

October 4, 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. Chris Rembold, Sue Carmel, Jenn Messina panelists.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. G. Reed shared citizen's concern about kids playing after hours and making noise at the gazebo.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works – M. Pruhenski reported that meetings with stakeholders are continuing. Re: October 12 public meeting – agenda posted on Town website; press release issued; will send Code Red call.
- b. Trust Policy Committee – M. Pruhenski noted that the topic had been discussed at the July 21, 2021 Selectboard meeting. Committee openings were readvertised and there has been no interest. Suggested putting the committee on hold for six months. S. Bannon agreed.
- c. Town Hall after hours drop box {added item) – Drop box is now located near the Town Hall side entrance during construction.

5. LICENSES, PERMITS & PERMISSIONS

- a. Mark DeCelle for the Rotary Club of Great Barrington for a Temporary One Day Sunday Entertainment License for Truck Day at 380 State Road on Sunday October 17, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
 - i. S. Bannon recused as Rotary member.

L. Davis made motion to approve Rotary Club of Great Barrington request for a Temporary One Day Sunday Entertainment License for Truck Day; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, "aye," S. Bannon (recused), L. Davis, "aye," E. Gabriel, "aye," G. Reed, "aye." All in favor, 4-0.

- ii. Mark DeCelle thanked Selectboard for their support.

- b. Steven Hayward for National Grid, Pole petition for South Main Street to install 1 pole beginning at a point approximately 215 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Brookside Road & Route 7; within public right of way in order to provide electric service.
 - i. Steve Hayward asked for approval to add a pole to provide electric service for new low-income housing project.

Leigh Davis made a motion to approve Steven Hayward on behalf of National Grid for a Pole petition for South Main Street to install 1 pole beginning at a point approximately 215 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Brookside Road & Route 7; within public right of way in order to provide electric service. E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, "aye," S. Bannon, "aye," L. Davis, "aye," E. Gabriel (recused), G. Reed, "aye." All in favor, 4-0.

- c. Steven Hayward for National Grid, Pole petition for South Main Street to install 1 pole on South Main Street at a point approximately 95 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Brookside Road & Route 7, within the public right of way in order to provide electric service.

- i. Steve Hayward reported that this property is large so requires multiple poles.

L. Davis made a motion to approve Steven Hayward on behalf of National Grid for a Pole petition for South Main Street to install 1 pole on South Main Street at a point approximately 95 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Brookside Road & Route 7, within the public right of way in order to provide electric service. E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye.” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel (recused), G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 4-0.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

L. Davis made a motion to open a public hearing. G. Reed seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye.” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 5-0.

- a. David Bruno of Depart Wine 28 Railroad Street for a change of manager to their Wine and Malt Retail Package Store License from Ariel Spugen Bildner to David Bruno.

- i. David Bruno not in attendance. S. Bannon stated we typically require the requester or a representative to appear. S. Bannon asked are any questions or objections from the Selectboard or the audience? If there no questions or objections we can proceed.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the application of David Bruno of Depart Wine 28 Railroad Street for a change of manager to their Wine and Malt Retail Package Store License from Ariel Spugen Bildner to David Bruno. 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.

L. Davis made a motion to close the public hearing; G. Reed seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye.” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 5-0.

L. Davis made a motion to open a public hearing. 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. Jeffrey Murdock of ie., Inc (Butternut) 380 State Road for a change of manager to their All Alcoholic Restaurant License from Jeffrey Murdock to Ronald Crozier.

- i. Ron Crozier and Jesse Dubin attorney of record appeared. Ron requested a change in manager at Butternut as he is on site more frequently than Jeff Murdock. He outlined his experience and long history at Butternut in a management role.

- ii. S. Bannon asked for questions from the Selectboard or audience.

L. Davis made a motion to close the public hearing; 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.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the application of Jeffrey Murdock of i.e., Inc (Butternut) 380 State Road for a change of manager to their All Alcoholic Restaurant License from Jeffrey Murdock to Ronald Crozier. 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.

L. Davis made a motion to open a public hearing. 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.

- c. Ronald Crozier of i.e., Inc. (Butternut) 380A State Road for a new All Alcoholic Restaurant License.

- i. Ron Crozier stated the request is for a new license for the “Pitstop” a restaurant at the base. It was successful last year and wants to continue. Small building with outside seating that provides social distancing and safety for guests and staff.
- ii. S. Bannon asked for questions from the Selectboard or audience.

L. Davis made a motion to close the public hearing; 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.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the application of Ronald Crozier of i.e., Inc. (Butternut) 380A State Road for a new All Alcoholic Restaurant License. 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.

7. PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- a. Dan Bailly, Housatonic Improvement Committee Report – Dan not present; E. Gabriel provided update. The Committee will hold a charette on October 30, 2021 to hear from architects to discuss layouts and possibilities for the Housatonic School. Will provide recommendations to the Selectboard by October 25, 2021.
 - i. L. Davis asked why the recommendation before the charette? E. Gabriel stated that the charette will go into more detail. Need to make recommendation to Selectboard to meet proposal deadline.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Halloween/Trick or Treat date/time

L. Davis made a motion to hold Halloween/Trick or Treat Sunday October 31, 2021 from 5:30-7:30pm with the following recommendations: limit groups to households or pods; wear masks indoors and/or outdoors where social distancing is not possible; participants should turn on their porch light; for gatherings consult GB Health Department for COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

- i. S. Bannon emphasized need to reinforce safety rules around trick or treating and reminded the Selectboard that it has previously set date/time.
- ii. E. Abrahams commented we should specify wearing face masks (vs Halloween masks). We should also publicize recommendations. S. Bannon replied we will send a press release.

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

- b. Great Barrington 2020 Reprecincting – J. Messina presented the executive summary provided to the Selectboard. Gave background/overview of federal requirement to adjust precinct lines when they do not meet the 5% population threshold. J. Messina shared reprecincting map, decision-making process and emphasized area most impacted.
 - i. S. Bannon asked for questions from Selectboard or audience.

L. Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Clerk to reprecinct the Town of Great Barrington.

ii. G. Reed asked if this would impact the ability of any minority populations to vote? J. Messina replied they considered demographics and there is no impact – the plan meets all state requirements. It will also be reviewed/approved by the LBDRC to ensure it meets all standards.

iii. Erica Mielke asked how will people who are affected by this be notified? J. Messina replied, the Town Clerk will send a letter to residents who are impacted.

L. Davis withdrew previous motion; E. Abrahams withdrew seconding without objection.

L. Davis made a motion to recommend that the Selectboard votes to accept precinct map, block data reports and legal boundary descriptions as presented. 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.

- c. Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District update; Reauthorize Selectboard participation on the Steering Committee – E. Abrahams noted the Downtown GB Cultural District is entering its 4th year. E. Abrahams has served as Selectboard representative. Ask is for Selectboard to endorse and re-appoint representative.

L. Davis made a motion to endorse Selectboard participation in the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District and to reappoint Selectboard member Ed Abrahams. 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. E. Abrahams highlighted the Cultural District’s recent project putting up banners created by local artists in the downtown area.

- d. Susan M. Smith, Esq., on behalf of Majestic Oak Estates, LLC, seeking Selectboard approval to amend the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for the Common Driveway South serving the lots of Majestic Oak Estates off of Van Deusenville Road.

- i. Susan M. Smith, Esq. provided details requesting a common driveway amendment to an agreement involving 3 lots at Majestic Oaks Estate.

L. Davis made a motion to approve and make amendments to the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for the Common Driveway South serving the lots of Majestic Oak Estates off of Van Deusenville Road. 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. ARPA Funding – S. Carmel provided an overview of federal funding for COVID-19 response and recovery including the local and county allocation totaling \$2.075m for the Town of Great Barrington. C. Rembold provided details on the five core areas of eligible uses for the funds. Next step is to engage the community for input.
 - i. S. Bannon suggested November 1, 2021 as the date for a community-wide meeting. There will be a survey in addition to the live meeting.
 - ii. E. Abrahams asked who make the decision on funding allocation? M. Pruhenski replied it is a Selectboard decision.

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

10. SELECTBOARD’S TIME

11. MEDIA TIME

12. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 6:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow
Recording Clerk