

Mark Pruhenski
Town Manager

E-mail: mpruhenski@townofgb.org
www.townofgb.org



Town Hall, 334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-1619 x2900
Fax: (413) 528-2290

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Selectboard Regular Meeting

via Zoom, Order of Agenda for Monday, July 25, 2022, at 6:00 PM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84727797185?pwd=NDFRUjFITE12eDN3bE5LaTNBQ0RmZz09>

Webinar ID: 84727797185

Dial-in, audio-only: (929) 205 6099

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's July 14, 2022 Revised Order extending remote participation by all members in any meeting of a public body, this meeting of the Great Barrington Selectboard will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on town's website, at www.townofgb.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: See instructions at the top of the agenda. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

*****ALL VOTES ARE ROLL CALL*****

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. June 27, 2022
 - b. July 11, 2022
3. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS
4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
 - a. Housatonic Water Works
5. LICENSES AND PERMITS
 - a. Janis Martinson of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for a Temporary Sunday Entertainment License for a film screening at Grover Park on Sunday September 4 from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM.
 - b. Kent Lemme of the Berkshire Running Center for Guido's Great 8 Road Race and permission to use Town Roads on Sunday August 7th beginning at 8:00 AM. The race will be run in the breakdown lanes, begin just north of Big Y and head north on Route 7, turning left onto Pope Street, then turn left (west) onto Route 23, left onto West Sheffield Road, then left on Lime Kiln Road, right onto Route 7, left onto Kellogg Road, left on Boardman Street, left on Brookside Road, right on South Main (Route 7), then to Guido's.
 - c. Linda Hoddy for the Stockbridge Sinfonia Community Orchestra for a One Day Beer and Wine License for a concert and resection celebrating their 50th Anniversary at St. James Place, 352 Main Street Great Barrington from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Vote Members of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee as Special Municipal Employees

- b. Lucy Prashker to update the Board on the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board.

7. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

Citizen Speak Time is an opportunity for the Selectboard to listen to residents. Topics of particular concern or importance may be placed on a future agenda for discussion. This time is reserved for town residents only unless otherwise permitted by the chair, and speakers are limited to 3 minutes each.

8. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

9. MEDIA TIME

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Executive Session, under MGL c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy concerning the pending appeal of Price Chopper Operating Co. of Massachusetts, Inc. to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission relating to denial of an application for a wine and malt beverage package store license to be exercised at 300 Stockbridge Road, if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating and/or negotiating position with respect to the appeal. A vote regarding whether to go into executive session is expected; and votes may occur during the executive session. The Board will not return to public session.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING

August 8, 2022

August 22, 2022

September 12, 2022

September 19, 2022



Mark Pruhenski, Town Manager

Pursuant to MGL. 7c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
Temporary Sunday Entertainment License Application
(Local Approval ONLY-State Approval Required Separately)

Hours between 1:00 pm-11:59 pm
(\$2.00 per Sunday)

Hours between 9:00 am- 11:59 pm
(\$5.00 per Sunday)

The undersigned hereby applies for a license in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Ch.136 Sec.4.

Name: Janis Martinson, Executive Director

Business/Organization: Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Inc.

D/B/A (if applicable): _____

Address: 244 Main St, Gt Barrington

Mailing Address: Po Box 690, Gt Barrington

Phone Number: 413-644-9040 x106

Email: janis@mahaiwe.org

TYPE: (Check all that apply) Concert Dance Exhibition Cabaret DJ

Live band with up to ___ pieces, including singers Public Show

Other (please explain) free film screening

INCLUDES: Live music Recorded music Dancing by entertainers/ performers

Dancing by patrons Amplification system Theatrical exhibition

Floorshow Play Moving picture show Light show Jukebox

Other (please explain) _____

As part of the entertainment, will any person be permitted to appear on the premises in any manner or attire as to expose to public view any portion of the pubic area, anus, or genitals, or any simulation thereof, or whether any person will be permitted to appear on the premises in any manner or attire as to expose to public view a portion of the breast below the top of the areola, or any simulation thereof? (M.G.L. Chp.140 Sec.183A)

___ YES

NO

Please circle: **INDOOR** or **OUTDOOR** Entertainment

Exact Location of Entertainment (include sketch): Townhall Park Lawn and Gazebo

Date(s) of Entertainment: Sunday, September 4, 2022

Start & End Times of Entertainment: 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Does your event involve any of the following? (Check all that apply)

- Food Temporary Bathrooms Tents Stages Temporary Signs
- Electrical Permits Building Permits Police Traffic Details Street Closures

ALL entertainment licenses will be reviewed by the Design Review Team (DRT), which is comprised of several Town departments, for comments/concerns on this application.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 62C, Sec. 49A, I certify under the penalties of perjury that I, to my best knowledge and belief, have filed all state tax returns and paid all state taxes required under law.

Janis Martison
Signature of Individual or
Corporate Officer

7/13/22
Date

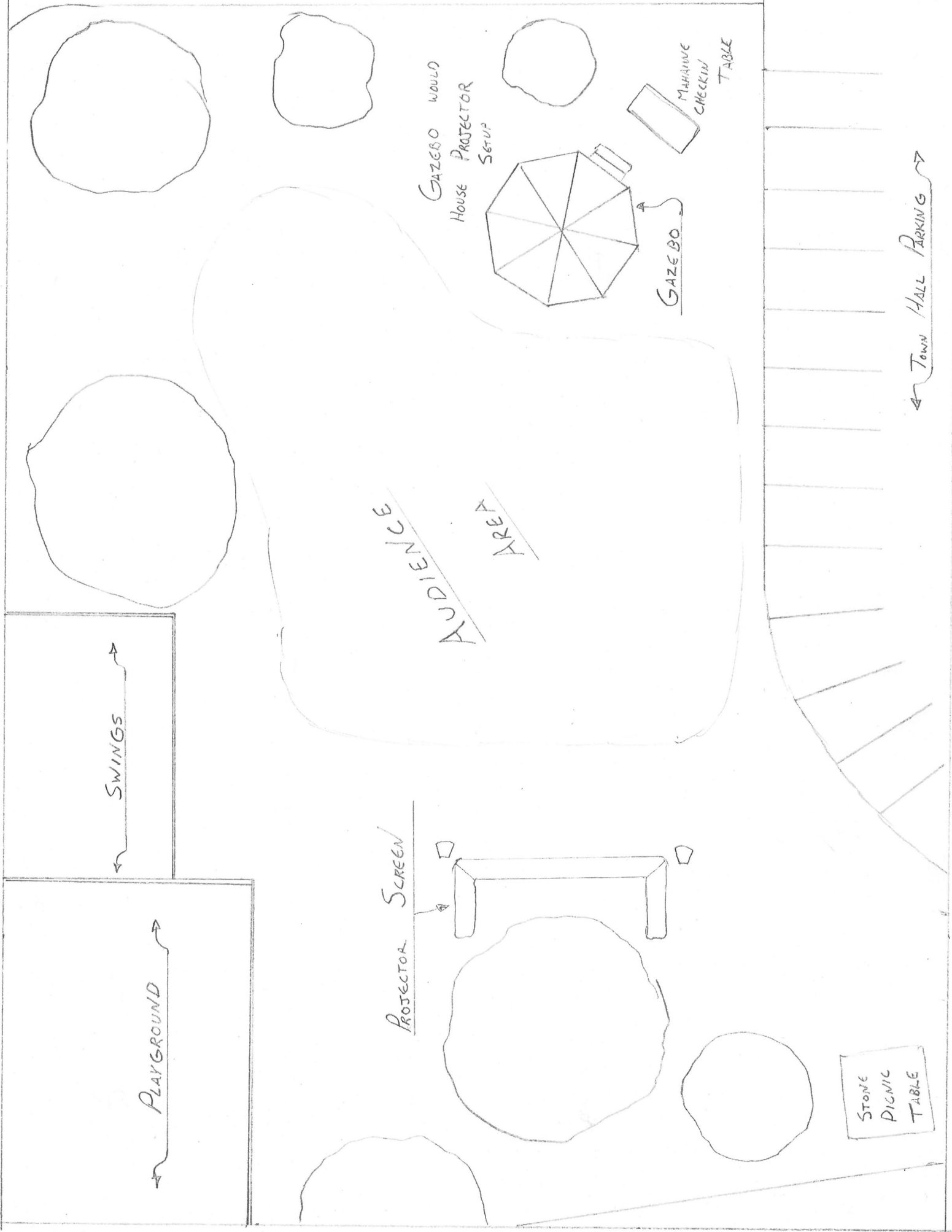
57-1140453
SS# or FID#

TOWN USE ONLY:

DRT Review with Conditions: DRT has no issues with this event.
CP

APPROVAL DATE: _____

LICENSE # _____



AUDIENCE
AREA

GAZEBO WOULD
HOUSE PROJECTOR
SETUP

GAZEBO

MAHAINE
CHECKIN
TABLE

SWINGS

PLAYGROUND

PROJECTOR
SCREEN

STONE
PICNIC
TABLE

TOWN HALL PARKING

Carmen Morales

From: Paul Storti
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Carmen Morales; Chris Rembold; Charles Burger; Conservation Commission; Edwin May; Rebecca Jurczyk
Cc: Amy Pulver
Subject: RE: Mahaiwe Free Film Screening - Temporary Sunday Entertainment license application

All set with PD

From: Carmen Morales <CMorales@Townofgb.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Chris Rembold <crembold@Townofgb.org>; Paul Storti <PStorti@Townofgb.org>; Charles Burger <cburger@Townofgb.org>; Conservation Commission <ConCom@Townofgb.org>; Edwin May <EMay@Townofgb.org>; Rebecca Jurczyk <RJurczyk@Townofgb.org>
Cc: Amy Pulver <apulver@Townofgb.org>
Subject: Mahaiwe Free Film Screening - Temporary Sunday Entertainment license application

Please see attached application for the Mahaiwe Free Film Screening – September 4th and a rain date for September 9th.

Best,



Carmen Morales

Administrative Assistant
To the Town Manager

413-528-1619 ex 2901
cmorales@townofgb.org

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." ~Maya Angelou~

Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington MA 01230



The Secretary of State's office has determined that most e-mails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

Carmen Morales

From: Charles Burger
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:52 PM
To: Carmen Morales; Chris Rembold; Paul Storti; Conservation Commission; Edwin May; Rebecca Jurczyk
Cc: Amy Pulver
Subject: RE: Mahaiwe Free Film Screening - Temporary Sunday Entertainment license application

No issues for the FD.



Charles Burger

Fire Chief

413-528-0788 ex 4
cburger@townofgb.org

Town of Great Barrington
Fire Department
37 State Road
Great Barrington MA 01230



The Secretary of State's office has determined that most e-mails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: Carmen Morales <CMorales@Townofgb.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Chris Rembold <crembold@Townofgb.org>; Paul Storti <PStorti@Townofgb.org>; Charles Burger <cburger@Townofgb.org>; Conservation Commission <ConCom@Townofgb.org>; Edwin May <EMay@Townofgb.org>; Rebecca Jurczyk <RJurczyk@Townofgb.org>
Cc: Amy Pulver <apulver@Townofgb.org>
Subject: Mahaiwe Free Film Screening - Temporary Sunday Entertainment license application

Please see attached application for the Mahaiwe Free Film Screening – September 4th and a rain date for September 9th.

Best,



Carmen Morales

Administrative Assistant
To the Town Manager

413-528-1619 ex 2901
cmorales@townofgb.org

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." ~Maya Angelou~

Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington MA 01230



Carmen Morales

From: Chris Rembold
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Carmen Morales; Paul Storti; Charles Burger; Conservation Commission; Edwin May; Rebecca Jurczyk
Cc: Amy Pulver
Subject: RE: Mahaiwe Free Film Screening - Temporary Sunday Entertainment license application

No planning issues.



Christopher Rembold, AICP

Assistant Town Manager /
Director of Planning and
Community Development
413-528-1619, x. 2401
crembold@townofgb.org

Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington MA 01230

The Secretary of State's office has determined that most e-mails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: Carmen Morales <CMorales@Townofgb.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Chris Rembold <crembold@Townofgb.org>; Paul Storti <PStorti@Townofgb.org>; Charles Burger <cburger@Townofgb.org>; Conservation Commission <ConCom@Townofgb.org>; Edwin May <EMay@Townofgb.org>; Rebecca Jurczyk <RJurczyk@Townofgb.org>
Cc: Amy Pulver <apulver@Townofgb.org>
Subject: Mahaiwe Free Film Screening - Temporary Sunday Entertainment license application

Please see attached application for the Mahaiwe Free Film Screening – September 4th and a rain date for September 9th.

Best,



Carmen Morales

Administrative Assistant
To the Town Manager
413-528-1619 ex 2901
cmorales@townofgb.org
"Do the best you can until you know
better. Then when you know better, do
better." ~Maya Angelou~

Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington MA 01230



From: [Chris Rembold](#)
To: [Amy Pulver](#)
Subject: FW: Return of the Guido's Great 8 Road Race
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:43:30 AM



Christopher Rembold, AICP

Assistant Town Manager /
Director of Planning and
Community Development
413-528-1619, x. 2401
crembold@townofgb.org

Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington MA 01230

The Secretary of State's office has determined that most e-mails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: Kent Lemme <kent@berkshirerunningcenter.com>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Chris Rembold <crembold@Townofgb.org>
Cc: Shiobbean Lemme <info@berkshirerunningcenter.com>
Subject: Re: Return of the Guido's Great 8 Road Race

****CAUTION:****
****This is an external email, be vigilant****
*****Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender (and their email address) and know the content is safe*****

Hi Chris,
Thanks for the quick response.
We would love to get 100 runners. We have three water stops on the route. A port o Pottie at Guidos and they put out some fruit and water post race.
We just ask for police support to hold the traffic at the start for a safe passage for the runners to turn off onto the route.
We have volunteers and ask for police support at two crossings on the course.
Please let us know what you need from us to move forward.
Thanks,
Shiobbean
On Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 8:46 AM Chris Rembold <crembold@townofgb.org> wrote:

Sounds great.

Could you tell me how many people you are expecting? Are there water, food, or bathroom stops along the route?

Thank you for contacting the Police Dept. You don't close the roads though, right?

Chris



Christopher Rembold, AICP

Assistant Town Manager /
Director of Planning and
Community Development
413-528-1619, x. 2401
crembold@townofgb.org

Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington MA 01230

The Secretary of State's office has determined that most e-mails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: Kent Lemme <kent@berkshirerunningcenter.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 5:10 PM
To: Chris Rembold <crembold@Townofgb.org>; Shiobbean Lemme <info@berkshirerunningcenter.com>
Subject: Return of the Guido's Great 8 Road Race

****CAUTION:****
****This is an external email, be vigilant****
*****Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender (and their email address) and know the content is safe*****

Dear Town Officials of Great Barrington,
I am writing as a representative of the Berkshire Running Center, and lead sponsor, Guido's – which are collaborating for the return of the exciting eight-mile road race in Great Barrington. The hope is for the race to take place Sunday, August 7th with an 8:00 a.m. start time.

Our hope is to start and finish the race in the vicinity just north of Big Y on Route 7 and finish in the Guido's parking lot, rounding out a beautiful eight-mile loop through Great Barrington and Sheffield. The race is run in the breakdown lane on all of the highways, and for the two crossings of Route 7, police officers have directed traffic at these locations each of the previous iterations of the race. This is our intention again this year. We have been in contact with both the Great Barrington and Sheffield Police to make this happen again.

The Route would begin in the vicinity I've described, head north on Route 7 before turning left onto Pope St., it then turns left onto Route 23/41, then left onto W. Sheffield Road, then turn left on Lime Kiln Road, turn right for a short section on Main Street (Route 7), then left onto Kellogg Road, left on Boardman Street (which becomes E. Sheffield Road), left on Brookside Road, right on South Main Street (Rte. 7) where runners will continue to the finish at Guido's.

The entire race route is viewable on a map created on the USA Track & Field "America's

Running Routes” website at the link below: (please note, this link has the start and finish on Routes 23/41 in the vicinity of the Newsboy Statue. ***This is no longer the case, however, the entire route is exactly the same, otherwise:***

<http://www.usatf.org/routes/view.asp?rID=517350>

The Berkshire Running Center has earned an excellent reputation for organizing top-notch races, including the MountainOne Steel Rail Races that extend over the entire course of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail from Pittsfield thru Adams, passing through one city and three towns and imposing several complex crossings on a major state highway (Route 8). The excellent coordination with local town officials, traffic control and law enforcement in several municipalities helped contribute to making the event a great success.

Collectively, we have assembled an excellent team to make this a success and look forward to working with any and all relevant town departments.

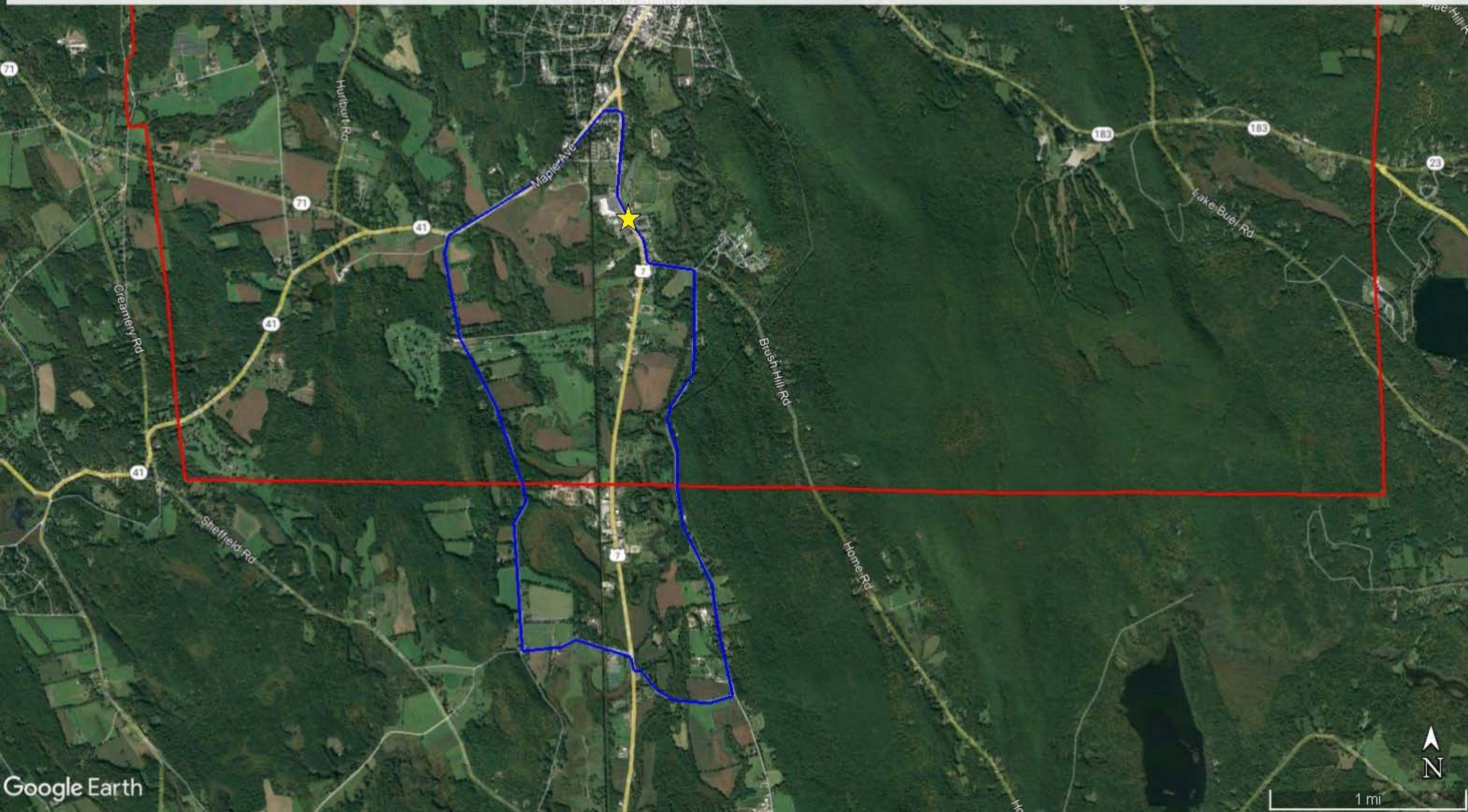
Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shiobbean Lemme

Guido's Great 8 Road Race

Selectboard Meeting Packet July 25, 2022
Item 5.b. - Berkshire Running Center for Guido's Great 8 Road Race

8 miles, beginning near Big Y in GREAT BARRINTON on Route 7, north to Pope Street (crossing over Route 7), southwest on Rte 23, south on West Sheffield Road into SHEFFIELD, east on Lime Kiln, crossing over Route 7 to Kellogg Road,



Fee: \$25.00 (per day)



APPLICATION FOR ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE

TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITY:

The undersigned hereby applies for a License in accordance with the provisions relating thereto:

Applicant's Name: Linda Hoddy

Organization Name: Stockbridge Sinfonia (Community Orchestra)

Applicant's Address: 224 North Plain Road, Great Barrington

Telephone Number: 518 527 1238

Type of License: champagne & wine
 (Circle one) ONE DAY BEER & WINE ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC

Event: Concert + Reception - 50th Anniversary

Date: 8/14/2022 Start Time: rec. 7:30 End Time: 8:30
concert @ 6 pm.

Event Address: St James Place, 352 Main Street.

Is the Event on Town property? YES NO

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPLICATION:

1. TIPS or ServSafe Alcohol certification for anyone serving alcohol.
2. Certificate of Insurance showing proof of Liquor Liability coverage.
(If the event is on Town property, the certificate must name the Town of Great Barrington as additional insured.)
3. If the event is not on applicant's property, a letter of permission from the owner is required.

Liability: The below individual agrees to take responsibility for the above-noted event and further agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and defend the Town of Great Barrington, its officers, employees and agents, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, penalties, forfeitures, suits, and the costs and expenses incident thereto, which may occur in connection with this event.

Linda Hoddy Christine Singer, President
 Signature of Applicant Date July 20, 2022

FOR TOWN USE:

Approved _____ Denied _____ Postponed _____



352 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

May 2, 2022

Linda Hoddy
Stockbridge Sinfonia, Inc.
1045 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Linda,

Please take this letter as confirmation of our permission for you to provide and serve alcohol for the Stockbridge Sinfonia Gala reception on Sunday, August 14, 2022, following the performance.

We look forward to a memorable event and, as always, to our continued relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Keyes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Seth Keyes
General Manager



8 TOWN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD



SUMMARY UPDATE REPORT
TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
JULY 25, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A. Executive Summary**
- B. Our Board Members Represent You**
- C. Our Board Has Been Following A Process**
- D. School Enrollment is Declining**
- E. Career, Vocational, Technical Education**
- F. Frequently Asked Questions**

RSDPB EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (June 2022)

The Regional School District Planning Board has been working for over two years to find solutions to the challenges that our two school districts face:

- **Declining enrollment** (a projected 52% loss between 2000 and 2030)
- **Rising operational costs**
- **Flat state revenue; greater fiscal burden to towns** (budgets continue to rise each year, as state aid has been flat, often at a minimum \$30/student)
- **Increased educational needs** (special education, social-emotional, English language learner and students from low-income homes)
- **Increasing pressure on districts/towns on ability to continue to provide necessary educational resources, access, opportunities** (while both districts do an excellent job working with the resources they have, as enrollment drops and funds are stagnant, educational opportunities are often strained and/or limited. An example is a lack of vocational programming (Chapter 74) in south county.)

Faced by these increasing challenges, the Selectboards of the 8 towns spearheaded the formation of the RSDPB to explore possible solutions. A baseline study of “what happens if we do nothing” to change our current models of operation was followed by additional analysis of existing conditions (such as enrollment, facilities, transportation, career vocational technical education, finance and educational quality), and community outreach through a broad survey, focus groups and interviews. Using this data, the RSDPB directed its Research Team to examine three primary models, including several possible scenarios. These models and scenarios included:

- A. Full regionalization (PK-12) into a single district.** Scenarios included keeping all school buildings open, combining grades 9-12 into a single high school, or combining grades 9-12 and 7-8 on the Great Barrington campus.
- B. Shared regional high school district (9-12) on a single campus, with independent elementary/middle (PK-8) regional districts.** Scenarios included creating two regional districts with one that manages grades 9-12 (a high school on a single campus) and one managing grades PK-8 (elementary and middle in existing schools), or three regional districts with one that manages grades 9-12 (a high school on a single campus) and two that manage grades PK-8 (elementary and middle, maintaining existing schools).
- C. Maintain two separate districts with more Collaboration.** Scenarios included more formal collaboration between the two schools, or the creation of a formal collaborative (under state regulation).

The research team generated a series of reports and a final analysis that included recommendations to the Board. On April 26, the RSDPB selected as the “preferred model” the scenario recommended by the research team – namely:

That the two districts merge to form a single K-12 regional school district among the eight towns, maintaining all existing elementary and middle schools, but creating a new merged 9-12 high school to be built on the campus of the current Monument Mountain High School.

This model that the Research Team built of this merged district incorporated the following parameters/assumptions, among others:

- **No School closures.** No schools would be closed.
- **Optimizing Class Size.** No change to class sizes for elementary and middle school children. In high school, class size no larger than 20 or 22, with many class sizes (especially for electives) smaller.
- **Minimization of Job Loss.** Minimization of job loss, with faculty reductions achieved primarily through attrition over time.
- **High school construction.** Given BHRSD has a high school renovation/reconstruction project in the state pipeline, and given the geographic centrality of Great Barrington to all of the other 7 towns, the merged high school would be part of the planned reconstruction of the high school on the current Great Barrington campus.
- **Travel time for students.** No increase in travel time for elementary and middle school students, with opportunities to decrease travel times for some of these students. For high school students, some would have shorter rides and some would have longer rides, but no student would have a ride longer than the current maximum length of one hour.

The Research Team identified a **number of advantages to its recommended model, including:**

- **Expanded opportunities available to all students** through additional courses and programs, electives, and enrichment experiences
- **Expanded programming for high school students in a state-of-the-art facility,** including up to eight **Chapter 74 Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) programs** (such as construction trades, health care, early childhood, advanced manufacturing, culinary arts, engineering technology, information support services, and early childhood and care – for example)
- **More professional development, peer networking and support opportunities for teachers**
- **A pooling of resources** to address the growing support for student social emotional needs, special education, and English Language Learners

- Greater variety and support for sports and other **extracurricular activities**
- A **larger, more diverse student body**
- Alignment of administrative and operational functions, resulting in **fiscal efficiencies**
- **Savings in the range of \$1.5 to \$2.1 MM annually** that could be reinvested in educational enhancements, used to offset increases in town assessments, or some combination of the two.

Much hard work and significant challenges lie ahead as the RSDPB does the additional study and analysis necessary to test and refine the model, develop a new regional school agreement acceptable to all 8 towns, and solicit community input and support for a model designed to combine the best of both districts and achieve fiscal efficiencies with the objective of better serving the future educational needs of the children of the 8 towns . The final decision whether to regionalize will be made by the resident voters in the 8 towns.

GET THE FACTS. BE INFORMED. YOU DECIDE.



8 Town Regional School District Planning Board | 8Towns.org

Egremont | Alford | Sheffield | New Marlborough | Monterey
Southern Berkshire Regional School District | **SBRSD**

Stockbridge | Great Barrington | West Stockbridge
Berkshire Hills Regional School District | **BHRSD**

OUR BOARD REPRESENTS YOU. Our goal is to provide all children within the 8 Towns with high quality educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

→ **Fact:** Our Board includes your elected town officials and community members.
We represent you in our work.

WHAT~AND WHO~IS THE 8 TOWN BOARD?

In 2020, our board was formed to **investigate the impacts** of declining school enrollment and to recommend a path forward. You, the **8 Towns' voters, will decide** our schools' future.

We have studied **three potential options** to address declining enrollment's impact on educational quality and on our towns' and taxpayers' finances:

- 1] Full regionalization into a single regional district, or
- 2) Formation of a single, regional high school Grades 9-12, or
- 3) Increasing formal collaboration between two independent districts

WHY DID THIS BOARD CONVENE?

To address this challenge: From **2000-2022**, enrollment in our two districts dropped 35%. Projections are that by **2030**, enrollment will have declined by **52%**, to a two-district population of **1,280**.

Meanwhile, districts have had **rising costs** in operations, transportation, technology, employee benefits, and special education. As state funding is **tied to enrollment**, declining revenue means taxpayers bear a **greater tax burden** for school budgets.

HOW WAS THIS COMMITTEE FORMED?

Three representatives (one a school committee member) from each of the 8 Towns were appointed by their respective Town Moderator as required by state statute.

WHO IS ON THE BOARD?

We are **elected officials and community members** from the districts' 8 Towns.
 We are all **volunteers committed to excellence** in education in our community.
 We represent **you**: residents, parents, taxpayers, school employees and students.

<p>ALFORD Charles Ketchen Alford Selectboard Chair Lucy Prashker, Chair RSDPB Vacancy</p>	<p>EGREMONT Thomas Berkel Community Member Danile Kelly SBRSD School Committee George McGurn Egremont Select Board</p>	<p>GREAT BARRINGTON Stephen Bannon, Chair BHRSD School Committee Deb Phillips, Chair RSDPB Educational Quality Subcommittee Peter Taylor, Vice-Chair RSDPB</p>
<p>MONTEREY Donald Coburn Community Member Laura Rodriguez SBRSD School Committee Jonathan Sylbert Monterey Finance Committee</p>	<p>NEW MARLBOROUGH Jane Burke SBRSD School Committee Susan Smith Community Member Tara White New Marlborough Selectboard</p>	<p>SHEFFIELD Nadine Hawver, Chair Finance Subcommittee Bonnie Silvers SBRSD School Committee Colin Smith Sheffield Finance Committee</p>
<p>STOCKBRIDGE Nick Fredsall Community Member Sean Stephen BHRSD School Committee Patrick White Stockbridge Selectboard</p>	<p>WEST STOCKBRIDGE Marie Ryan West Stockbridge Administrator Molly Thomas BHRSD School Committee</p>	<p>Superintendents / District Representatives Peter Dillon, BHRSD Beth Regulbuto, SBRSD Christine Martin, Unit A SBRSD Kristy Cavanaugh, Unit D, SBRSD Amy Salnetti, Unit A BHRSD Audrey Console, Unit D, BHRSD Peter Carlotto, Unit D, BHRSD</p>

Research Team/Consultants: Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) | New England School Development Council (NESDEC) | Berkshire Educational Resources K12 (BERK) | Abrahams Group | Hanover Research? | Alliance Education Associates

WHAT HAS THE BOARD DECIDED SO FAR? The 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) [voted](#) at its April 26, 2022 meeting to approve as the preferred model of regionalization its research team's recommendation that the **two districts merge to form a single K-12 regional school district** among the eight towns, **maintaining all existing elementary and middle schools, but creating a new merged 9-12 high school** to be built on the campus of the current Monument Mountain High School. This model is now the subject of further study and analysis.

WHAT'S NEXT? The RSDPB's next steps will be further design and development of the selected model, including the drafting of a new regional school district agreement for consideration by town officials and ultimately the voters in the 8 member towns. A new 8 Town regional school district will be formed **only** if a majority of the voters in each town approve entering into a new regional school district agreement.

Do you want to learn more about our work? Visit the 8towns.org website.



8 Town Regional School District Planning Board | 8Towns.org

Egremont | Alford | Sheffield | New Marlborough | Monterey
Southern Berkshire Regional School District | SBRSD

Stockbridge | Great Barrington | West Stockbridge
Berkshire Hills Regional School District | BHRSD

OUR BOARD HAS BEEN FOLLOWING A PROCESS.

→ **FACT:** Over the last two years, our Board has been studying the feasibility of some form of regionalization to address the challenges of declining enrollment in our two districts. YOU will have the final vote on the best future for education in our communities.

WHAT'S THE PROCESS FOR OUR 8 TOWN BOARD?

We first studied maintaining **two separate districts "as is."** The "as is" challenges we found led us to study and evaluate **three options** for our school districts.

- 1] **Full-regionalization** into a single regional district, or
- 2) Formation of a **single, regional 9-12** high school, or
- 3) Increasing formal **collaboration** between two independent districts

WHAT PROCESS HAS TAKEN PLACE?

We've engaged research experts to compile and evaluate data: from educational to financial information, facilities reports and community input – and much more, including:

- Enrollment, education quality, transportation, buildings and capital considerations, special education, information technology, and career vocational technical education (CVTE). Link to reports and presentations [here](#).
- Results from [surveys and focus groups](#) among students, school staff, alumni, and community members about education in our two districts.
- In March 2022, the research team presented its [findings/recommendations](#) to the 8 Town Board.
- The Board participated in **facilitated discussions** in April.

- Approve as the preferred model of regionalization its research team's recommendation that the **two districts merge to form a single K-12 regional school district** among the eight towns, **maintaining all existing elementary and middle schools, but creating a new merged 9-12 high school** to be built on the campus of the current Monument Mountain High School. This model is now the subject of further study and analysis.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS?

- Further design and development of the selected model. This includes drafting a new regional school district agreement for consideration by town officials and voters
- Additional **community outreach** and feedback on the recommended plan.
- Outreach to the **Selectboards** in the 8 Towns.
- Additional research and fiscal modeling by research consultants.
- Educational visioning for grades K-8, 9-12, and CVTE.
- Develop a long-range plan and a draft regionalization agreement.
- **8 Town Board** reviews and votes on the **draft regional agreement**.
- **8 Town Board conducts outreach** to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).
- A new 8 Town regional school district will be formed **only if a majority of the voters** in the towns approve

WHAT'S THE STATE'S ROLE?

- Regionalization is governed by state law, but decisions happen at the town level.
- If towns decide to form a regional school district, the state gets more involved

HOW IS THIS WORK FUNDED?

Our Board has received a total of **\$305,000 from the state** to fund our work (**\$50,000** in FY20, **\$125,000** in FY21 and **\$130,000** in FY22). The 8 Towns have collectively contributed **\$64,000**. The two districts collectively contributed **\$6,000**, and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation awarded **\$2,500** toward facilitating discussions.

WHAT IS THE TIMING IF A NEW REGIONAL STRUCTURE IS APPROVED?

If a regional agreement is approved by towns, the implementation process begins. From start (2020) to finish this process will likely have spanned 4-5 years.

Do you want to learn more about our work? Visit the 8towns.org website

GET THE FACTS. BE INFORMED. YOU DECIDE.



8 Town Regional School District Planning Board | 8Towns.org

Egremont | Alford | Sheffield | New Marlborough | Monterey
Southern Berkshire Regional School District | SBRSD

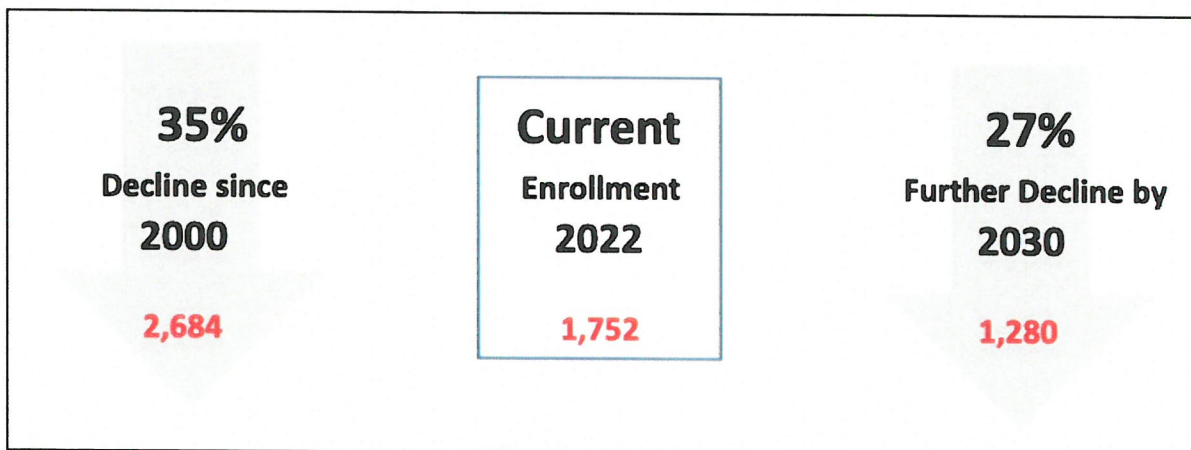
Stockbridge | Great Barrington | West Stockbridge
Berkshire Hills Regional School District | BHRSD

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS DECLINING.

FACT: Enrollment in our two districts has dropped and is projected to continue to decline. Declining enrollment has educational and financial impacts on our school districts and taxpayers.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN OUR TWO SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

From 2000-2022, enrollment in our two districts dropped by 35 percent. By 2030 enrollment will have dropped by a projected 52%, to 1,280. View the detailed enrollment report [here](#).



WHAT IS ENROLLMENT TODAY IN THE TWO DISTRICTS?*

Enrollment Summary by Decade (K-12, no PreK): BHRSD, SBRSD, Combined

Year	BHRSD	SBRSD	Combined
	Number of students (K-12)		
2000	1,612	1,072	2,684
2010	1,356	865	2,221
2022	1,164	588	1,752
2030 (projected)	877	403	1,280

*Enrollment data as of 10/1/2021

WHY IS ENROLLMENT DECLINING?

- The 2020 census reported an **increase** in the districts' **town populations** since 2010 (+4.9% in SBRSD and +1.7% in BHRSD). Yet districts' **school population** continued to drop during this period.
- In South County, aging populations, declining birth rates, and shifts in housing patterns mean fewer school aged children per household.
- In the Southern Berkshire District, enrollment decline is also due to students "choicing out" to BHRSD. (2021: 114>BHRSD vs. 47>SBRSD.)
- Among school-age children in the 8 Towns, **14% attend private schools** or are home schooled.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF DECLINING ENROLLMENT?

- Lower enrollment means **more challenges** in providing comprehensive academic programs, services, support and enrichment opportunities.
- As enrollment declines, so does **state funding**, which is based largely on school population. This results in either **increased town assessments** (taxes) or **cuts to educational or other programs** that provide broader student opportunities.

- In dollars and as a percentage of district budgets, **town assessments have risen** significantly over the last decade, while state aid has remained flat.
- Assessments are projected to continue to rise at higher average rates—**unless districts cut programs.**
- Despite growing student need/interest, and **despite workforce development pressures** in our community, declining enrollment makes it hard to expand our districts' underdeveloped [vocational education](#) offerings.
- Growing student needs in other areas, such as **English Language Learners (ELL), special education and alternative education** require greater resources and would benefit from more efficiencies.

Do you want to learn more about our work? Visit the 8Towns.org website and read the reports of our research teams, including:

[Enrollment Analysis](#)

[School Choice/Student Flow Presentation](#)

[Career, Vocational and Technical Education](#)

[Southern Berkshire RSD-Baseline Report](#)

[Berkshire Hills RSD-Baseline Report](#)

[Educational Quality](#)

GET THE FACTS. BE INFORMED. YOU DECIDE.



**8 Town Regional School District
Planning Board | 8Towns.org**

Egremont | Alford | Sheffield | New Marlborough | Monterey
Southern Berkshire Regional School District | SBRSD

Stockbridge | Great Barrington | West Stockbridge
Berkshire Hills Regional School District | BHRSD

SOUTH COUNTY STUDENTS ARE UNDERSERVED IN THE AREA OF CAREER, VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CVTE) DUE TO A LACK OF CHAPTER 74 PROGRAMS. This results in educational disadvantages for local students and hiring challenges for regional employers seeking skilled, trained high school graduates.

→ **Fact: 50% of South County high school students do not earn college degrees and so need school-to-career pathways during and after high school.**

- South County provides just **2** Chapter 74 (CVTE) programs serving **47** students; Central Berkshire serves **406**; Northern Berkshire serves **506**.
- Recent surveys signal **high interest** in Chapter 74 (CVTE) programs among all stakeholders (students, staff, alumni and community members).
- South County has **limited** Chapter 74 (CVTE) resources for adult learners and businesses seeking employee and workforce development resources.

WHAT IS A CHAPTER 74-APPROVED (CVTE) PROGRAM?

- Chapter 74 (CVTE) programs are comprehensive and rigorous state-approved high school tracks that integrate academic content, technical skills training and field/work experiences **before** students graduate.
- In partnership with regional employers, Chapter 74 (CVTE) trains students in line with industry standards, health/safety regulations, workplace expectations, professionalism and entrepreneurship.
- Students in Chapter 74 (CVTE) must complete between 900 and 1700 hours in their chosen area.
- Many Chapter 74 (CVTE) programs position students for post-graduate work at higher starting wages and/or for continued training/education.

HOW IS A CHAPTER 74-APPROVED (CVTE) PROGRAM DIFFERENT FROM OTHER FORMS OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (CDE)?

- Chapter 74 (CVTE) is considered the most coherent and intensive form of career development education (awareness, exploration, and immersion).
- While job shadowing opportunities/internships at local businesses can be effective in helping students consider educational/career pathways and develop work readiness skills, they do not meet the rigorous standards of Chapter 74 (CVTE).
- With about 25% of MA students participating in Chapter 74 (CVTE), our high schools **must continue to offer additional and expand** career development education opportunities such as innovative career pathways, internships, job shadowing, and academies. Both Chapter 74 (CVTE) and other career development education experiences are integral to a comprehensive high school.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF LIMITED CHAPTER 74 (CTVE) PROGRAMS IN SOUTH COUNTY?

- Students who graduate and enter the workforce with little or no formal training have limited career pathway opportunities; the average wage for a South County high school graduate with no formal training is approximately \$20,000 per year, well below a 'basic living wage' of \$28,000. Higher paid opportunities may be out of reach for under-skilled graduates.
- When students select Chapter 74 (CVTE) at high schools outside our region, our towns must pay for those students' tuition, transportation, and (potentially) a capital assessment.
- Students who remain in the local schools without the Chapter 74 (CVTE) they need and desire may be less engaged and less excited about their future.
- Employers are and will continue to be hard-pressed to hire skilled graduates if we don't advance Chapter 74 programming in South County.

WHAT CHAPTER 74 (CVTE) PROGRAMS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE CURRENTLY OFFERED? WHAT PROGRAMS COULD/SHOULD BE OFFERED?

- Berkshire Hills currently offers two Chapter 74 (CVTE) programs in automotive technology and horticulture. Preliminary high school renovation/construction planning has included upgrades to these programs and the addition of up to four additional Chapter 74 programs.
- Both SBRSD and BHRSD offer a number of non-accredited Career Development Education experiences such as:

- **SBRSD.** Courses in culinary arts, entrepreneurship, digital design and marketing, early childhood, fundamentals of design, building construction/carpentry, intro to woodworking, technology pathway (Vex robotics), cybersecurity, intro to computer programming. Internships. Graduation Pathways (Mt. Everett is organized into six graduation pathways). Participation in MassHire supported Connecting Activities.
- **BHRSD.** Courses in early childhood, carpentry, ISS & networking, marketing/finance, culinary arts, robotics and automation. Internships. Graduation Pathways (Monument is organized into 12 current pathways, including two Innovation pathways). Participation in MassHire supported Connecting Activities.
- Based on our region's business economy and student interest, possible offerings in both Chapter 74 (CVTE) and career readiness pathways include: Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Early Education and Child Care, Electrical, Engineering Technology, Health Assisting, Horticulture, Information Support Services & Networking, Machine Tool Technology/Advanced Manufacturing, Plumbing, Cosmetology, Art/Design, Biotechnology, HVAC, Business & Entrepreneurship.

IS CHAPTER 74 (CVTE) MORE EXPENSIVE?

- Yes—and this is why state aid for districts with Chapter 74 CVTE programs is higher than for traditional students.
- New high school costs will be offset by significant state aid for adding state-of-the-art CVTE spaces and equipment.
- Districts **WITH** Chapter 74 CVTE can charge higher tuition and (potentially) a capital assessment for out-of-district students, currently estimated at around \$18,500.
- Districts **WITHOUT** Chapter 74 CVTE must pay tuition, transportation, and a capital assessment when our districts' students attend other districts for Chapter 74 CVTE.

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

Since the publication of the RSDPB Research Team's Final Analysis and Preferred Recommendation (March 22, 2022), the research team has been responding to questions from board members and the public. These questions are organized by topic and can be found on the 8towns.org website.

Below are the research team's responses to some of the most frequently asked questions:

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Would combining the high schools mean more or fewer options for students?

More options would be available for high school students. Under the model, *all* electives currently offered at both high schools would be offered in a new high school. This would combine the full range of options (the best of both high schools) and make them available to the *entire* student body. Additionally, new programs such as Chapter 74 Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE), advanced placement, and electives would likely be expanded as part of a new high school educational visioning/design process.

Would fewer high school students be able to participate in school activities, clubs, and sports?

No, in fact we expect additional opportunities would be created and available for high school students. There certainly may be some situations where earning a spot on the starting team for a particular squad (5 for basketball) or lead in the school play would be more competitive as a result of the merged high school. However, a merged high school may also create opportunities for more robust junior varsity programs, fully-owned programs (versus cooperatively operated programs), and possibly new programs such as lacrosse. Additionally, there would be a greater choice of clubs, arts programs, performance groups, and other activities.

CVTE

What is a Chapter 74 CVTE Program?

Massachusetts approves CVTE programs under Chapter 74 of the Massachusetts General Laws. Programs approved under this designation have specific requirements that cover standards, training and licensure, student application, equipment, safety, field experiences, etc. Rigorous frameworks cover six "strands" including: (i) safety and health; (ii) technical knowledge and skills specific to each area; (iii) embedded academic skills; (iv) employability; (v) management and entrepreneurship knowledge and skills; and (vi) technical knowledge and skills universal to all areas. Students who enter and complete a Chapter 74 CVTE program participate in a first-year exploratory program, after which they apply for enrollment in the program they seek to pursue. After review and acceptance, students spend up to half their school day (or one week on, one week off) in a Chapter 74 program area. Ultimately, they engage in field experiences (apprenticeships, jobs, internships) in their junior and senior years, on-the-job and under the supervision of trained staff. Chapter 74 advising is specialized, programs reflect labor market and industry standards with practicing advisory board members (employers), classrooms have

integrated academic instruction, and outcomes often include credentialing and post-secondary (training and college) linkages.

Students in Chapter 74 CVTE programs must complete between 900 and 1700 hours in their program area. As such, Chapter 74 CVTE is considered the most coherent and intensive form of career development education.

Is there a need for Chapter 74 CVTE programs in South County as compared to the rest of Berkshire County?

Yes, there is a critical need. There are only two approved Chapter 74 programs south of Pittsfield, automotive technology and horticulture, both at Monument Mountain. Lee, Lenox and Mt. Everett have no Chapter 74 programs. Across the three regions of the county (in 2019-20), north Berkshire had about 25% of its grade 9-12 students participating in Chapter 74 programs, while south Berkshire had only about 3%. Mt. Everett and Monument combined have about 8% of students in grades 9-12 participating in CVTE programs, while across the state between 22-25% of MA high school students participate in Chapter 74 programs. The Research Team believes South County to be significantly underserved in this area.

MERGED HIGH SCHOOL LOCATION / TIMING

Has any consideration been given to using the Mt Everett campus for the high school?

Yes, the Research Team considered that scenario but recommended against it for reasons of both capacity and geography. Mt. Everett does not have the capacity to hold the current enrollment and grade structures of the two high schools. In addition, of the two high schools, the Great Barrington high school is the more centrally located; all 7 of the 8 town border Great Barrington, only 3 of the towns border Sheffield. Geography does matter, and a high school in Great Barrington has the advantage to draw from all directions in South County (including not just the 8 towns, but Farmington River, Richmond, Lee and Lenox). In addition, Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD) is in a construction Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) project pipeline. The construction of new spaces, vocational shops, etc. is fundamental to the revisioning of the high school in ensuring that all students have a range of contemporary opportunities for success and post-high school preparation.

How will the RSDPB work impact the parallel path efforts on the new Monument Mountain Regional HS (or vice versa)?

BHRSD has been seeking a high school construction/renovation project since 2008. (A timeline of those efforts is outlined in the research team's facilities report). Their most recent Statement of Interest was accepted into eligibility in March 2022, about two years into the RSDPB effort. As such, neither project is leading the other, yet they meet in a moment in time that may offer a unique opportunity for the 8 towns to merge grades 9-12 in a state-of-the art high school facility. While there are timelines that apply for the high school project via the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the process of regionalization and the MSBA can be favorably lined up to advance both projects as a single effort and to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF PREFERRED MODEL

Would we “save” money under the preferred model?

Yes, potential cost savings are described in the fiscal calculations provided in the Final Analysis. Based on assumptions, estimated operational savings in the preferred model would be in the range of \$1.5 to \$2.1 million annually. Those savings could be reinvested in educational enhancements, used to offset increases in town assessments, or some combination of the two.

What will likely happen if no action is taken?

The Research Team anticipates ongoing enrollment decline, continuing fiscal constraints given that additional state aid is unlikely, and further erosion of educational programs, opportunities and services for students and staff in the two districts.

BHRSD most likely will move forward with a high school renovation/construction project in a facility built for about 550 students. This will result in limited CVTE, academic, and enrichment programs, and smaller footprint that will limit enrollment. When this school is opened, it is likely that additional students from Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) and surrounding districts will choose to attend the new high school through choice or tuition. (Currently, 25% of grades 7-12 choice from SBRSD into BHRSD.) If there is space for SBRSD students in a limited number of CVTE programs at the new high school, the sending SBRSD towns will pay CVTE tuition, transportation, and potentially an additional capital charge in the range of a combined \$20,000 per student, rather than the \$5,000 that the SBRSD currently pays through the choice program. And, absent a merger, there would be no guaranty that SBRSD students would have access to those CVTE programs as access would be prioritized for district resident students first.

Overall, if the districts do not merge, we see ongoing competition between the two districts and the loss of a critical opportunity to combine resources, to expand educational opportunities for students, and to build a connected professional and community culture.

* * * * *

We encourage all to review additional FAQs on the 8towns.org website and to send in any additional questions that have not been addressed.