

Selectboard Special Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, May 3, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING BY ROLL CALL VOTE – Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00pm. Roll call: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” Garfield Reed, “aye.” All in attendance.

Additional attendees: Town Manager Mark Pruhenski, Assistant Town Manager Chris Rembold.

2. SELECTBOARD’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. L. Davis stated Short-Term Rental should have been discussed at the meeting, but expressed her hope and determination for a vote at Town Meeting on the housing issue and encouraged citizens to move forward and weigh in.

3. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works (HWW)
- b. Date for next Housatonic Water Works Executive Session is May 18, 2022 at 6:00PM - M. Pruhenski updated citizens stating an Executive Session was held last Wednesday to discuss strategy/approach for HWW and the discussion will continue in Executive Session on May 18.
- c. Draft letter to Housatonic Water Works regarding bottled water and home water filters – M. Pruhenski asked for Selectboard input on the draft letter to HWW requesting relief for customers through bottled water, reimbursement, or a statement credit and for the provision of water filtration options to those significantly impacted or at risk.

- i. L. Davis stated the letter should require a response. E. Abrahams noted the Selectboard does not have authority over HWW and suggested the letter be more of a request. The Selectboard discussed and agreed on wording - “expect and appreciate a response.”

L. Davis made a motion to send the amended letter to Jim Mercer, Treasurer, HWW; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked for 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.

- ii. M. Pruhenski stated the letter would be sent this week by certified mail.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Bruce Clapper/Guthrie Center for a One Day Beer and Wine License for a benefit event at the Guthrie Center on May 7th , 2022 from 2:00pm to 9:00pm

- i. Bruce Clapper and Moe Guthrie stated this is a one-day musical event to raise money to benefit Jimmy Harte who passed away recently - local area musicians will pay tribute.

L. Davis made a motion to grant a One Day Beer and Wine License to Bruce Clapper for the Guthrie Center for a benefit event at the Guthrie Center on May 7th , 2022 from 2:00pm to 9:00pm; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked for 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.

- b. Samascott Orchards for a Farm Winery Special License to sell at the Great Barrington Farmer’s Market from May 8th through November 13th, 2022 from 10:00am to 4:00pm

- i. E. Gabriel asked if samples would be given out. – M. Pruhenski stated the application indicated there would be samples. S. Bannon inquired if that is consistent with Town bylaws – M. Pruhenski stated he would confirm, but did not think it would be an issue.
 - ii. G. Reed suggested applicants appear when the application involves serving alcohol.
 - iii. The Selectboard agreed the applicant should appear at the May 11 meeting, but would grant a one-time license.

L. Davis made a motion to grant a Farm Winery Special License to Samascott Orchards to sell at the Great Barrington Farmer’s Market on May 8th from 10:00am to 4:00pm; E. Abrahams seconded. S.

Bannon asked for 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.

c. Tiffany Riva/Railroad Street Youth Project for One Day All Alcoholic liquor license on May 21, 2022 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Memorial Field – Bridge Street, Great Barrington

i. T. Riva stated this is for the Culinary Arts Apprenticeship Dinner and it was approved by Parks and Recreation. Local restaurants will participate, and young people will prepare dinner – she noted tickets are \$125 each and for sale online at [www. RSVP.org](http://www.RSVP.org) or reach out to T. Riva directly at Tiffany@RSVP.org.

L. Davis made a motion to grant a One Day All Alcoholic liquor license to Tiffany Riva and Railroad Street Youth Project for May 21, 2022 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Memorial Field – Bridge Street, Great Barrington; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked for 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. Tiffany Riva/Railroad Street Youth Project for Temporary Weekday Entertainment license on May 21st , 2022 from 5:30pm to 9:30pm at the Memorial Field – Bridge Street, Great Barrington

L. Davis made a motion to grant a Temporary Weekday Entertainment license to Tiffany Riva and Railroad Street Youth Project for May 21, 2022 from 5:30pm to 9:30pm at the Memorial Field – Bridge Street, Great Barrington; E. Abrahams seconded. S. Bannon asked for 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.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. James Manning, 304 Main Street, confirmed there would be no input on the Short-Term Rental Bylaw.
- b. Denise Forbes, 325 North Plain Road, expressed her support for the HWW letter and noted there would be an opportunity to sign the petition at the Coop tomorrow 11:30am -1:30pm. There is also ongoing outreach to the media to increase awareness of the situation with HWW.
- c. Vivian Orlowski, Lakeview Road, expressed appreciation for Coffee with the Town Manager calls and noted the next one would focus on the Growing Better Great Barrington report and ways to strengthen the Town’s food system and sustainable landscape.

6. SELECTBOARD’S TIME

- a. L. Davis encouraged citizens interested in housing to come to the next Selectboard meeting.
- b. E. Abrahams confirmed it would be discussed at the May 11 meeting – S. Bannon stated he was hopeful it would.

7. MEDIA TIME

8. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk