



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

May 24, 2021 Special Joint Meeting with the Zoning Board of Appeals & Selectboard Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER JOINT MEETING WITH THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, those “present” via zoom: Ed Abrahams, Leigh Davis, Eric Gabriel, Carolyn Ivory, Ron Majdalany, Steven McAlister, Madonna Meagher, Garfield Reed, and Town Manager, Mark Pruhenski.

Joint Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate member

L. Davis made a motion to recommend the appointment of JB Brodeur to the Zoning Board of Appeals; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

C. Ivory made a motion to recommend the appointment of JB Brodeur to the Zoning Board of Appeals; M. Meagher seconded; Roll Call Vote; C. Ivory, “aye”; R. Majdalany, “aye”; S. McAlister, “aye”; and M. Meagher, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, those “present” via zoom: Ed Abrahams, Leigh Davis, Eric Gabriel, Garfield Reed, and Town Manager, Mark Pruhenski.

2. SELECTBOARD’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

a. Ed Abrahams

- i. The second Open House held at the Great Barrington Police Department recently took place. They had ice cream from SoCo available and the new K9 named Beko was in attendance.
- ii. Anyone is interested in the 2021 Art Week can email CulturalGB@gmail.com.
- iii. The American Legion/VFW Poppy Drive was held the previous weekend and was very successful.
- iv. The Housatonic Post 75th Anniversary took place and celebrated Walter Samuels. E. Abrahams would like the Selectboard to issue a proclamation honoring Walter Samuels.

b. Leigh Davis

- i. L. Davis attended the recent Housatonic Town Meeting. She stated that Cook’s Garage is unsafe for youth and the Housatonic citizens are looking for a status update. She also stated that there seems to be miscommunication between citizens and the town regarding the tarping of the school.

c. Stephen Bannon

- i. The next goal setting meeting is scheduled for Monday June 28th.
- ii. Selectboard Assignments
 1. L. Davis – Community Preservation Committee
 2. E. Gabriel – Open Space and Recreation Plan Task Force
 3. L. Davis and G. Reed – Selectboard & Planning Board Housing Committee

3. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

a. Monument Mountain Regional High School Entrance

1. L. Davis stated that she believes this intersection is dangerous and more safety measures should be implemented. She read a statement from Loretta Tenuta.
2. E. Abrahams discussed the DOT’s findings from the last time the town discussed this intersection, and pointed out many flaws with their data.
3. Peter Dillon summarized previous conversations with DOT and the police department about safety precautions for this intersection.
4. G. Reed stated that a “school in session” sign may be an option, as well as an officer at the end of the driveway rather than middle of the road.
5. P. Storti discussed different options that the school has looked into to make intersection safer that doesn’t involve changes in traffic.
6. Francisca Heming, Department of Transportation, stated that the DOT believes that the school needs a new driveway, not a new traffic signal (based on studies done by DOT and by the school). Intersection Collision Warning System (stop sign will blink when vehicle is approaching) is a new technology that will need to be designed and has not been installed in MA yet, but is also a future possibility.
7. Patrick Tierney, Department of Transportation, explained that is has nothing to do with expense or current traffic signal, the intersection just doesn’t warrant a traffic signal.
8. Smitty Pignatelli stated that maybe a trip signal mechanism at the Monument Valley Road signal would be beneficial for the entrance.

L. Davis made a motion to schedule an official meeting to discuss the Monument Mountain Regional High School Entrance/Intersection; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

b. Housatonic Water Works

- i. AECOM and DPC are working on completing their reports. Members from AECOM and DPC will attend the June 21st meeting to report their findings.
- ii. M. Pruhenski still encourages Housatonic residents to reach out to town, state, and HWW regarding the condition of their water.

c. Annual Town Meeting June 7th and 10th (if necessary).

- i. Transpiration will be available for elderly, disabled, and anyone that needs a ride (call Senior Center). Children are also welcome to come.

L. Davis made a motion to hold the 2021 Annual Meeting outdoors; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “no”; All in Favor, 4-1.

d. Outdoor Dining—Updates

- i. Outdoor dining will begin Memorial Day weekend. It will be offered on Friday, Saturdays, Independence Day, and Labor Day beginning at 6:00 PM.

L. Davis made a motion to shutdown Railroad Street at 5:30 PM on the days that outdoor dining is offered; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

e. Memorial Day Events

- i. No parade, though American Flags will be put up through July 4th.

f. Housatonic Main Street Road Repairs

- i. Repairs will begin in two weeks.

g. Lake Mansfield Road Updates

- i. Chris Rembold – Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force has begun public outreach to improve Lake Mansfield roadway. Boat launch and Beach Road will be permanently closed—recreational only path.

h. EPA at Reid Cleaners should be complete by end of week.

4. LICENSES AND PERMITS

a. Jeff Caminiti/20 Railroad for an annual Weekday Entertainment License

- i. Jeff – Tent behind restaurant for entertainment (solo, duets, no large-scale bands due to proximity of theater). Entertainment in restaurant and alley, as well after dinner (solo, duet, poems).

L. Davis made a motion to approve the Weekly Entertainment License for 20 Railroad; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

b. Rick Abdalla/Bogies for two temporary Sunday Entertainment Licenses for June 27, 2021 (rain date July 11, 2021) and September 26th (Rain Date October 3, 2021)

L. Davis made a motion to approve the Sunday Entertainment License for Bogies, with the conditions that they comply with sign and COVID bylaws; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

c. Tiffany Riva/Railroad Street Youth Project for a temporary weekday entertainment license for Thursday July 15, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM

- i. 20 minute film presentations, 5 small events (gazebo and town hall park). 20-25 people at most. Wristbands for guests 21+. SafeServe bartender.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the temporary weekday entertainment license for the Railroad Street Youth Project, with the conditions that they comply with sign and COVID bylaws; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

- d. Tiffany Riva/RSYP for a one day beer and wine license for Thursday July 15, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM

L. Davis made a motion to approve the beer and wine license for the Railroad Street Youth Project, with the conditions that they comply with sign and COVID bylaws; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

- e. Eugene Carr of Berkshire Busk! Temporary event license for multiple locations and dates

L. Davis made a motion to approve the temporary event license for Berkshire Busk, with the conditions that they comply with sign and COVID bylaws; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

- f. Jenise Lucey of Berkshire South Regional Community Center for a one-day beer and wine license for Saturday June 26, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

- i. Welcome Summer Festival

L. Davis made a motion to approve the one-day beer and wine license for Berkshire South Regional Community Center, with the conditions that they comply with sign and COVID bylaws; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

L. Davis made a motion to open the public hearing; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

- i. Explanation – Anouk Bizalion, indoor space is limited, attempting to shift eating and alcohol consumption outside

L. Davis made a motion to close the public hearing; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the Alteration of Premises for Bizalion’s Wine and Malt License; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement transfer for 20 Castle Street

- i. E. Gabriel disclosed possible Conflict of Interest, but not recusing himself
- ii. Kate McCormick

- 1. 10 year TIF granted through 2023, to rehab and develop the building and alleyway, to create careers and restore old firehouse
- 2. January 2020, building sold to Castle Street Firehouse LLC
- 3. Commonwealth of MA asked for a TIF transfer to new owner
- 4. Previous owner did a lot of restoration of alley, current owner is doing a lot of restoration of building
- 5. TIF need to assist in the economics of restoring the building

L. Davis made a motion to approve the Tax Increment Financing agreement transfer for 20 Castle Street; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

- b. Recommendation to the Planning Board on the Special Permit Application from James J. Mercer, Trustee, Long Pond Road Nominees Trust, 80 Maple Avenue, Great Barrington, land owner, and Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc., to create a rear lot in the R-2 zone off of Long Pond Road, in accordance with Sections 4.3 and 10.4 of the Great Barrington Zoning Bylaw

- i. E. Gabriel disclosed that he has done work for James Mercer before.
- ii. Karen Sendyk asked if the rear lot could be moved back. It was then explained that parking off of existing road will be constructed.
- iii. Mark Cardillo explained that there is a house listed on this special permit application. It was explained that the building is being retained, not built.
- iv. Sharon Jablon shared her concern on how this project will impact home security, as it will bring more traffic.

L. Davis made a motion to recommend the special permit application for James J. Mercer to the Planning Board, with the condition that home security will be taken into consideration; E. Abrahams seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; L. Davis, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.

7. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. Jan Wojcik stated that the Long Pond Road project will be exciting for the neighborhood. He stated that the gun club brings a lot of traffic already as well.
- b. Daniel Bailly asked if the signs for crosswalks in Housatonic could be put back up. D. Bailly also asked to be put on the June 14th meeting agenda. He stated his frustration with board regarding the tarping of the school. He also stated the Housatonic residents have continued to complain to town, state, and HWW regarding the condition of their water.
 - i. Mark explained that AECOM and DPC engineers on schedule and have been working on all winter.

8. SELECTBOARD’S TIME

- a. G. Reed stated that he will always support affordable housing and senior tax deferral.
- b. L. Davis would like to have a discussion in the future regarding speed on Main Street and pedestrian safety.
- c. 43 participants (36 attendees and 7 panelists) are present at this meeting.

9. MEDIA TIME

10. ADJOURNMENT Chairman Bannon adjourned meeting by unanimous consent at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke M. Morehouse
Recording Clerk