with S. VanDeusen re: future use.

- i. Patty Spector/Josh Billings Runaround Triathlon for permission to use Town Roads on Sunday September 19, 2021

L. Davis made motion to approve Josh Billings RunAground (corrected) Triathlon to use Town roads; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 5-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Participation in a Regional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
M. Pruhenski provided history/overview/benefits of CDBG program.

L. Davis recommended that GB participate in Regional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and authorized the Chair to sign the application; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed recused. All in favor, 4-0.

- b. Housatonic Water Works—Process and Next Steps – Staff authorized to start investigation process, connect with stakeholders, and identify options to move forward. S. Bannon asked for a public meeting to be scheduled for October 12, 2021, at 6:00pm via zoom to talk about the topic in depth. Selectboard members in agreement that the situation is urgent.

7. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. 28 attendees and 6 panelists are present at this meeting.
- b. Charlie Williamson asked if the Town would pay for electricity for the charging stations. M. Pruhenski to confirm. Charlie asked about penalties for funds embezzled from the Town. S. Bannon replied he cannot answer.

- c. Dan Bailly asked who is paying to add bypass pads to the Housatonic sidewalks to make them ADA compliant? Selectboard will get answer. Asked if yard signs for Farnsworth are in public right of way and if there is a permit. S. Bannon will get answer from building inspector.
- d. Sharon Gregory emphasized need for options for Housatonic Water Works operating and capital plan. M. Pruhenski replied we are working on potential options.

8. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

- a. G. Reed asked about clean-up of Bentley. M. Pruhenski replied it is better, but will need new tenant to complete.
- b. L. Davis raised concern about short-term rental regulations to address housing shortages and requested future Selectboard discussion. S. Bannon replied we need joint Planning Board and Selectboard meeting to discuss. Subcommittee needs to meet first. Will set date for joint meeting at next Selectboard meeting.

9. MEDIA TIME

- 10. ADJOURNMENT Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow
Recording Clerk