



## TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

March 8, 2021 Regular Selectboard Meeting via Zoom

### 1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGUALR MEETING

Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, those “present” via zoom: Ed Abrahams, Kate Burke, Leigh Davis, Bill Cooke, and Town Manager, Mark Pruhenski.

### 2. SELECTBOARD’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. Crosswalk on Main Street – Signs will be put out after snow
- b. K. Burke asked for an update on Bridges. M. Pruhenski shared that Tighe & Bond and Sean VanDeusen will be meeting with MassDOT in a couple of weeks and report back.

### 3. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works Updates
  - i. On schedule for reporting; to be complete come Spring.
- b. Housatonic
  - i. School Building
    1. Vandalism on lower windows. Waiting for estimate on how much it would cost to board up windows. Staff to walk grounds on regular basis. Roof tarping would cost about \$14,000 and would be short-term solution.
  - ii. Main Street
    1. Water main break caused serious damage. Paving will be handled. For now, cold patch will be used.
  - iii. Ramsdell Library
    1. Boiler work going out to bid this week. Handicap work to be proposed in summer.
  - iv. Community Center
    1. Received grant to renovate Housy Dome. Town hall furniture will be moved to Housy Dome.
  - v. Sidewalks
    1. Sidewalks will be paved from John’s Garage to Route 41.
      - a. Dan Bailly – all options will be considered for Housy Dome, demolition included. Dan asked if the roof is stable. S. VanDeusen replied that no analysis has been done, but there is a hole and engineers were not comfortable with

standing on roof. D. Bailly asked if HWW will be responsible for Main Street re-paving and who will oversee it. S. VanDeusen said that HWW will be responsible for it and that the Department of Public Work will oversee the project.

c. Town Buildings – Re-opening Plan

- i. Most of buildings will be opening Monday, March 15. Exceptions include Senior Center, Ramsdell Library, and Mason Library.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Transfer of existing Retail Package Goods Store All Alcoholic Liquor license held by Aberdale's Inc., to Saanvi Liquor Inc. d/b/a Aberdale's, Sureshkumar Patel, Manager located at 10 Depot Street. (Discussion/Vote)

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

- i. Matthew Porter, attorney of Saanvi explained proposed license transfer.
- ii. J. Aberdale feels that Saanvi will keep the same atmosphere and community spirit.

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

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the transfer of the retail package goods store all alcoholic liquor license from Aberdale's Inc to Saanci Liquor Inc.; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, "aye"; S. Bannon, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; and L. Davis, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the pledge of the retail package goods store all alcoholic liquor license held by Saanci Liquor Inc.; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, "aye"; S. Bannon, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; and L. Davis, "aye"; All in Favor, 5-0.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee – composting and food waste diversion (cont'd)

- i. E. Abrahams recused himself from this discussion.
- ii. Aretha Whitehead and Mark Phillips reviewed the Executive Summary that was provided to the Selectboard.

K. Burke made a motion to support the Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee recommendation as presented, B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; S. Bannon, "aye"; K. Burke, "aye"; B. Cooke, "aye"; and L. Davis, "aye"; All in Favor, 4-0.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Berkshire Busk- Downtown Summer 2021 Music Program Presentation (Discussion/Vote)
  - i. Eugene Carr reviewed Berkshire Busk 2021 Festival presentation that was provided to the Selectboard.
  - ii. E. Abrahams asked if there was no way to raise the money to pay artists. E. Carr explained that he did not want to guarantee pay for performances and then not be able to.
  - iii. K. Burke recommended that E. Carr confirm business hours, as they may still be open while artists are performing in front of them.
  - iv. P. Hollenbeck shared that this event is a great idea for musicians that are hurting from Coronavirus.
  - v. E. Carr can be reached via email at [Gene@BerkshireBusk.com](mailto:Gene@BerkshireBusk.com).

## 7. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. Suzanne Fowle asked if there are plans to issue a new RFP in regards to the school building Housatonic. S. Bannon explained that the RFP will be issued in the upcoming months and that the Housatonic Improvement Committee is going to propose some ideas. S. Fowle suggested that it be used to expand town common area and that it would restore vitality that the school had when open.

## 8. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

- a. 42 participants (36 attendees and 6 panelists) are present at this meeting.

## 9. MEDIA TIME

10. ADJOURNMENT Chairman Bannon adjourned meeting by unanimous consent at 7:01 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Brooke M. Morehouse  
Recording Clerk*