

Selectboard Meeting via Zoom and in person at 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA
Monday, February 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING - Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00pm with Selectboard members Steve Bannon, Leigh Davis, Ben Elliott, Eric Gabriel, Garfield Reed present.

Also in attendance: Town Manager Mark Pruhenski

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Selectboard Meeting – January 8th, 2024
- b. Selectboard Meeting – January 22nd, 2024
- c. Selectboard Priority Planning Meeting – January 29th, 2024

L. Davis made a motion to approve the January 8, January 22 and January 29, 2024 meeting minutes; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. All in favor: 5-0.

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. E. Gabriel stated this weekend is the Farmer's Market at the Housy Dome.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works – M. Pruhenski stated the Housatonic Water Works financial evaluation is underway and it should be a few months before there is an update. He also stated applications for the relief program have slowed so a social media reminder will go out.
- b. Update on Housatonic Homeownership development on North Plain Rd. – M. Pruhenski stated the Planning Board has received an application from the Housing Trust - Habitat for Humanity for the road structure for the homes planned for North Plain Road and the application will be heard on March 22. He also stated an invitation for bids for the road/infrastructure will go out soon.
- c. Downtown Parking Map – added item. M. Pruhenski stated the map has been updated, though the regulations and time limits are the same, it is easier to read and use and will be posted on the Town website.

4. LICENSES AND PERMITS

- a. Application for Access to a Public Way/Driveway Permit – 24 Berkshire Heights Rd.
Applicant Carol Craig attended and it was clarified that if the permit is approved, she would work with the DPW to get guidance on work requirements.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the application for access to a public way/driveway at 24 Berkshire Heights Road with a recommendation from the DPW that the approval is with conditions that the driveway is constructed in accordance with the plan referenced in the materials and the driveway does not discharge any water on to the public roadway; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. All in favor: 5-0.

- b. Steam Noodle Annual Weekday Entertainment License Application – 286 Main St.
A Steam representative attended and explained the plan for a jazz trio to perform Saturday nights 8:00-11:00pm.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the application for an Annual Weekday Entertainment License to Steam Noodle at 286 Main Street; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – it was clarified that one date is planned, but if successful, it would likely occur monthly. All in favor: 5-0.

- c. Vote to amend Library Board of Trustees One-Day Liquor License from 3/2/24 to 3/9/24

L. Davis made a motion to amend the Library Board of Trustees One-Day Liquor License from March 2, 2024 to March 9, 2024; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. All in favor: 5-0.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – There were none.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Transmit proposed zoning amendments to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing

Chris Rembold, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Planning, provided an overview of the process noting the Selectboard is being asked to refer proposed zoning amendments to the Planning Board for a public hearing on March 22.

L. Davis made a motion to approve to transmit the proposed zoning amendments to the Planning Board for a public hearing; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. All in favor: 5-0.

b. W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee – Committee Appointments

S. Bannon stated there are five openings and five Committee candidates.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the appointment of Ny Whitaker, Ari Zorn, Dubois Thomas, Alexandra Russell, Dena Fisher to the W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. All in favor: 5-0.

c. Open Meeting Law Complaint – Eileen Mooney

L. Davis made a motion to delegate to counsel the responsibility of working with the Chair and Town Manager to draft a response to allegations contained in the Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Eileen Mooney on February 5, 2024; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. All in favor: 5-0.

d. Letter of Support for H. 4138, The Affordable Homes Act

L. Davis stated this was discussed previously as the real estate transfer fee - and this pertains to Governor Healey's Affordable Homes Act which is moving through the legislature. The request is for the Town to sign on to indicate interest in this legislation and the proposed process – it does not represent a decision on behalf of the Town.

L. Davis made a motion to have the Chair of the Great Barrington Selectboard sign a letter of support for H413 the Affordable Homes Act; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – E. Gabriel stated he has not made a decision on the transfer fee issue, but supports this as it is a tool for towns to use, if appropriate. S. Bannon agreed and stated this presents a more streamlined process. All in favor: 5-0.

e. Proposed Agreement Between Town of Great Barrington and The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (as fiscal host for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance) to enter into an inter-municipal agreement regarding the delivery of public health services

Rebecca Jurczyk, Health Agent, stated this is a request to have someone from the Alliance help with inspections in the interim until a new Health Inspector is hired.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the proposed agreement between the Town of Great Barrington and The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (as fiscal host for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance) to enter into an inter-municipal agreement regarding the delivery of public health services; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. All in favor: 5-0.

7. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

a. Claudia Shapiro, 78 Egremont Plain Road, described correspondence with the Planning Board and clarified her request for information and additional steps regarding the Airport's Special Permit application.

8. SELECTBOARD'S TIME – No members asked to speak.

9. MEDIA TIME – No media asked to speak.

10. ADJOURNMENT - - Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk