

# THE NEWSletter

*The Newsy Little Paper That Supplements Other Media*

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Eileen W. Mooney, editor/publisher

## Special Town Meeting Is Sept. 15 at MMRHS

Great Barrington voters will have a special town meeting with a 32-article warrant **Tuesday, Sept. 15**, at 6 p.m. in the parking lot of Monument Mountain Regional High School.

The format will be the same as the annual town meeting, held June 22 in the high school parking lot, except that the Selectboard and town manager Mark Pruhenski said they're arranging for more lighting.

The warrant, or agenda, is reproduced on page 4 of this NEWSletter. A brief summary of each article starts on page 3. The zoning map is reproduced on page 5.

The warrant, with explanations of most articles, is also on the town website at [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org).

The annual meeting had 30 articles. Nine had not been considered when the necessary quorum of 100 voters left. The meeting ended in darkness at 9:58 p.m.

The warrant, with explanations of most articles, is on the town website at [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org).

### *A Note About Your Vote*

*This is a personal note to you readers:*

You have the unspoken right to understand what you've voting on. If you don't understand something or want more information, say so. Don't let anyone tell you that it's late and there's a lot to get through. Often, board members have been working on an article for months. They forget that it's new to other people and needs to be explained.

Remember: You have the right — and the responsibility — to understand why you're voting "yes" or "no" on an article.

*-Eileen W. Mooney*

### *Quote of the Issue*

**"During a time where there is so much anger and controversy, the naming of a school should be a joyous occasion, not another reason to divide our community. ... During a pandemic and a time where our country is so divided, I hope our community rises above the national turmoil. We as a District need to put all of our time and energy into educating our students during an unprecedented pandemic. We cannot fail our youth."**

-Steve Bannon, Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee chairman, before calling for the vote on renaming the middle school to W.E.B. Du Bois Regional Middle School. More about the unanimous vote to rename the school is in this issue.



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THE NEWSletter

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## Mason Offering Two Free Programs

MASON LIBRARY will offer a free webinar on Small Business Administration programs and a services and book arts workshop.

Because of COVID-19, both programs will be offered electronically, not in person.

The SBA webinar will be **Thursday, Sept. 17**, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The library at 528-2403 or Oreste Varela at 413-222-4286 or [oreste.varela@sba.gov](mailto:oreste.varela@sba.gov) has information about how to attend.

Suzi Banks Baum will lead a **three-part workshop** on building a soft-bodied multi-signature book with a dust cover jacket.

Sessions will be from 1 to 4 p.m. **Sept. 26, Oct. 10 and Oct. 24.**

Attendance is limited to 16 participants. Registration is at <http://gblibraries.org/engaged-patrons/>

When people register, they will receive information about materials they will need, according to a library news release.

Federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the state Board of Library Commissioners, provide the program, the release states.

### Interlibrary Loan Available Again

Library patrons can again request books through interlibrary loan, and curbside and, at Mason, limited indoor pickup are available for both libraries.

People can call either library and request books, DVDs or books on tape. They'll be told when to pick them up.

**Mason Library** is at 528-2403 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

**Ramsdell Library** in Housatonic, at 274-3738, is available Wednesdays, noon to 4 p.m.

Wifi is available on both libraries' lawns and Mason's parking lot.

Anyone with a Great Barrington library card can sign up for a Boston Public Library card — BPL eCard.

## Some Coming Meetings

TOWN BOARDS ARE MEETING by Zoom and telephone, to provide social distancing because of COVID-19.

The state has relaxed its Open Meeting Law to allow meetings in which everyone participates by telephone and all votes are by roll call.

Agendas provide the telephone number to call and a participation number. THE NEWSletter sends agendas to its email list.

Records of some meetings are on Community Television for the Southern Berkshires, [www.ctsbv.org](http://www.ctsbv.org). You can watch on your computer or on Spectrum cable channels 1301 (public), 1302 (education) and 1303 (government).

Other websites are town, [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org); public libraries, [www.gblibraries.org](http://www.gblibraries.org); and Berkshire Hills Regional School District, [www.bhrsd.org](http://www.bhrsd.org).

The town, its police and fire departments and the school district have Facebook pages. There are also Facebook Great Barrington and Housatonic community boards.

*Following are dates for scheduled set meetings of town boards and some other events.*

### September

-Selectboard meets Sept. 14, 6 p.m.

### Senior Center Activities

THE CLAIRE TEAGUE Senior Center at 917 South Main St. is open by appointment and offering some activities.

Its telephone number is 528-1881.

The schedule and "Grapevine," the center's monthly newsletter, are at [www.greatbarringtonseniors.org](http://www.greatbarringtonseniors.org).

Staff is available Mondays through Fridays to answer calls, offer SHINE counseling and, with a suggested \$2 donation, ready-to-go meals. Big Y donations are available Mondays and Wednesdays.

Masks are also available.

-Fire District's Prudential Committee meets Sept. 15, 4:30 p.m., 17 East St.

-Special town meeting is Sept. 15, 6 p.m., Monument Mountain Regional High School parking lot.

-Housatonic Improvement Committee meets Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m.

-Historic District Commission meets Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m.

-Selectboard meets Sept. 21, 6 p.m.

-Conservation Commission meets Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.

-Planning Board meets Sept. 24, 6 p.m.

### October

-Selectboard meets Oct. 5, 6 p.m.

—Planning Board meets Oct. 8, 6 p.m.

-Indigenous People's Day, formerly Columbus Day, is Oct. 12. Town buildings are closed.

-Historic District Commission meets Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m.

-Planning Board meets Oct. 22, 6 p.m.

-Oct. 24 is the last day to register to vote in person for Nov. 3 presidential election, town clerk's office, Town Hall, 2 to 4 and 7 to 8 p.m. This only applies to people who are not already registered to vote.

### Recycling Center

THE TOWN RECYCLING center off Stockbridge Road (almost across from Monument Mountain Regional High School) is open Fridays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The center is part of the town's Department of Public Works., which is at 528-0867. It's on the town website at <https://www.townofgb.org/public-works>

Great Barrington residents can get permits by calling the town clerk's office at 413-528-1619 ext. 3 or online through [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org).



## How To Stay on NEWSletter Mailing List — Or Get It Free

**SEE THE NOTE ON PAGE 1 IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR JOB OR YOUR BUSINESS SLOWED BECAUSE OF COVID-19!**

If your face on page 1 is **green**, your subscription ends with the next issue or the one after that.

If your face is **blue**, it's time to renew.

**Red** face? Your free trial subscription or your paid subscription has ended and you're about to come off the mailing list, including for emailed agendas, etc.

### Cost To Subscribe

Twelve issues (one year) are \$33 for the print version within the 012 zip code or \$28 for the emailed one anywhere.

Cost to get the printed TN by bulk mail **outside the 012 zip code** is \$36. Cost to mail **first class** for a year (12 issues) is \$45.

You can also pay for as many issues as you want at \$2.85 an issue for either the emailed version or the print version in the 012 zip code.

Checks go to THE NEWSletter at PO Box 567, Housatonic 01236.

Both the written and emailed versions include **free emails** — **agendas, updates, forwarded material** — **sent between issues**. Your name and email address are kept confidential unless you're an elected public official.

The person who gets those emails can forward them to as many people as desired.

Having THE NEWSletter send them is **\$5 a year for each added name**.

### Available in Large Type

Cost to receive THE NEWSletter in **large type** is \$30, plus the annual print subscription.

### Available FREE Online

The website for Mason and Ramsdell libraries now has a link for THE NEWSletter so you can read it free, online. The website is at [www.gblibraries.org](http://www.gblibraries.org).

This does not include emailed agendas, news updates and other information sent between issues to subscribers.

-Eileen W. Mooney

# Articles Explained for Sept. 15 Special Town Meeting

*Following is a summary of articles on the Sept. 15 special town meeting warrant. For some articles, I have added information.*

**Article 1** would authorize the Selectboard to transfer 40 Grove St. to the Affordable Housing Trust board, which would arrange for it to be renovated for affordable housing. The town acquired the property for unpaid real estate taxes in 2018.

**Article 2** would revise the town bylaw on alarm systems. Fire Chief Charles Burger prepared it.

Changes include revising the existing fee schedule for a false alarm by having the Selectboard set a policy with a fee of not more than \$250. The present bylaw, adopted in 1999, allowed a permit to be revoked by the selectmen after three false alarms in 12 months and had no fee for the first false alarm but \$60 for each one after that.

The present bylaw calls for annual, connection and monitoring fees. The proposed bylaw does not have those fees because, Chief Burger said, alarms are no longer directly connected to or monitored by the town's dispatch center.

**Article 3** would prohibit action on any town meeting article until every voter present has been able to speak on it.

**Article 4** would replace twice-a-year real-estate tax payments with quarterly ones, starting July 1, 2021. The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend it.

When the Finance Committee considered it Aug. 18, tax collector Karen Fink said she would start by sending each taxpayer two bills and two envelopes, with payment due dates for each quarter.

Postage costs would double, she noted.

Finance Committee members Anne O'Dwyer, Tom Blauvelt and Meredith O'Connor voted to support quarterly payments. Michelle Loubert voted against and Will Curletti was absent.

**Article 5** would allow \$50,000 in wastewater treatment plant receipts to be used to operate the sewer division next year.

**Article 6** would authorize payment of invoices from the last fiscal year.

**Article 7** would authorize the Selectboard to negotiate a tax increment financing, or TIF, agreement with Studio for Integrated Craft LLC at 430 Park St., Housatonic.

Neither the Selectboard nor Finance Committee has discussed this proposal, which would give a tax break in exchange for job creation.

Massachusetts on **Mass.gov** defines a tax increment as "the difference between the beginning assessed value of the targeted property in its broken-down state and the assessed value going forward in time, as the planned improvements take shape. The tax increment, calculated by the local Assessor, is the tax on the added value of new construction, rehabilitation or new equipment or machinery."

The town in 2012 approved TIFs for the then-owner of 20 Castle St. and for Big Y and Pinewood Realty Trust of the Berkshires.

**Article 8** would authorize the Selectboard to accept a permanent sanitary sewer easement at 79 Bridge St.

**Article 9** would authorize the Selectmen to acquire permanent and temporary easement on or along Main Street, Housatonic, and appropriate funds for those easements so sidewalks could be built.

**Article 10** would authorize the Selectboard and Conservation Commission to acquire "by donation, purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, for conservation and/or preservation purposes," about 48.5 acres located off Long Pond Road on the southern ridge of Tom Ball Mountain and to appropriate funds for this.

Neither the Selectboard nor the Conservation Commission has discussed this.

Assistant town manager and town planner Chris Rembold said owners of the parcels are not known.

### Zoning Articles

*A zoning article needs approval by at least two-thirds of the voters at a town meeting. The following articles are all recommended and proposed by the Planning Board.*

**Article 11** would update zoning bylaw references to "Board of Selectmen" (should be "Selectboard") and replace mention of a "special permit granting authority board" with "SPGA."

**Article 12** would amend the Table of Use Regulations for the downtown business, or B, zone by allowing some uses — such as a dwelling with up to eight units — by right, without a now-required special permit. It would also require that new garden centers and greenhouses have special permits and amend the bylaw for accessory buildings.

**Article 13** would delete the height limit for an accessory building and remove setback limits for an accessory building more than 25 feet high.

**Article 14** would allow an accessory dwelling in all zoning districts.

**Article 15.** "Purpose of the Amendment" explains that this would update regulations for accessory dwelling units and allow them "to be slightly larger, removing duplicative or unnecessary design requirements, and allowing for the possibility of multiple ADUs for farmworker housing. All ADUs are by-right but subject to Planning Board site plan approval and Board of Health approval."

This article also would allow an ADU to be owned by someone other than the owner of "any other dwelling unit on the lot." In other words, different people could own ADUs on one lot.

Other changes include that an ADU could be 900 gross square feet, up from the present 650 gross square feet, and could have a home occupation.

A new section would allow more than one ADU "on lands used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture, or viticulture, as defined in MGL Ch. 28, Sec. 1A, provided such ADUs are solely used for the farm's full time employees."

**Article 16** would clarify that an ADU can be in a separate structure from the main dwelling and may be in a moveable tiny house, or MTH, that is "connected to electricity, water, and sewer or septic" and "has its chassis, wheels and hitch concealed ..."

An MTH is defined, in part, as "Cannot move under its own power" and "Is designed and built using conventional residential building materials for windows, roofing and exterior siding."

**Article 17** would change how much lot coverage is allowed. Its intent, according to

**For Clean-Heat Comfort**

**JOHN B. HULL, INC.**

**100 Main St. Great Barrington, MA**

**413-528-2800**

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
2020 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

INDEX OF WARRANT ARTICLES

2020 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

1. Authorization to sell/transfer property at 40 Grove Street
2. To Modify Town Code Chapter 48, Alarm System
3. To Modify Town Code Chapter 41, sec. 41-7 Addressing of Town Meetings Restricted
4. To Accept Mass General Laws Chapter 59, sec. 57C Establishing Quarterly Tax Payment System
5. To Appropriate from the Receipts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant \$50,000 for the operation of the Sewer Division
6. Authorization to pay prior fiscal year invoices
7. Tax Financing Agreement, 430 Park Street
8. Sewer Easement, 79 Bridge Street
9. Sidewalk Easements, Housatonic Main Street
10. Acquisition of "Owner Unknown" Parcels on Tom Ball Ridge
11. Zoning: Editorial Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw
12. Zoning: Amend Section 3.1.4, permitted uses in the Downtown B District
13. Zoning: Amend Section 3.2, Accessory Buildings
14. Zoning: Amend Section 3.1.4, Accessory Dwelling Units
15. Zoning: Amend Section 8.2, Accessory Dwelling Units
16. Zoning: Definitions of Accessory Dwelling Units and Moveable Tiny Houses
17. Zoning: Amend Section 4.1.2, Maximum Lot Coverage
18. Zoning: Amend the Design Advisory Committee and Design Review regulations
19. Zoning: Amend Section 8.5, Planned Unit Residential Development
20. Zoning: Amend Section 3.1.4, Swimming Pool regulations
21. Zoning: Amend Section 3.1.4, Residential Use permissions and Special Permit Granting Authority
22. Zoning: Amend Section 9.2, Water Quality Protection Overlay District
23. Zoning: Amend Section 8.4, Mixed Use Development regulations
24. Zoning: Add new section for conversion of nursing homes to multifamily use
25. Zoning: Amend Section 7.18, Marijuana Establishments, to establish a maximum number of retail establishments
26. Zoning, by citizen petition: Amend Section 9.11, Mixed Use Transitional Zone (MXD) and the Zoning Map
27. Zoning, by citizen petition: Amend Section 3.1.4, to Allow Marijuana Establishment by Special Permit in the I-2 Districts
28. Zoning, by citizen petition: Amend Section 7.18, Marijuana Establishment regulations
29. Modify Town Code Chapter 241-1, Citizen speaking time (by citizen petition)
30. Modify Town Code Chapter 189-1, Selectmen's Policies and Procedures (by citizen petition)
31. Resolution to prohibit hazardous and toxic waste storage, disposal, and dumping in Great Barrington (by citizen petition)
32. To close down and outlaw privately owned prisons for profit in Massachusetts (by citizen petition)

# Town of Great Barrington ZONING MAP

Approved by the Housatonic Regional Planning Commission  
at its meeting on May 12, 2019  
with changes through May 12, 2019

- RESIDENTIAL**
- R-1-A One-Family Medium Density (10,000 sq ft)
  - R-1-B One-Family High Density (6,500 sq ft)
  - R-2 Average Residential (1 acre)
  - R-3 General Residential (5,000 sq. ft.)
  - R-4 Large Average Residential (2 acres)

- BUSINESS**
- B Downtown Business
  - B-1 Neighborhood Business
  - B-2 General Business
  - B-2-A Transitional Business
  - B-2-X State Road Commercial Use
  - DBP Downtown Business Professional
  - HVC Housatonic Village Center
  - MXD Mixed Use Transitional

- INDUSTRIAL**
- I Light Industry
  - I-2 Industrial / Multi-Family

- GOVERLAY DISTRICTS**
- VOC Village Overlay District (see Section 9.6)
  - VMOD Village Mills Restrictive Overlay District (see Section 9.8)
  - HVOD Housatonic Village Overlay District (see Section 9.10)
  - WQPOD Water Quality Protection Overlay District (see Section 9.12)
  - SGOD Smart Growth Overlay District (see Section 9.13)

Scale: 1 inch = 1,250 feet  
North Arrow  
West Quarter Fractional Survey 1851



Refer to Zoning text for rules  
of interpretation on boundaries

**Legend**

- Lakes/Ponds
- Potential Streams
- Roadways

**Zoning**

- B-2X
- B
- B-1
- B-2
- B-2A

**Zoning**

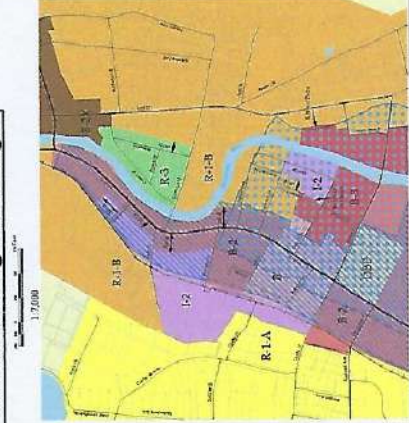
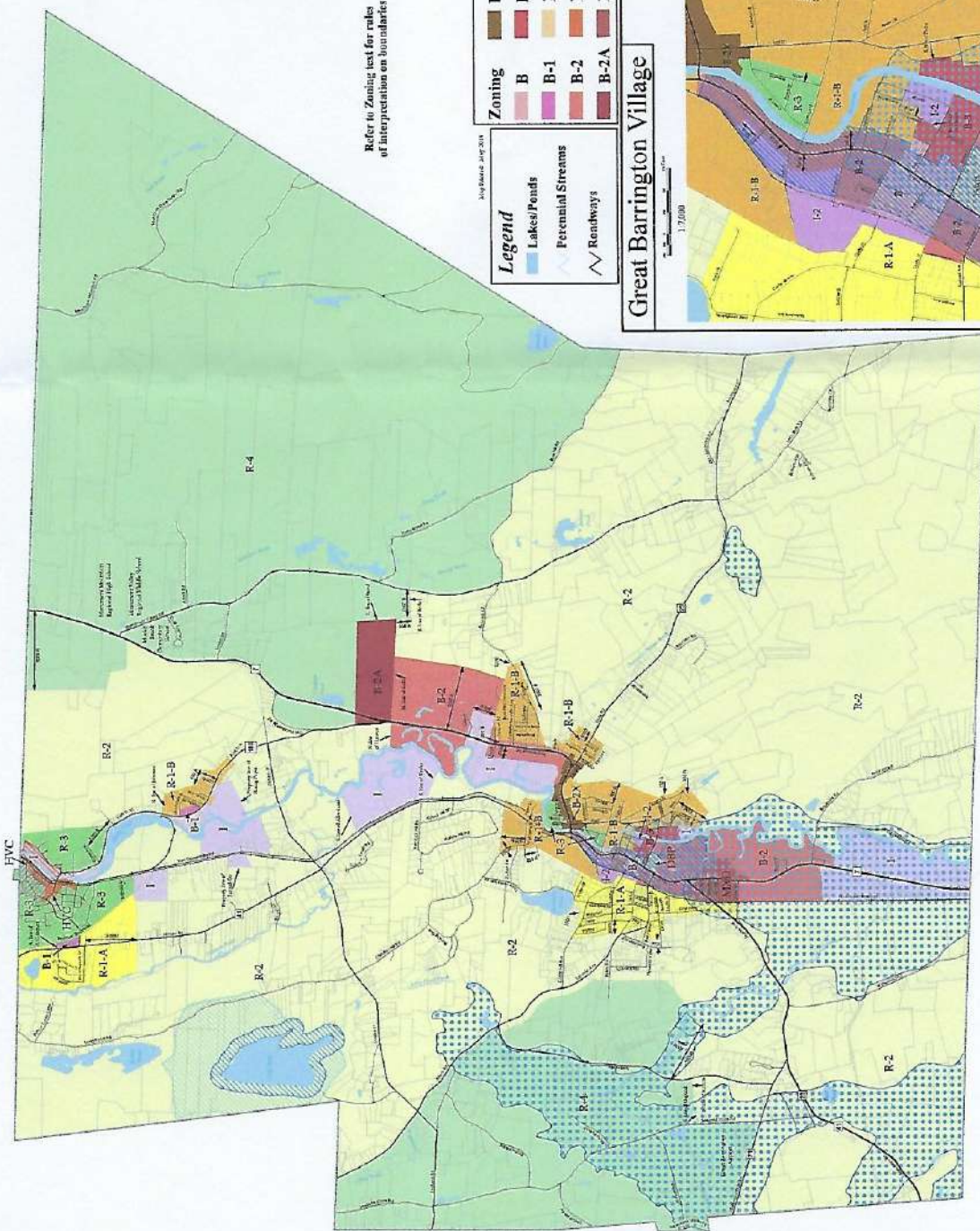
- I
- I2
- R-1-A
- R-1-B
- R-2

**Zoning**

- VCOD
- WQPOD
- Zone II
- Surface Water Zone A
- Surface Water Zone B

## Great Barrington Village

## Housatonic Village



# Articles for Sept. 15 Special Town Meeting, continued

“Purpose of the Amendment,” is “to increase opportunities on small conforming lots in specific residential districts.”

**Article 18** would increase the authority of the **Design Advisory Committee**.

According to “Purpose of the Amendment,” “this article moves the DAC out of the specific downtown regulations, and creates a special section of the bylaw for the DAC. This article also clarifies the DAC’s membership, authority and jurisdiction, and its review standards. Finally, this article includes in the Special Permit and Site Plan Review regulations specific reference to the DAC.”

The design review’s purpose would be to:

“1. enhance the social and economic viability of the town by preserving property values and promoting the attractiveness of the town as a place to live, visit and shop;

“2. encourage the conservation of buildings and groups of buildings that have aesthetic or historic significance;

“3. discourage structural alterations that are incompatible with the existing environment or that are of inferior quality or appearance; and,

“4. encourage flexibility and variety in future development.”

## Forwarded Information

*Versions of these reports were emailed to subscribers between issues.*

GREAT BARRINGTON now allows “green burials,” which use a biodegradable casket or shroud.

Embalming is not done and hardwood or metal caskets and vaults are not used.

The **Cemetery Commission** voted Aug. 26 to permit them, joining 18 cities and towns in Massachusetts that allow them, according to a news release from the town.

\* \* \*

SELECTMAN LEIGH DAVIS has been named to the new position of development director of **Construct**.

Ms. Davis had been director of development of Eagle Mill Redevelopment LLC in Lee.

\* \* \*

THE STATE Department of Energy Resources has given Great Barrington a \$163,725 **grant for energy improvements** at the Housatonic Community Center, Town Hall and the police station.

Funds will be used for LED lighting at the three buildings and insulation at the community center, town manager Mark Pruhenski said in a news release from the town.

This was the town’s first competitive grant application under the state’s Green Communities Act. It was fully funded.

**Article 19** would change some provisions, especially density requirements, of the **Planned Unit Residential Development**, or PURD, bylaw.

“Purpose of the Amendment” states that a PURD is intended to “encourage compact and efficient subdivision design.” However, it states, current regulations mean a developer could have more units in a subdivision than in a PURD.

The number of units would remain between 10 and 60. The special permit granting authority would go from the Selectboard to the Planning Board.

Requirements would change per dwelling unit, going, for example, from 9,000 square feet down to 3,300 square feet in an R1A district; from 7,500 square feet down to 1,700 square feet in an R1B; and from 20,000 square feet down to 2,000 square feet in B2 and Industrial districts.

The minimum usable open space or common land per dwelling unit would go from 5,000 square feet to 2,500 square feet. The SPGA could allow access to “wetlands, streams or any other area subject to protection” under the state Wetlands Protection Act. It cannot do that now; that land is not considered as per-unit square footage.

**Article 20** would allow **swimming pools** to have “safety covers, alarms, fencing or other means of protections” as required by the Building Code to prevent entry by unauthorized people.

The bylaw now requires that a swimming pool be “surrounded by a continuous fence having a minimum of 4 feet height and with a gate that can be locked.”

**Article 21** would designate the **Planning Board as the special permit granting authority for “most residential uses**, moving three family dwelling units up to row (2) thereby allowing three family dwellings in more districts by right, and changing the permissibility of multifamily uses in some districts,” according to “Purpose of the Amendment.”

**Article 22.** “Purpose of the Amendment” states that this is intended to “clarify that portions of the **Water Quality Protection Overlay District** impose stricter standards than those that apply to special permit uses in that district.”

**Article 23** is intended to **clarify how much space is needed for nonresidential uses** in order for a development to be considered “mixed-use.”

It would require that in a “Village Center Overlay District, at least 75% of street-level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use.”

“Outside the Village Center Overlay District, at least 25% of street-level floor space shall be reserved for nonresidential use.”

Those requirements may be reduced by special permit, the bylaw states.

**Article 24** is intended to make it easier to **convert a nursing home to “a more marketable use,”** the purpose states. A special permit would be required for a new use.

**Article 25.** The Planning Board recommends amending the marijuana bylaw by establishing a **limit of seven retail marijuana establishments**. The Selectboard recommended that limit, based on the number of applications.

### Citizens’ Petitions

*The following articles were proposed by voters.*

**Article 26** seeks to amend the Zoning Bylaw and zoning map by **changing where mixed-use traditional zones are allowed**.

The Planning Board does not recommend passage.

**Article 27** would **allow a marijuana establishment and manufacturing in the I2 zone** with a special permit.

The Planning Board recommends it.

**Article 28** would change **where marijuana establishments and medical marijuana treatment centers are allowed**.

It would require they be 500 feet — not the current 200 feet — from “a preexisting public or private school providing education in Kindergarten or any of Grades 1 through 12 child care facility, including preschools and daycare centers, or any facility in which children commonly congregate, including but not limited to, a public library, a playground or park, and athletic field or recreational facility, a place of worship, or a town-owned beach.”

It would not allow marijuana establishments or medical marijuana treatment centers in a residential district.

It also would not allow them if they create “a nuisance to abutters of the surrounding area, or which creates any hazard ... which may impair the normal use and peaceful enjoyment of any property, structure or dwelling in the area.”

No odor or noise could be detected “at the exterior of ... or at any adjoining use of property.”

It would prohibit illuminating grow operations in a translucent building between dusk and dawn.

The Planning Board does not recommend this article.

**Article 29** would require every board to allow a town **resident to speak “on any item that requires a vote” before the board votes** on that item. The resident would have as much time to speak “as the proponent of an item is permitted to have.”

Town boards now must have a time for citizens to speak on their agendas. This would amend that bylaw.

**Article 30** also would **allow residents to address the board “on any item that requires a vote at a time before the Select Board votes on that item.”**

**Article 31** would **prohibit hazardous and toxic waste storage, disposal and dumping** in Great Barrington.

**Article 32** would close and **outlaw all privately owned “prisons-for-profit** in Massachusetts.

**THE NEWSletter is a great gift!**

# BHRSC Vacancies on Ballots; Middle School Renamed

ONE INCUMBENT IS NOT seeking reelection and two towns don't have a candidate to list on printed ballots for the **Nov. 3 election to the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee.**

Andrew Potter of West Stockbridge is not running. Sean Stephen of Stockbridge is, but on write-in votes because he didn't return his nomination papers in time to be on the printed ballot.

Anne Hutchinson, Diane Singer and Rich Dohoney of Great Barrington seek reelection and will be on ballots.

**A candidates' forum will be held Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, sponsored by THE NEWSletter and the Republican and Democratic town committees.** THE NEWSletter will provide a link before then.

\* \* \*

ALL NINE MEMBERS of the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee voted Sept. 3 to **rename Monument Valley Regional Middle School** for Great Barrington native and civil rights leader William Edward Burghardt Du Bois.

The committee is at nine members because Dan Weston of Stockbridge resigned.

Details of the name change, such as new signs, will be handled in coming weeks, school committee chairman Steve Bannon told THE NEWSletter.

The vote followed about a 90-minute public hearing in which more than 25 people spoke, all but six, according to THE NEWSletter's count, favoring renaming the school after the Great Barrington native.

CTSB recorded the hearing to show on Spectrum cable or computers. More information is on page 2 under "Meetings."

## *2002's Vote To Name New Middle School*

Former Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee member Karen Christensen sent THE NEWSletter an email that Steve Radin sent the committee on — coincidentally — Sept. 3, but in 2002, not 2020.

They, Steve Bannon, Bronly Boyd, Carol Kuller, Caroline Irsfeld, Deborah Kain, Martha Muir, Mike Kirchner and Richard Coons were on the committee.

Mr. Radin listed as possible names Richard Rogers Bowker; Dr. Du Bois, William Chester French, Mahican, or Mohican, Norman Rockwell, Daniel Shays of Shay's Rebellion, and William Cullen Bryant, who had been Great Barrington town clerk and for whom the former Bryant School was named.

Geographic places were Berkshire Hills, Housatonic River and Monument Mountain.

Mr. Radin also suggested naming the schools after Mr. Coons and Mr. Kirchner who "worked harder than hard" to get the new schools built.

Hundreds of people also made their views known through emails, plus a petition from about 250 people opposed to the renaming.

Those emails and the petition are public documents. If they are not on the school district's website at [www.bhrsd.org](http://www.bhrsd.org), people could call the school at 298-4017 to request them or email the superintendent's administrative secretary, Doreen Twiss, at [doreen.twiss@bhrsd.org](mailto:doreen.twiss@bhrsd.org).

People could also email [the-newsltr@gmail.com](mailto:the-newsltr@gmail.com).

More than 230 people watched much of the hearing and vote on Zoom and Facebook.

### **Why, Why Not Rename School**

Arguments against the renaming included that Dr. Du Bois had become a Communist and moved to Ghana, where he died in 1963.

As reasons to name the school for him, others pointed to his writings, his help forming the NAACP, and his articulation of the unfair treatment and, often, persecution of Black people, including military veterans.

Some comments about Dr. Du Bois's impact were personal. For example, a West Stockbridge resident, who came to this country from Indonesia, described how she had to read Dr. Du Bois's books secretly.

The schools' names should be neutral, one person stated, reflecting the view of the school committee that in 2002 chose to name the new middle and elementary schools for geographic features. More about that is elsewhere on this page.

At 7:53 p.m., chairman Steve Bannon closed the hearing and committee members considered Rich Dohoney's motion, which follows:

WHEREAS, the Berkshire Hills Regional Middle District comprised of the towns of Great Barrington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge, operates a regional middle school providing education to fifth through eighth graders at 313 Monument Valley Road in Great Barrington, Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, Berkshire Hills Regional School District is entrusted by its member towns to educate their children and challenge them to be courageous learners, engaged citizens and individuals of integrity;

WHEREAS, W.E.B. DuBois was born and raised in Great Barrington and graduated from Searles High School, a Great Barrington public high school and a predecessor school to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District;

WHEREAS, W.E.B. Du Bois received his Master of Arts from Harvard University in 1891, and, became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1895;

WHEREAS, W.E.B. Du Bois was one of America's greatest activists and scholars, authoring many fiction and non-fiction books, including *The Souls of Black Folk*, served as a professor at Atlanta University and co-founded the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909;

WHEREAS, W.E.B. Du Bois' life and legacy is an inspiration for courageous learners, engaged citizens, and individuals of integrity; and,

WHEREAS, the member towns of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District are governed by town meetings and the 2019 Great Barrington Annual Town Meeting; the 2019 Stockbridge Annual Town Meeting and the 2019 West Stockbridge Annual Town Meeting all overwhelming voted to name the middle school the W.E.B. DuBois Regional Middle School.

MOVED, that the regional middle school located at 313 Monument Valley Road in Great Barrington, Massachusetts is hereby named the W.E.B. DuBois Regional Middle School."

### **'Most Valuable Conversation'**

The public hearing was "the most valuable conversation" in his six years on the committee and the recording of it will be valuable, Andrew Potter of West Stockbridge said

Sean Stephen of Stockbridge said he'd had more comments about the renaming than about when and how to re-open schools during the COVID-19 epidemic. He wasn't sure why people are still afraid of a community threat, he said.

Other members also commented. Mr. Bannon read a statement, below, and the committee proceeded to vote.

## *Mr. Bannon's Statement Read at Sept. 3 Meeting*

I am the only remaining member of the school committee who participated 15 years ago in the naming of our two new schools. As a matter of fact, I was also the chair of that school committee and a member of the school building committee for Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School and Monument Valley Regional Middle School.

We all received an email from Building Committee co-chair Richard Coons outlining the process that was being used for naming the two schools. Dick was also a long-time, highly respected school committee member.

To quote from his email:

When the construction of the new buildings was nearly complete, the school committee and school building committee held a joint meeting to officially name the new schools. The public and students were asked to submit names for consideration.

Before any names were considered, the joint meeting agreed that the new schools

**(STATEMENT cont. on page 8)**

## News of Town Boards

# SBETC Ends; HIC Considers Former School Building

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE ELDERLY TRANSPORTATION CORP. will end **Sept. 30.**

It sent the following letter Sept. 3:

Dear Clients, Colleagues & Friends,

It is with a saddened heart that we inform you that SBETC will no longer be providing transportation service to you.

This very difficult decision was made due to COVID-19 along with the changing vision that the Town(s) we serve and the Director of the Claire Teague Senior Center have about senior transportation.

Our last day of service will be September 30, 2020.

We wish you all well and it's been a privilege to serve you for more than 36 years.

### **Discuss Options on Sept. 14**

Mr. Pruhenski said he plans to present an executive summary to the selectmen **Sept. 14** and "discuss our options in more depth at that time."

The town "has a contract for elderly transportation with SBETC through the end of the calendar year. It's unclear at this time if we will negotiate another extension or propose an alternative," he told THE NEWSletter.

\* \* \*

THE FOUR MEMBERS at the **Housatonic Improvement Committee**

**meeting** Sept. 2 agreed to tell the Selectboard they're interested in learning what architects think could happen to the former Housatonic School building.

Angela Lomanto suggested asking architects to hold a charrette, or discussion. Architects are required to perform public service and this might qualify, she explained. Beverly Nourse, Eric Gabriel and chairman Dan Bailly agreed with her to do this.

Members Jane Wright, Chris Tucci and Patrick Barrett were absent.

Mr. Bailly began the discussion by saying the selectmen need to provide options for the building so the committee can get costs and survey questions.

Ms. Lomanto said that feels backwards. She suggested the charrette and offered to find out whether one can be held here.

The charrette would not necessarily give costs and marketability, she said when THE NEWSletter asked.

Mr. Gabriel said he thought the committee's main purpose was to push the Selectmen in a specific direction. The building's in disrepair now and only going to get worse through this winter, Mrs. Nourse observed.

Ms. Lomanto said she has no idea if most people want the building repaired or town down.

Housing should probably be included as a use, commented selectman Ed Morehouse, who attended the meeting. He added that

time is secondary to getting a good decision, and emphasized he is not speaking for the Selectboard.

Moving Ramsdell Library to the former school is a possibility, he suggested.

### **Move Ramsdell to Former School?**

The possibility of moving the library to the former school is suggested — and seems to be rejected — in "Great Barrington Libraries — Ramsdell Library," a report dated June 2020 by Kim Bolan and Associates, now Rethinking Libraries.

Library trustees have not discussed the report, which uses information from the company's 2018 study.

The report shows use on all four floors, including the basement. No costs are given.

### **School Condition Said 'Very Poor'**

Under "Alternative Site Options," the report states that the school building "was evaluated as an alternative to renovations to the Ramsdell Library building."

*NOTE: The following is from the study but THE NEWSletter broke it into shorter paragraphs.*

"The overall footprint of the building is significantly larger than the current Library, but the condition of the structure is very poor. Several areas of the building are roped off due to flooring being unstable and ready to collapse.

"The former school building also shares the same problem that Ramsdell has with having no floor on grade, so a similar investment in a grade level addition with elevator and likely also ADA compliant bathrooms would have to be made to this building.

"The HVAC systems here look to be in very poor shape and given its larger size, bringing those systems up to an opening standard would be higher cost than any upgrades required at Ramsdell.

"Given this, the total costs of utilizing this building as library in lieu of the Ramsdell Library would be significantly higher given the equal investment in adding ADA access and the additional structural remediation that would be required at a minimum.

"In addition to all of this, the floor plan of the building would be less than an ideal as a library from a layout and space allocation standpoint.

### **'Poor Fit as an Alternative'**

"All of this adds up to this former school building being a very poor fit as an alternative to just renovating the Ramsdell Library."

### **No Repairs Made To Building**

At the 2019 annual town meeting, voters appropriated \$300,000 in Community Preservation Act and \$300,000 in town funds for repairs to the building.

Repairs were proposed to the roof and windows.

**(NEWS continues on page 9)**

## *Mr. Bannon's Statement cont. from page 7*

were educational in purpose and should not be used to memorialize any individual (s).

The names agreed upon were based on the physical locations of the buildings and their natural surroundings.

I understand and support the desire to name the building after Du Bois. He was born in Great Barrington and was the first African American to earn a doctorate at Harvard. Du Bois was one of the founders of the NAACP in 1909.

There is no doubt that Great Barrington should be proud of their native son who was an accomplished author, sociologist, civil rights activist and so much more.

We also have other renowned people who have added to the historical fabric of our three communities, such as Rockwell, Stanley, French, Sedgewick, just to name a few.

When these schools were named, the decision to *not* name the schools after an individual was made before the Du Bois name was ever brought forward.

An argument can be made that we are a regional school district representing three towns and Du Bois's roots were in Great Barrington.

One can also say that the decision to

name the schools after their geographical location was very successful.

At the time, many people were skeptical of the agreed-upon names. I think that the passage of time has shown this to be a wise decision.

During a time where there is so much anger and controversy, the naming of a school should be a joyous occasion, not another reason to divide our community.

However we vote this evening, I only ask that we respect the decision of the school committee. During a pandemic and a time where our country is so divided, I hope our community rises above the national turmoil.

We as a district need to put all of our time and energy into educating our students during an unprecedented pandemic. We cannot fail our youth.

We have an exceptional staff who are working tremendously hard to find a way to provide our usual quality education.

Let's put our energy into this massive task. In this extraordinary time of socio-economic despair, health crisis and personal upheaval, our community needs to be a symbol of courage, tenacity, strength and compassion. I accept the direction and the will of the town meeting vote.



# News of Town Boards from page 8

However, Department of Public Works superintendent Sean VanDeusen told THE NEWSletter that "there has been no movement" as no decision has been made on what to do with the building.

## Selectmen Ended Re-Use Agreement

In June 2019, the Selectboard voted not to extend an agreement with Grayhouse Partners for a private-public partnership to develop re-use of the vacant school building.

They voted after Grayhouse president Bill Nappo told the board that he was going to meet with the Massachusetts Economic Development and Finance Agency and that state Sen. Adam Hinds had said he would help with the project.

Also, he said, he was going to meet with representatives of Community Development Corp., which had expressed interest in developing affordable housing in part of the building.

## What Partnership Involved

Grayhouse had proposed using primarily the first floor for office spaces, with housing on the second and third floors.

The memorandum of understanding between it and the town called for a public/private partnership. The town would continue to own the property and get rental income while paying Grayhouse a service fee to design, construct and operate the new use.

It was the only submission after the town in 2017 issued a request for proposals.

At their July 8, 2019, meeting, the selectmen agreed to wait for a recommendation from the Economic Development Committee. That recommendation came in November.

Based on a neighborhood meeting and other discussions, most Housatonic residents do not want the building razed and want to be engaged in the process, the committee reported.

It proposed the building be used for child care, community services, and/or collaborative workspaces. It said the town, not a private developer, should prepare the building for re-use.

## Report by Town Staff

In a Jan. 23, 2020, report, town staff suggested three options:

-Issuing a revised RFP that might "encourage more creative thinking, such as transferring the library collections from Ramsdell to the rehabilitated School, partnerships and improvements to the Community Center, etc., in order to create a vibrant center of Village life."

-Having the town undertake the process as a public sector venture;

-Razing the structure and expanding the adjacent park.

The report was reproduced in the January 2020 NEWSletter. Anyone who wants a copy could write [thenewsltr@gmail.com](mailto:thenewsltr@gmail.com) or call 274-6100 and leave a message.

## Zoom Link Didn't Work

The link to the committee's Zoom session did not work, raising the possibility that the Sept. 2 meeting did not comply with the Open Meeting Law because the public could not attend.

A new link was sent to members and THE NEWSletter about 7 p.m. While THE NEWSletter sent this to its email list, that does not mean the general public received it.

The meeting was supposed to start at 6:30 p.m.

\* \* \*

## DPU Asked To Change HWW Fees

Town manager Mark Pruhenski has written the director of the state's Department of Public Utilities' consumer division to request a **rate adjustment for Housatonic Water Works**.

The letter is reproduced below.

As reported in the last NEWSletter, water company customers have complained that

## Corrections

Terry Chamberland corrected some information in his profile in the August NEWSletter.

His birthday was July 24; he was born in Portsmouth, Va.; he was married June 28, 1980; and his daughter lives in Bolton, Conn.

Also, he said, the Great Barrington Fire Department has deputy chiefs, not assistant chiefs, and they are Steve Hall and Bob Hammer.

Name in the News will return in a future issue.

their water often is shades of brown, staining clothes and linen washed in it.

Some customers said that to get clear water, they have run their metered water for long periods of time, increasing their bill.

(NEWS continues on page 10)

Mark Pruhenski  
Town Manager

E-mail: [mpruhenski@townofgb.org](mailto:mpruhenski@townofgb.org)  
[www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org)



Town Hall, 334 Main Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-1619 x2  
Fax: (413) 528-2290

## TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

August 17, 2020

Ms. Nancy Stevens  
Director- Consumer Division  
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

### RE: Request for Rate Adjustment/Housatonic Water Works Inc.

Dear Ms. Stevens,

After hearing from a number of residents troubled with the quality of drinking water provided to them as customers of Housatonic Water Works Inc., the Selectboard voted unanimously at its regular meeting of August 10, 2020 to request that the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities consider a rate adjustment for all impacted Housatonic Water Works customers.

The motion approved that night is as follows:

*To instruct the Town Manager to draft a letter requesting that the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities work with Housatonic Water Works Inc. to offer a rate adjustment to their customers impacted by the most recent water discoloration in accordance with any/all Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) regulations.*

Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail.

Best,

Mark A. Pruhenski  
Town Manager

cc: SB

# Police Report for Month of August

GREAT BARRINGTON POLICE responded to 31 accidents in August, including one that resulted in minor injuries.

Some accidents were reports of cars that had been hit by unknown vehicles.

Police ran radar 63 times, including 14 times on North Plain Road; 10 times, Main Street; nine times, VanDeusenville Road; five times each on Stockbridge Road, Taconic Avenue and East Street; four times each, State Road and Old Stockbridge Road; three times on Park Street/Route 183; twice each, Blue Hill and Monument Valley Road and South Main Street; and once on Monterey Road.

They made 17 motor vehicle stops, resulting in 10 citations/warnings.

They took someone described as drunk into protective custody and handled a domestic situation.

Someone told police that he'd provided information about his bank account to a

telephone caller. His bank was notified of this.

A young woman was taken to Fairview Hospital after she collapsed on Main Street very early one morning.

Several vehicles were broken into during the weekend of Aug. 22. Someone reported a camera stolen.

## Bears, Bears, Bears

Bears were reported in the parking lot of Xicohtencatl restaurant on Stockbridge Road.

They also were seen on Hemlock Hill Road, Brush Hill Road, Knob Hill, Crissey Road, East Street, where two neighbors tried to pet a bear cub, and Dresser Avenue, where a bear was seen eating from a bird feeder.

A vehicle hit a deer on North Plain Road.

## Meet Beko

Three-month-old Officer Beko is the newest member of the Great Barrington Police Department.

Holding the other end of his leash is his handler, police officer Kris Balestro.

As described in the July NEWSletter, Officer Beko, an English Labrador Retriever, will be a comfort dog, used to reduce anxiety and increase communication. He'll visit schools, nursing homes, and other places.

Peggi and Dave Brogan of Boonefield Labradors in Rindge, N.H., donated him to the police department.



# News, cont.; School Starts Sept. 14

## Engineering Firm Sought

Mr. Pruhenski said he is seeking an engineering firm to assess the water company.

He wants one on which he and company treasurer Jim Mercer agree as that could save money in lawsuits if the town tries to acquire the company, he said.

\*\*\*

POLICE OFFICER Christopher Peebles is now one of two officers in Berkshire County **trained to recognize drugs**.

He completed the Drug Evaluation and Certification Program and is certified to recognize someone driving under the influence of drugs and determine which category of drugs causes the impairment, Police Chief William Walsh said.

Two weeks of training and testing in Franklin were followed by a week in Arizona.

Officer Peebles' services will be available free of charge to other area towns as part of mutual aid when he is on duty, Chief Walsh said. That would change if he is not on duty, Chief Walsh added.

A grant paid for the training, he said.

\*\*\*

THE SELECTBOARD WILL CONTINUE on **Monday, Sept. 14**, at 6 p.m. the hearing on issuing a **special permit to the Great Barrington airport**.

The airport is now a nonconforming use. It seeks a special permit so it can add six hangars to its property at 70 Egremont Plain Road.

During public comments Aug. 24, Thaddeus Heuer of Foley and Hoag, attorney for Holly Hamer, Marc Fasteau and Anne Fredericks, said the scale presented by the airport is inaccurate as the proposed hangars would be 22 feet high, not 16 feet,

The application has contradictory information, he said.

Several people who oppose the special permit spoke and wrote the Selectboard.

Letters about the special-permit request, including one from Mr. Heuer, are in the packet for the Selectboard's Aug. 24 meeting on the town's website, [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org).

Jim Scalise of SK Design, which represents the airport, said the hangars would add about \$30,000 more in taxes for the town. Selectman Bill Cooke said that does not seem to be much additional revenue.

## Selectmen Grant Special Permits

The Selectboard did grant two special permits at the Aug. 24 meeting.

Hillcrest Educational Centers Inc. received a **special permit to operate a group home at 6 Ramsdell Road**.

**Guido's Realty Inc.** received a special permit with conditions to enlarge its store on South Main Street and increase impervious surface in the Water Quality Protection District.

One condition on the special permit requires planting more trees than originally proposed. The Tree Committee and Planning Board requested that.

\*\*\*

STUDENTS in the **Berkshire Hills Regional School District** will begin classes, remotely, **Sept. 14**.

Then, unless something changes, such as a local increase in COVID-19 cases, they will begin a hybrid model — some in-school, some remote — **Oct. 5**.

Meanwhile, the school committee and Berkshire Hills Education Association are in negotiations. BHEA members have ex-

## Readers:

Reports for the Great Barrington Fire Department and Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad will return in the next issue.

To get this issue to you before the Sept. 15 special town meeting, deadlines were tighter than usual — too soon for those reports to be ready.

pressed concern about having classes in schools.

At an Aug. 20 meeting, the school committee voted 8-1 to go to the hybrid model.

Principals of all three schools and several parents favored in-school learning, with safeguards.

Dr. Rebecca Caine suggested that anyone travelling outside this geographic area quarantine for two weeks.

Masks will be required.

The committee's vote followed about 100 minutes of comments. At one point, 278 people "attended" the Zoom meeting.

The vote on Anne Hutchinson's motion was not unanimous. Jason St. Peter voted against and Dan Weston recused himself.

Part of Ms. Hutchinson's motion was that face-to-face teaching will begin Sept. 28 for the district's highest-need students.

Operations director Steven Soule has told the committee how school buildings are being prepared to handle COVID-19 safety requirements.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Weston resigned from the committee because, he said, more time is needed for his teaching and administrative work at Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

Also, to avoid a conflict of interest, he does not participate on issues such as a possible merger of the Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire districts. Someone who can vote on that is needed, he said.



**The Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds is in the Great Barrington Town Hall and open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Documents are online at [www.masslandrecords.com](http://www.masslandrecords.com).**

*Following are recent transactions of \$35,000 or more in Great Barrington (including Housatonic), Egremont, Monterey, Alford & West Stockbridge.*

-Jeffrey Spratt to RTC Land Trust, property on Swann, Main & County roads & Route 23, Monterey, \$55,000.

-David Blanchard to Michael & Heidi P. Hirschfield, 5 Jade Spring Lane, West Stockbridge, \$999,000.

-Richard Epstein & Lesley Epstein to Robert L. Brainin & Nicola J. Kean, 11 Londonderry Drive, Great Barrington, \$1,325 million.

-Amy Blumkin & Mark Blumkin to County Mortgage LLC & Amy A. Blunkin, 4 Cornwall Drive, Great Barrington, \$495,000.

-Ellin R. Hirsch & Stuart Hirsch, trustees, Elinor Hirsch Qualified Personal Residential Trust & Stuart Hirsch Qualified Personal Residential Trust to Robert Desmond & Alisa B. Desmond, 8 Austerlitz Road, West Stockbridge, \$625,000.

-Martin R. Levine & Hilda L. Levine to Kim M. Morque, trustee, Kim M. Morque Revocable Trust UA7252009, & Georgetta L. Morque, trustee, Georgetta L. Morque Revocable Trust UA 7252009, 135 North Egremont & Green River roads, Alford, \$749,000.

-Eugene R. Atwood & Maureen O. Atwood to Megan Elizabeth Murray, 1071 Kirk St., Great Barrington, \$388,000.

-Paula Harris & William M. Harris, trustees, Paula & William Harris Revocable Trust of 2013, to Kalen A. Kamiski & Ryan J. Giese, 222 Main Road, Monterey, \$279,000.

-Joseph L. Grochmal & Ann Magdalenski Grochmal to Robert Plotz & Susan Plotz, 359 North Plain Road, Great Barrington, \$1.8 million.

-Robert Plotz & Susan Plotz to Richard Ward Slocum & Phyllis Strauss Slocum, 21 Old Village Road, Alford, \$1,662,500.

-78 Undermountain Road LLC & Kevin D. Wolf to Jennifer J. Yousem, 78 Undermountain Road, Egremont, \$669,000.

-Joel R. Mueller & Hilary I. Mueller to Jamie T. Sotis, 299-301 State Road, Great Barrington, \$480,000.

-Diane G. Kaplan & Kenneth Kaplan to Robert C. Schletter & Robin S. Schletter, 0 & 8 North Egremont Road, Alford, \$759,500.

-Mary Ann Bernstein to Heather Leigh Stiteler, 60 Creamery Road, Egremont, \$209,000.

-Victoria Jenssen to Molasses Hill Holdings Inc. 264 Hillsdale Road, Egremont, \$100,000.

-George O. Klemp Jr. & Lynne Sebastian

## Recent Real Estate Transactions

to Caleb Paul Chao & Suzanne Michelle Taylor, 119 Hurlburt Road, Great Barrington, \$650,000.

-Nancy L. Anderson, trustee, David J. Logan Revocable Trust, to John Mennuti & Brittany Mennuti, 1 Preyer Fiske Way, Monterey, \$480,000.

-Lenox Landings Barrington Brook Holdings LLC to Robert Belkin & Beth Belkin, unit 6B, 8 Thrushwood Lane, Great Barrington, \$749,000.

-Andrew Humes to Melanie Suzanne Greenberg, 267 Long Pond Road, Great Barrington, \$1.29 million.

-Nina Baumbach & estate of Jonathan Baumbach to Nicolas Gomez & Paola Weintraub Gomez, 241 North Plain Road, Great Barrington, \$688,500.

-Stephen A. Daniels & Bernadette A. Daniels, trustees, Bernadette A. Daniels Revocable Trust & Stephen A. Daniels Revocable Trust, to Scott M. West & Naomi R. West, 23 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, \$162,500.

-Pittsfield Cooperative Bank to MRI Investments LLC, 438-446 Monterey Road, Great Barrington, \$350,000.

-Arnold Hart to Cloud Kingdom 2020 LLC, 262 West Road, Alford, \$905,000.

-Joshua R. Allentuck & Virginia M. Miller-Allentuck to Stephanie Sloane, 3 Tyringham Road, Monterey, \$415,000.

-James K. Gauthier to Jeffrey Zimmerman & Lauren J. Behrman, 522 Main Road, Monterey, \$952,500.

-John A. Schweitzer, trustee, John A. Schweitzer Trust, to Jane Hansford Bronson, 305 North Plain Road, Great Barrington, \$175,000.

-Dita Stieglitz & Robert Stieglitz to Peter M. Arseneau & Stacy M. Twing, 36 Birch Hill Road, West Stockbridge, \$322,500.

-Beth Bogart to Justin Edelstein & Sharon Edelstein, 20 Lake Rock Lane, Monterey, \$460,000.

-Steven T. Soule to Mark Harwitz & Jodi Harwitz, 7 Baldwin Hill Road East/West, Egremont, \$705,000.

-Robert Tutnauer & Alba Tutnauer, trustees, Tutnauer Family Nominee Realty Trust, to Daniel Wood, trustee, Timothy & Ruth Wood Family Trust, unit 8B, 281 Main St., Great Barrington, \$340,000.

-Francine Stenger Ryan & Abigail M. Burke, trustees, Francine S. Ryan Revocable Trust, to Charles C. Vinai, unit A12, 24 Stanley Drive, Great Barrington, \$259,000.

-Rebecca Churt to Kristen Palazzo & Michael Berkowitz, 15 Higgins St., Great Barrington, \$338,000.

-Kenneth R. Hird, Richard Hird & Carolyn L. Hird, trustees, Kenneth R. Hird Revocable Trust of 2010, to Charles V. Kinsley & Suzanne C. Kinsley, 88 Green River Road, Alford, \$815,000.

-Michelle Hanna Raszl, Michelle Raczkowski & Michelle Gutleber to Paul D. Adler & Heidi M. Miller, 43 High St., West Stockbridge, \$70,000.

### *Building Permits for July*

Building Commissioner Ed May issues permits and inspects projects. He is also Great Barrington's zoning enforcement officer.

Assistant building inspector is Matthew Kollmer.

Their office in the Town Hall is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The telephone number is 528-3206. Mr. May's email is [emay@townofgb.org](mailto:emay@townofgb.org).

#### **Other Inspectors**

Gas inspector is Robert Gennari at 274-0267. Plumbing inspector is Robert Krupski, 229-8019. Electrical inspector is Theodore Piontek, 274-6605.

#### **What Work Needs a Building Permit**

Permits are needed for siding, roofs, signs, foundations, fences, and temporary structures; to demolish structures; and to install chimney linings, alarm systems, new windows, wood stoves, insulation, sprinkler systems, photovoltaics;

Also, tents, pools, hot tubs, spas, alarms, sprinklers, sheds, solar installations, and home occupations.

#### **Building Permits in July**

Forty-three building permits were issued in July with fees paid of \$14,181.50 and estimated construction costs of \$2,442,736.

*Permits with estimated building costs of*

*\$35,000 or more and the contractor if not the homeowner:*

-Brendan McGonagle, 2-story, wood-frame, 3-bedroom house with attached 2-bay garage at 85 Castle Hill Ave., \$529,502.

-James C.V. Pinkston, 2-story addition at 31 Egremont Plain Road, Caitlyn McNerney contractor, \$63,500.

-James J. Yonkouski, renovate 82 Railroad Street for use as retail marijuana dispensary, Diego Guterrez architect, \$435,000.

-Nancy Bello, switch kitchen & dining room locations & insulate 8 Ramsdell Road, Will Levin & Patrick Nelson Carpentry, \$131,298.60.

-Powerhouse Square LLC, alter suite 106 for doctor's office and install walls for future retail spaces in suites 101, 102, 103 & 104 at 34 Bridge St., \$37,000.

-HPC Housatonic LLC, replace roof at 295 Park St. North, Christopher Dore, \$158,160.

-Craig & Deborah Zolan, 2-story addition & 1-story screen porch with basements at 20 Gilmore Ave., Brian Hazelton, \$235,000.

-Steve Goldberg, new house at 318A Park St. North, Anthony Troiano, \$330,000.

## Joan M. Madden

Joan Marie Madden, 85, of Westport died Aug. 27, her birthday.

She grew up in Housatonic and graduated from the former Searles High School.

She lived for several years in Pittsfield while she was married to William M. Dermody, who became police chief.

While in Pittsfield, she was a secretary at Berkshire Community College.

After her marriage ended in 1994, she moved to Boston and worked in the office of the dean of student services at Harvard School of Medicine.

She retired to Westport.

Ms. Madden leaves her daughters, Maureen Bouris of Westport and Dana Dermody of Pittsfield; her son William M. Dermody Jr. of Oakton, Va.; her brother, James Madden; and seven grandchildren.

Her former husband died in 2002. She was also predeceased by their son John in 2010.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to St. Jude's Children's Hospital through the funeral home.

## Judy C. Marconi

Judy C. Marconi, 74, of Great Barrington died Aug. 23 at Berkshire Medical Center.

The former Judy Rhoades, she graduated from Mount Everett High School.

She was a supervisor for Housatonic Curtains for many years.

Mrs. Marconi leaves her son, Larry, and daughter, Jennifer Vanalphen, both of Great Barrington; her sister, Patricia Rhoades of New York; and two grandchildren.

Her husband of 35 years, Lawrence Marconi, died in 2006. She was also predeceased by two brothers, Melvin and Kenneth Rhoades.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

## Charles J. Menard

Charles J. Menard, 66, died Aug. 6 at his home in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

He graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School.

He lived in Dalton for many years and worked in retail until retiring.

He volunteered at the Poughkeepsie Food Pantry and was a member of the Exempt Fire Association in Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Menard leaves his daughter, Amanda Lynn Cross of New Marlborough; four brothers, Phillip, Anthony, Peter and Joseph Menard; and four sisters, Ella Dean, Barbara Hickle and Florence and Bernadette Menard.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to a Poughkeepsie food bank through the funeral home.

## Nicholas Edward Moore

Nicholas Edward Moore, 38, of Sandisfield died Aug. 13 at Fairview Hospital.

# Recent Obituaries

He graduated from Crochted Mountain Rehab Center and Preparation School.

He was an administrative assistant and a Nintendo master trainer.

Mr. Moore leaves his stepfather, William Wilkinson, and his mother, Lori Wilkinson and her fiancé, Larry Davis III of Sandisfield.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Berkshire County ARC at BCARC.org or Children's Tumor Foundation at ctcf.org.

## Norma Moulton

Norma Moulton, 93, of Sheffield died Aug. 23.

Her husband of 44 years, Howard "John" Moulton, died in 1990. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Suzanne Robbins; her great-granddaughter, Savannah; and her brother, Donald B. Reed.

Mrs. Moulton leaves her sons, George of Commack, N.Y., Duane of Hancock, Maine, and Daniel of Sheffield; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Sheffield Fire Department, Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad and Sheffield Police Department through the funeral home.

## Richard William Ruth

Richard William Ruth, 78, of Great Barrington died Aug. 1.

After graduating from Levittown (N.Y.) Memorial High School, he enlisted in the Air Force. While stationed in Arizona, he earned his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University.

He then was an institutional researcher for financial institutions on Wall Street and began a master's program in economics.

He was on a crew that sailed to Europe, where he traveled for six months.

Mr. Ruth ran Camp Deerwood in Monterey and then became a licensed massage therapist, working at Kripalu and Canyon Ranch. He also had a private practice.

He became a licensed physical therapist assistant and worked at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. After earning a degree in acupuncture at East-West College, he opened a private practice.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Berkshire Humane Society, earmarked for Purradise, through the funeral home.

## Joseph Sinico

Joseph Victor Sinico, 78, of Great Barrington died Aug. 30 at Mount Carmel Care Center.

A West Stockbridge native, he attended the former Williams High School.

He worked for 15 years at the Red Lion Inn and Country Curtains in Stockbridge.

After he married Kathleen Keresztes, he entered her family business, Catherine's Chocolates, on Stockbridge Road.

Mr. Sinico was on the Parish Council of St. Peter's Church in Great Barrington and a fourth-degree member of Knights of Columbus Council 513.

Besides his wife of 49 years, Mr. Sinico leaves three sons, Matthew, Sean and Christopher; five granddaughters; his brothers, Albert, William and Robert Sinico; and his sisters, Ann Broggi, Margaret Derrick, Mary Obanhein and Patricia Salvadore.

He was predeceased by his sister Norma Cardillo.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to St. Peter's Food Pantry through the funeral home.

## Richard Delmor Tryon

Former Monterey town official Richard Delmor Tryon, 96, died Aug. 21.

After graduating in 1942 from the former Searles High School, he enlisted in the Navy. After his honorable discharge in 1946, he graduated in 1948 from Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

For the next 40 years, he and his wife, Barbara Jane, ran Lowland Farm, a dairy farm.

After he sold the dairy herd in 1986, he and his son Roger concentrated on harvesting hay for horses and making maple syrup.

Mr. Tryon was a founding member of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District in 1955 and served from then to 1961 on the first school committee.

He served three terms on the Monterey Board of Selectmen. He also served on the Board of Health and Conservation Commission and with the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department.

He was vice president and, for one term, president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau.

He was also on the executive board of Farm Family Insurance and for many years was on the board of directors of Gould Farm.

Mr. Tryon leaves five children, Cynthia T. Hoogs of Monterey, Linda Pilloud of Switzerland, Richard D. Tryon Jr. of North Andover, Roger of Monterey, and Elizabeth Sorlie of Kalispell, Mont; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased in 2019 by his wife of 71 years, Barbara Jane, and in 2018 by his sister, Martha L. Race.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Monterey United Church of Christ or to Monterey Library.