



## TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

---

May 10, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. January 25, 2021
- b. January 27, 2021
- c. April 12, 2021

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, January 27, and April 12, 2021 meetings; 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.

### 3. SELECTBOARD’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. L. Davis addressed a call that she received from her daughter regarding a car accident at the exit of Monument Mountain School. L. Davis would like to address this matter with Chief Storti and Peter Dillon at an upcoming meeting.
- b. S. Bannon
  - i. S. Bannon thanked Bill Cooke for his years as a Selectboard member, as it was his last Selectboard meeting.
  - ii. S. Bannon stated that the results of the annual town manager review can be found on the Town of Great Barrington’s website. Overall, M. Pruhenski received great feedback.

### 4. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works Updates
  - i. The report being provided by DPC and AECOM will be delayed by a few weeks. This was due to a confidentiality agreement needing to be obtained by HWW to protect consumer data.
- b. Board/Committee Opportunities
- c. Senior Center Updates–Limited re-opening plans

- i. Polly Mann-Salenovich explained that walk-in and telephone appointments are available by appointment. Non-strenuous indoor and outdoor programs and activities are now available. Food is still available for pick up (three thousand meals have been provided since the beginning of COVID). Congruous meals are still on hold. Transportation has been available throughout the pandemic. Non-vaccinated, no-mask wearing passengers can be transported one person at a time.
- d. Gazebo Lighting
  - i. Electrical contractor will install lights on Railroad Street for outdoor dining. Timer lights will be installed in gazebo.
- e. Fiber Connect Updates
  - i. Downtown Wifi and Public Wifi – Adam, of FiberConnect, explained that a lot of infrastructure that will be needed is already in place. FiberConnect is willing to donate infrastructure to support public Wifi, if the town will pay for the initial hardware. Timeline will be dependent upon funding. FiberConnect is working on getting easements with landlords.
  - ii. M. Pruhenski will talk with staff regarding next steps for public WiFi.
  - iii. S. Bannon asked about WiFi for Housatonic. Adam from FiberConnect explained that NationalGrid has provided a preliminary design, but Verizon has a lot of changes. Adam is working on negotiating with Verizon on how to be more realistic.
  - iv. K. Burke asked if the Selectboard should send a letter to Verizon regarding the project. Adam will work with a point person (town staff) on how to communicate with Verizon.
- f. Memorial Day
  - i. There will be no Memorial Day Parade in 2021, but veterans will proceed with a private memorial similar to 2020.
- g. GBFD Retirement
  - i. M. Pruhenski thanked Stephen Hall for his 38 years of service on the Great Barrington Fire Department.

## 5. LICENSES AND PERMITS

- a. Gerard “Poly” Lanoue/Olde Yankee Street Rods for temporary event licenses on May 12 & 26, June 9 & 23, July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18 for their Car Cruise events at Bogies 935 Main Street.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the temporary events license with the condition that the event follows proper COVID protocols; 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.

- b. Nicholas Hall of Green Minded Events for a Temporary Entertainment License for Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Great Barrington Fair Grounds 659 Main Street

- i. Nicholas Hall presented on behalf of Green Minded Events.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the temporary entertainment license with the condition that the event follows proper COVID protocols; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; K. Burke, “no”; B. Cooke, “aye”; and L. Davis, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-1.

- c. Julien Bizational of Bizational Fine Foods–Request to update previously approved Temporary Outdoor Dining License from 24 to 26 patrons.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the temporary outdoor dining license with the condition that the event follows proper COVID protocols; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; K. Burke, “yes”; B. Cooke, “aye”; and L. Davis, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

## 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Julien Bizational for Alteration of Premises of their Wine and Malt License at 684 South Main Street

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

E. Abrahams made a motion to postpone the public hearing until a representative of Julien Bizational can share more information; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; K. Burke, “yes”; B. Cooke, “aye”; and L. Davis, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Annual Town Meeting Warrant–Review/Sign final version for posting

- i. E. Abrahams recommended to strike “recommended by Selectboard” from item 17 – Parking Lot.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the Town Warrant as amended; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; K. Burke, “yes”; B. Cooke, “aye”; and L. Davis, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

- b. Building Permit Fees

- i. Executive Summary from Ed May

- ii. Abatement/Reduction in fees for Non-Profits

- 1. The board discussed that abatements fees could be seen as a backdoor donation and become problematic. K. Burke reminded the board that non-profits may be getting a discount on water and sewer in the near future.

- iii. Allison Marchese, Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire, stated that for a \$19 million project, the building permit would be approximately \$92,000, which is a significant portion of the budget.

8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. Dan Bailly, Housatonic, asked for a status update on the sidewalks in Housatonic.
- b. Larissa Yaple, Great Barrington, asked if board vacancies are listed in the Southern Berkshire Shopper's Guide. L. Yaple also thanks Bill Cooke for his time on the Selectboard.

9. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

- a. B. Cooke thanked his fellow members of the board.
- b. E. Bannon addressed the sidewalks on Main Street in Housatonic. Their condition is not being ignored. There are problems with construction from time-to-time and they will be addressed.
- c. 22 participants (16 attendees and 6 panelists) are present at this meeting.

10. MEDIA TIME

11. ADJOURNMENT Chairman Bannon adjourned meeting by unanimous consent at 7:04 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Brooke M. Morehouse*  
*Recording Clerk*