

Selectboard Special Meeting via Zoom
Monday, April 4, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING - Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00pm; those present via zoom: Ed Abrahams, Leigh Davis, Eric Gabriel, Garfield Reed. Town Manager Mark Pruhenski.

S. Bannon stated that discussion of the Short-Term Rental Bylaw is being postponed to another date due to circumstances beyond the Selectboard's control. The public will be advised well in advance of the new date.

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

S. Bannon also announced a Town-wide clean-up day on Saturday, April 23, 8am-12noon – a press release with additional details will follow.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Pruhenski expressed thanks to the Great Barrington Fire Department for its handling of a recent fire at the Christian Hill complex.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Initiate Town Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation

- i. S. Bannon stated the Town Manager's performance evaluation form is in the packet and asked Selectboard members to complete it within the next two weeks. The goal is to discuss at the first meeting in May. He also noted individual evaluations/documents will be made public.

- b. Selectboard Consent regarding KP Law's representation of Great Barrington regarding a reserve fund for the Rest of River Municipal Committee, notwithstanding the firm also represents the Towns of Lenox and Sheffield.

- i. M. Pruhenski stated this is a request for the Selectboard to give its consent for KP Law to represent multiple towns – which as been the case throughout the Rest of River initiative.

L. Davis made a motion to give consent to KP Law to represent Great Barrington for the Rest of River discussion knowing they also represent Lenox and Sheffield; 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. PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- a. Continued discussion of the proposed Short Term Rental Bylaw
 - b. Short Term Rental Public input Session

6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

S. Bannon reiterated that the Short-Term Rental Bylaw discussion is being delayed due to circumstances beyond the Selectboard's control. He stated there will be plenty of notice for the rescheduled discussion and public input.

Frederica Sigel, 27 Round Hill Road, stated the Short-Term Rental Bylaw provision requiring up to two bedrooms in a dwelling unit or an entire secondary unit on the same parcel to be registered is an arbitrary number and asked if the Selectboard envisions a variance or special permit for more than two bedrooms. She also asked if the penalty would be enforced during the appeal process.

Claudia Shapiro, 78 Egremont Plain Road, asked the Selectboard to ensure compliance in issuing airport special permits by any Town board – and that related discussion is transparent, publicly presented and follows protocol. She expressed concerns about airport expansion and impact on the residential area.

Ephrat David, 10 Knob Hill Road, expressed concern about insufficient data and research to proceed with decision-making on the Short-Term Rental Bylaw. She urged better definition of the housing issue and best approaches to address them. She further questioned the potential for the Bylaw to deter investors.

Patrick Toole, 188 East Street, stated he has been renting in GB over several years and has seen the decline in affordable rentals. He noted people have been displaced, but stated that is difficult to track. He emphasized that there is a need to protect housing stock and incentivize more long-term rentals.

James Garzon, 84 North Plain Road, expressed hope that the polarization around the Short-Term Rental Bylaw will subside after the debate and the Town will come together again for the betterment of the community.

7. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

E. Abrahams apologized for turning off his video and stated he was advised by the Ethics Commission to recuse on the Short-Term Rental Bylaw discussion by turning off the video whenever discussed or during Citizen Speak.

L. Davis stated she is looking forward to continued discussion on the Short-Term Rental Bylaw on another night.

S. Bannon apologized to those residents who joined for the Short-Term Rental Bylaw discussion.

8. MEDIA TIME

9. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 6:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow
Recording Clerk