

Selectboard Regular Meeting via Zoom
Monday, May 23, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING - Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00pm. Roll call: Ed Abrahams, “aye,” Steve Bannon, “aye,” Leigh Davis, “aye,” Eric Gabriel, “aye,” Garfield Reed, “aye.” All members in attendance.
Additional attendees: Town Manager Mark Pruhenski, Assistant Town Manager Chris Rembold.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. April 25, 2022
- b. May 3, 2022

L. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25 and May 3, 2022; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – E. Abrahams stated he did not receive/review the minutes and would recuse. Roll call vote: S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor 4-0.

3. SELECTBOARD’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. G. Reed stated the Short-Term Rental Bylaw is on the agenda and should move forward to Town Meeting for a vote. He also noted this is not about solving the workforce/affordable housing issue - it is one avenue to pursue and an effort to be inclusive with the people of GB in mind.
- b. L. Davis stated she had filed a 23(b)(3) Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict form with the Town Clerk and will be participating in the discussion as per approval by the Ethics Commission. L. Davis also recognized an event at St James, ‘How do you Hear a Black Person’ and noted a question raised there about why, after repaving Rossiter Street, no sidewalks/curbs were installed. S. Bannon noted when his street was repaved sidewalks were taken out.

4. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works – M. Pruhenski stated the Selectboard met last Wednesday with Town attorney and was asked to research some questions and report back in a month – next meeting to be scheduled
- b. Library Director – Amanda DeGiorgis has stepped down and is relocating. M. Pruhenski thanked her for years of service to the Town and wished her all the best.

5. LICENSES AND PERMITS

- a. Emily Williams of Stylin Franks for an annual Common Victualler License at 70 Railroad Street.
 - i. E. Williams stated she was opening a hotdog cart at 70 Railroad Street at the Triplex. She stated she had met with Rich Stanley and identified a location on the pathway/courtyard near the Triplex through to Railroad Street and currently anticipates being open starting May 28, seven days, 11am-3pm.

L. Davis made a motion to approve a Common Victualler License at 70 Railroad Street to Emily Williams of Stylin Franks; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – E. Abrahams clarified this is private property. G. Reed asked about past food truck requests that were denied – it was clarified in that situation it was proposed to occupy public/town parking spaces downtown, and in consideration of the closeness to restaurants, it was denied. 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 of the Great Barrington Fish & Game for a One Day Beer and Wine License for a party on June 11, 2022 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at 338 Long Pond Road Housatonic MA. L. Davis made a motion to grant a One Day Beer and Wine License for a party on June 11, 2022 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at 338 Long Pond Road, Housatonic to Karen Beckwith of Great Barrington Fish & Game; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – G. Reed recused. It was clarified this is for a private party. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye” All in favor 4-0.

c. Clinton Church Restoration, c/o Eugenie Sills, Director, for permission to close Elm Court on Friday June 10, 2022 between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.
i. E. Sills stated this is for an announcement in front of the Church and a request to have the street closed. She noted the street will be accessible to emergency vehicles. L. Davis made a motion to grant permission to close Elm Court on Friday June 10, 2022 between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM to Eugenie Sills for Clinton Church Restoration; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor 5-0.

d. Joseph Aberdale for permission to install a driveway at 407 North Plain Road.
i. It was noted J. Aberdale was in attendance. L. Davis made a motion to grant permission to install a driveway at 407 North Plain Road to Joseph Aberdale; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor 5-0.

e. Shivadas Guthrie of the Guthrie Center for 5-One Day Beer and Wine Licenses at 2 Van Deusenville Road on June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23, and June 30, 2022 from 6:00 PM to 12:00 PM.
i. Moe Guthrie stated these are open mike events where local artists perform and the request is to serve beer/wine. L. Davis made a motion to grant 5-One Day Beer and Wine Licenses at 2 Van Deusenville Road on June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23, and June 30, 2022 from 6:00 PM to 12:00 PM to Moe Guthrie of the Guthrie Center; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor 5-0.

f. Continued: Samascott Orchards/Nine Pin Ciderworks for a farm winery special license to sell at the Farmer’s Market from May 11th through November 13th, 2022 from 10:00am to 4:00pm
i. Jake Samascott stated, at the Farmers Market in partnership Nine Pin, he would like to sell hard cider along with their produce. L. Davis made a motion to grant farm winery special license to sell at the Farmer’s Market from May 11th through November 13th, 2022 from 10:00am to 4:00pm to Samascott Orchards/Nine Pin Ciderworks; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – S. Bannon confirmed there will not be sampling. G. Reed asked their involvement in the Farmers market – J. Samascott replied they applied and were accepted by the GB Farmers Market Association. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor: 5-0.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Continued: Eugene Richard of Price Chopper, 300 Stockbridge Road for a Beer and Wine Package Store License, James Collins Manager.
- L. Davis made a motion to reopen the public hearing for Eugene Richard of Price Chopper for a Beer and Wine Package Store License; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – G. Reed recused. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye.” All in favor: 4-0.
- i. S. Bannon asked for Selectboard questions/public input – there was none.
- 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.” All in favor: 4-0.
- ii. S. Bannon asked if any discussion –
 - iii. E. Gabriel stated he was not in favor of granting the license – and that Big Y should not have a license as alcohol does not belong in a large grocery store.
 - iv. E. Abrahams stated it was a mistake to give the license to Big Y. He also stated commercial competition is not a consideration/in the Selectboard’s purview. He noted the prior liquor license that was denied might involve legal action, and though it is not part of the thinking here, this is the last liquor license and perhaps should be held in abeyance.
 - v. L. Davis shared input on managing environmental queues and the risk of associating food and alcohol – she suggested limiting sales to one aisle. She also suggested limiting satellite displays in Big Y at the time of their renewal.
 - vi. S. Bannon asked E. Abrahams about a vote contingent on the expiration of any appeal, so Price Chopper understands that the appeal period has to expire or the case heard by the courts – E. Abrahams agreed. S. Bannon agreed with precluding satellite displays and limiting sales to a designated aisle – and to extend that to other renewals.
 - vii. E. Abrahams stated he would not support granting the license even with conditions.
- L. Davis made a motion to grant a Beer and Wine Package Store License to Eugene Richard of Price Chopper, 300 Stockbridge Road with the condition that beer and wine are limited to the aisles and not in satellite displays; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any additional discussion – S. Bannon stated is not the Selectboard’s position to deal with competition and emphasized the grocery stores are good for the Town and important to the community. He stated regarding potential appeal - there was no presentation and not enough information at the time to approve it, and stands by his decision. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “no,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “no.” Motion failed 2-2 for lack of a third vote.

S. Bannon stated there are 7 panelists and 63 attendees at the meeting.

7. PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- a. Selectboard Discussion/Vote on Short Term Rentals (Subject to the ethics commission approval)
S. Bannon reviewed the process - the Selectboard would vote on a draft Short-Term Rental Bylaw, listen to public comments and modify or accept the Bylaw and make it part of annual Town Warrant at Town Meeting on June 6. He clarified the ground rules for public comment including participation limited to residents and taxpayers, addressing the chair only/prohibiting remarks directed at Selectboard members and focusing comments/questions on the Bylaw not the process.
 - i. E. Gabriel recused.

- ii. C. Rembold stated: "I left that meeting (SB Meeting of 3/7/22) with a charge to work with the chair and vice chair to develop a draft based of what the board members had laid down in their comments." He presented a summary/highlights of the revised draft Bylaw, modified in discussions of the chair and vice chair - updated provisions are: short-term rentals can be in a primary or secondary unit; if an owner is on premises there can be an unlimited number short-term rental nights, but if the owner is not on premises, it is a maximum of 150 nights; only one short-term rental allowed per owner; no corporations are permitted to operate short-term rentals - LLCs are allowed, but ownership details are required in registration. He noted other items are unchanged including registration requirements, regulations for operation and inspection of the premises. He suggested the Selectboard discuss to confirm a final draft.
- iii. E. Abrahams asked about the removal of the grandfather clause – S Bannon replied: "The Selectboard, as Chris has pointed out, had asked Leigh and I, Chris and Mark, mainly Leigh and I, to come back with a draft to the full Selectboard. Ultimately Leigh could not participate. The Ethics Commission said if the grandfather clause wasn't in there she would be allowed to." E Abrahams said: "So the grandfather clause that the four of you had agreed to have in there was removed?" S. Bannon: "It was only two of us. Mark and Chris were just giving advice." E. Abrahams stated grandfathering is important for people who have already invested in their property and for a good Bylaw. He requested the grandfather clause be restored.

E. Abrahams made a motion to add words that used to be there "unless they already had multiples as of January 1, 2022;" S. Bannon seconded. S. Bannon asked for discussion – E. Abrahams stated there had been no comments against grandfathering as far as impact on taxpayers. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, "aye," S. Bannon, "aye," L. Davis, "no," G. Reed, "no." Motion failed 2-2, for lack of a third vote.

E. Abrahams made a motion to remove the 150 day limit if the owner is not on premises – stating there is no reason for it since the Bylaw precludes corporations/commercial interests. S. Bannon stated the 150 day limit preserves neighborhoods and 90 days was too restrictive. E. Abrahams inquired if preserving neighborhoods is a stated purpose and noted short-term rentals do not hurt neighborhoods. The motion was not seconded.

E. Abrahams made a motion, under the Regulations section, to change from "owner may register to operate one unit" to operate one "property" to allow people to earn money from multiple units on their property as it does not increase the number of properties hosting. S. Bannon seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, "aye," S. Bannon, "aye," L. Davis, "no," G. Reed, "no." Motion failed 2-2, for lack of a third vote.

E. Abrahams made a motion, regarding number 5, to remove the provision that if a homeowner has a deed restriction to maintain a property as low-income, it cannot be short-term rented. He noted that would prevent low-income individuals from short-term renting. S. Bannon stated the intent is focused on the deed restriction, it does not target low-income people. The motion was not seconded.

- iv. E. Abrahams asked about number 6 - an owner cannot register or offer a unit subject to a long-term lease as a short-term rental. C. Rembold clarified that if you have a long-term lease that is in effect, neither an owner nor a renter may offer it as a short-term rental.

L. Davis made a motion to accept the draft Short-term Rental Bylaw as presented; G. Reed seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – E. Abrahams stated the cost-benefit of the Bylaw is not understood – costs to the Town re: impact on tourism, businesses, inspection/enforcement and lost revenue. He stated the benefits are also unclear - how many housing units created and conversion of current non-year-round occupied rentals to long-term - and noted without this information, it cannot be stated the benefits outweigh the costs. He asked how Granicus can obtain addresses/details on rentals, days used and if it is a paying guest – noting that is secure information on Airbnb - and Granicus monitoring feels like spying. He asked how the Bylaw would be enforced and the presumption of guilt – if a property is identified as over the limit - who has the burden of proof, what are rights to appeal and costs to the Town and individuals. S. Bannon asked if any additional discussion – S. Bannon clarified this is only to approve the draft bylaw for public discussion. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, "no," S. Bannon, "aye," L. Davis, "aye," G. Reed, "aye." Motion passed 3-1.

b. Short Term Rental Public Input (Subject to the ethics commission approval)

- Frederica Sigel, 27 Round Hill Road, asked about specific language used in the Bylaw – C. Rembold replied - an owner can register one unit - two bedrooms in the dwelling unit or the secondary unit, not both; the owner must be residing/present at the time of the short-term rental; units subject to a long-term lease cannot be rented short-term.
- Lauren Steven, 95 Lewis Avenue, stated she shared concerns expressed by E. Abrahams about lack of clarity - and inquired what problem the Bylaw is trying to address. She asked about the Town's interest in the 150 day limit since the Bylaw prevents people from renting multiple properties. She stated she rents to tourist families who cannot afford to stay in hotels.
- Dan Ruderman, 4 Knob Hill Road, thanked the Selectboard for getting ahead of the short-term housing issue and noted one of the reasons for the Bylaw is due to corporations turning houses into businesses and the impact on schools and neighborhoods. He noted concerns about Airbnb asking owners to attend the meeting.
- David Long, 304 North Plain Road, expressed concerns about the Bylaw and noted short-term rentals are traditionally a way to help people with temporary/crisis housing. He stated the Bylaw takes away a tool for people to help them keep their homes by making them less, not more, affordable - and that short-term rentals can be bad or good, but the Bylaw does not differentiate.
- Kristen Grippo, 45 Pine Street, stated rent on her long-term rental is doubling. She stated the Bylaw is a message about what the Town stands for and if it creates one unit of housing it is valuable for working people of the community. She noted housing is more predatory today.
- Daniel Seitz, 31 Pleasant Street, expressed concern about large corporations buying up housing, but cautioned the Bylaw could be considered a taking of value. He noted short-term rentals are not always a matter of greed, they can provide flexibility and contribute to vitality of community. He also stated the cost/benefit information is needed to make the Bylaw meaningful and that attempts to control property can have unintended consequences/abuses.
- Larissa Yapple, 15 Castle Hill Avenue – supports E. Abraham's position, and objected to capping number of nights people can short-term rent. She stated a preference that the Bylaw not go to Town Meeting and that the citizen's petition be discussed.
- Ephrat David, 10 Knob Hill Road, stated she understands the need for affordable long-term rentals, but the Bylaw is not researched enough nor is its impact known. She clarified that the Bylaw is voted on as a whole, but amendments can be made from the floor. She asked why limit the number of rooms for short-term rental in a main residence – S. Bannon replied it is to protect the neighborhood. She stated the Bylaw discriminates by not allowing short-term rental of a primary home and investment property.
- Eileen Rosenthal, 39 Castle Hill Avenue, stated the short-term rental bylaw had been well researched and is in effect in many towns – and noted there are too few options for long-term rentals for those who cannot afford to buy. She also emphasized the importance of preserving neighborhoods.
- Deb Phillips stated the Bylaw provides flexibility if families need extra income from their property. She noted the trend for the number of short-term rentals/hospitality units to increase and emphasized the need to preserve residential neighborhoods.

- James Manning, 304 Main Street, stated the Bylaw is critical to slow down/stop short-term rentals in order to benefit the community and noted there will not be any long-term/affordable/workforce housing if they are not regulated.
- Gabrielle Senza, 4 Knob Hill Road, stated it is necessary to slow short-term rentals as they will have serious long-term impact on people especially for staffing of stores, restaurants, police, fire, etc. She noted Airbnb has a strong interest in the area and is trying to protect its investment.
- Erica Mielke, 360 Park Street, stated she is thankful for the good discussion on short-term rentals and the Bylaw is a step in the right direction to prevent GB from becoming a resort town. She encouraged people to offer ideas to promote affordable housing.
- Jennifer Connell, 36 Quarry Street, thanked the Selectboard for its valuable work, and noted the Bylaw is not meant to solve the affordable housing issue, but it prioritizes maintaining community feel and vitality.
- Francois Coeytaux, 671 South Egremont Road, stated affordable housing is a more important focus than short-term rentals, noting increased taxes on short-term rentals could be used to build affordable housing. He questioned the removal of the grandfather clause and stated property owners should have control over use of their property.
- Nan Wile, 59 Taconic Avenue, stated the affordable housing discussion is derailing - the Bylaw is aimed at changing neighborhoods and preventing the purchase of properties just for short-term rental. She stated it is important to keep neighborhoods familiar and consistent.
- Sarah Dixon, 214 Pine Street, stated she opposes short-term rental restrictions as rental income helps people to move/live here – and noted property values will decrease while taxes will continue to increase. She advocated for an impact fee and stated a preference for the citizens' petition. S. Bannon clarified a 3% impact fee is on the town warrant.
- Julie Anidjar, 15 Sumner Street, stated she supports the Bylaw and considers it fair – she expressed concern over the damage to neighborhoods due to Airbnb. She asked what would prevent someone from having multiple LLCs – S. Bannon replied the owner of the LLC must be disclosed.
- Claudia Laslie, 29 Benton Avenue, stated Granicus is not well-known or understood - she expressed concern about it being expensive and invasive and encouraged additional discussion/information.
- Barbara Barak, 6 Cornwall Drive, stated 150 day limit for short-term rental is generous – she is interested in aging in place and that would be harder if there is a transient population. She stated neighborhoods and relationships are important.
- Julie Peretti, 125 Seekonk Cross Road, stated she has both a long-term and Airbnb rental which has allowed her family to maintain their property. She stated short-term rentals are less expensive than hotels and bring more people to the Town. She also questioned how affordable rents could be maintained as expenses/taxes increase. She also cautioned the public does not have a full understanding of provisions/implications.
- Didier Steven, 95 Lewis Avenue, noted the Town is going through a lot of changes due to the current economy - he cautioned against allowing corporations to buy up properties and referenced a recent NY Times article on the topic.

S. Bannon thanked participants for their thoughtful input.

c. Review and approve Warrant Articles 29-32 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- i. S. Bannon asked for review/approval of Warrant Articles 29-32 – and clarified Article 32 is the Short-term Rental Bylaw and Articles 29-31 is impact fees. He noted the first part of the process is to approve Articles 29-32 together or separately to place it on the Warrant and the second part is to consider whether or not to change the Warrant order.
- ii. E. Abrahams asked about considering specific changes to the Bylaw – noting there are unanswered questions and that this was presented as a general bylaw due to the vote threshold, but as a zoning bylaw, all neighborhoods would not have to be treated the same. He also stated the Bylaw will not address affordable/workforce housing nor rent increases - and ways to respond to those issues have not been discussed. He emphasized the Selectboard is listening to voters and opinions are split.
- iii. S. Bannon agreed input is strong on both sides of the issue which is why it should go to Town meeting to let residents decide.
- iv. G. Reed stated this is an issue all over, not just GB – and it is not about affordable/workforce housing – it is an inclusive measure. He encouraged residents to place community over personal interests and asked that the people decide.
- v. E. Abrahams stated it is expensive to maintain an Airbnb and noted residents have stated they are using them in order to help keep their homes.
- vi. S. Bannon stated the Town and Selectboard are doing a lot in support of affordable housing – i.e., ARPA funds – and noted more can be done, but the Town has done well.
- vii. L. Davis stated neighborhoods need neighbors - full-time residents need their quality of life to be protected and to ensure the safety and stability of the Town. She noted the Bylaw will support people displaced by short-term rentals and provides guardrails for the workforce and permanent residents. She stated her belief that the Bylaw is a generous and flexible proposal providing 150 days which is enough time for people to benefit from their investment. She noted this is not a ban on short-term rentals as rooms can be rented in homes where residents live or an ADU year-round – and does not impact seasonal rentals. She added the Bylaw will protect against predatory investors for commercial enterprise to preserve the diversity of the community. She noted the cost of building affordable housing and stated the Bylaw would be beneficial even if only a few long-term rentals are created. She expressed hope this would go to voters and initiate broader discussions about housing.
- viii. E. Abrahams commented on the limited potential for more than a few units to be created and noted the Bylaw initially came out of the committee as about affordable housing – and at the Selectboard-Planning Board meeting it was determined it was not. S. Bannon stated the Bylaw is not about workforce housing. E. Abrahams agreed, and asked about the cost for workforce housing. S. Bannon asked to move on and discuss another time.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve Articles 29-32 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant; L. Davis seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor: 4-0.

Order of the Warrant Articles –

E. Abrahams made a motion to keep the order staff provided. The motion was not seconded.

L. Davis made a motion to move adoption of the Short-term Rental Bylaw, number 32, after Community Preservation projects, number 19; G. Reed seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – S. Bannon stated the Planning Board did considerable work on the zoning amendments and it should come before the Short-term Rental Bylaw. E. Abrahams agreed and noted there will be a lot of interest in the Senior Tax Deferral. L. Davis stated residents are passionate about the Bylaw and it should be placed after the Financial Articles. S. Bannon noted Town Meeting can change the Article order at any time. It was discussed whether the Bylaw and Citizen’s Petition should be considered consecutively – it was stated it could cause confusion between the two proposals, but alternately, it is focused on the same issue and it may not be the same audience by the end of the meeting so the vote might produce a different outcome. E. Gabriel rejoined the discussion as it was not focused on the Bylaw, but rather on the Warrant. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “no,” S. Bannon, “no,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “no,” G. Reed, “aye.” Motion fails: 3-2. S. Bannon stated he voted no because he would like the Bylaw after the zoning amendments.

E. Abrahams made a motion to place number 32 and 33 immediately following the zoning amendments, number 24; L. Davis seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – E. Gabriel stated he prefers the order staff provided. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “no,” L. Davis, “no,” E. Gabriel, “no,” G. Reed, “aye.” Motion fails: 3-2.

L. Davis made a motion to move Short-term Rental Bylaw, number 32, after number 24, the last zoning amendment; G. Reed seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “no,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “no,” G. Reed, “aye.” Motion passes: 3-2. S. Bannon stated he did not want to set a precedent by moving the Citizens’ Petition and that the Citizens’ Petition sponsors can move it at Town meeting if they like.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Du Bois Center Donation- Randy Weinstein

R. Weinstein presented and provided background on the evolution of the Du Bois Center and the strong connection between Du Bois and GB. The proposal is to establish GB WEB Dubois Center as a department of the Mason Library and have the Town Manager appoint an advisory committee to oversee operations and the preservation of DuBois historical artifacts, African-American historic and cultural works and related programs, exhibits, learning and discussion. He also asked the Town to accept a collection of Du Bois related artifacts and collection of reference works on African culture as his donation. Gwendolyn VanSant expressed her support for establishing the department/program and noted it is important to discuss/clarify relationships and roles among individuals and key groups.

ii. G. Reed asked about representation of elder Black individuals - G. VanSant stated there was intergenerational involvement and there would be continued efforts in that regard.

iii. It was confirmed that M. Pruhenski would move this forward.

L. Davis made a motion for the Town Manager to form the WEB DuBois Center Committee; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – E. Abrahams noted the transition of Library staff and asked to insure their input. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor: 5-0.

b. Review of Application process for Municipalities to Opt- Out of State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMBC) Spraying: Review of Arbovirus in Southern Berkshire District, Public Health Education and Outreach strategies, and Recommendation from the Selectboard. (Discussion/ Vote).

i. Rebecca Jurczyk, Health Agent, reviewed the process to opt-out of the spraying program for the 2022 season – and requested the Selectboard’s decision to submit an application to the Department of Environmental Affairs to opt in or out. She presented an EEE local risk map, noting the low risk levels and stated the Board of Health and Agriculture Commission both recommended submitting an application to opt out. She clarified the Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs has ultimate authority to approve/deny a decision to opt out, but it is likely they would approve. She stated if the Town was to opt out of spraying, it would undertake a public education/outreach program and weekly surveillance of mosquitoes which is considered superior to spraying to prevent human infection. She noted this does not preclude property owners from spraying on their own property.

ii. S. Bannon asked if any questions – it was clarified that the Board of Health and Agriculture Commission recommended opting out of all kinds of spraying.

L. Davis made a motion to recommend that Great Barrington apply to opt out of all spraying; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any additional discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor 5-0.

c. Review and Approval of Inter- Municipality Agreement between Great Barrington and Host Agent, The Town of Lee: The IMA is required to initiate the appropriation of funds from the Public Health Excellence Grant to the Towns that were awarded. (Discussion/Vote).

i. R. Jurczyk and Jim Wilusz, Executive Director of The Tri-town Health District, presented stating as part of the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative this is for the Tri-town Public Health Excellence Grant providing \$300,000/year for up to 12 years, with multiple extensions. The intermunicipal agreement allows the parties to access the funds and continue work building comprehensive public health systems and improving positive public health outcomes.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the of Inter-Municipality Agreement; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any additional discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor 5-0.

d. Set Fee for a Farmer’s series pouring license – M. Pruhenski stated there is an Executive Summary in the packet – the Town anticipates having its first application for this license, but no fee has been set. He stated Town staff is recommending \$450.00 – which is the same as the Annual Restaurant Beer/Wine License.

L. Davis made a motion to vote to approve a Farmer’s Series Pouring License fee for \$450.00 which is the same as Annual Restaurant Beer/Wine License; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked if any additional discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor 5-0.

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

10. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

- a. E. Abrahams stated he invites the press to find out what is meant by workforce housing.
 - i. L. Davis stated workforce housing is based on area median income - for workforce it is 60/80-120%.
 - ii. E. Abrahams inquired about the dollar amount of rent for the workforce.

11. MEDIA TIME

12. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow
Recording Clerk