

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 21, 2011**

**PRESENT:** SEAN STANTON  
DEBORAH PHILLIPS  
STEPHEN BANNON  
ALANA CHERNILA  
ANDREW BLECHMAN  
KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting came to order at 7:05 p.m. at Town Hall.

**2. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Blechman said the town manager met with East Street residents last weekend, walked the neighborhood and discussed signage, speed limits, etc., and he was impressed.

**3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. O'Donnell said activities of the Occupy Berkshire group were uneventful over the weekend. He checked on the group at 5 p.m. Saturday. No one blocked sidewalks or streets.

The town manager said he spoke to two classes of sixth graders who are entering the MMA essay contest, the topic: How to make the community better. He said he would like to post the essays on the town's website.

**4. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME**

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Continued discussion of Select Board self-evaluation process: Members examined handouts (including John Carver, Policy Governance) from the town manager and a sample form used by the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee, provided by Mr. Bannon and slightly altered by Mr. Stanton. Mr. Bannon offered to tabulate results and report them anonymously. He said results should indicate severe situations. Ms. Chernilla said the board needs to decide what it is actually doing. Mr. Stanton said the board's Policies and Procedures should help, also its strategic planning checklist, but town meeting has the final say on the board's direction. There was discussion as to whether to use the form as is or to review and modify it. Ultimately the board opted to use it as is, and let it guide future self-examination forms. Mr. O'Donnell said he plans to continue the evaluation process next year. Ms. Phillips suggested the Select Board's responsibility is a reliable process as well as a measurable product. At a suggestion the board poll townspeople as to how they are doing and what goals they should have, Mr. Bannon said that's what the Select Board is elected for. Members should take a leadership role. If they stray from what townspeople want, they will find out at citizen

speaking time or at election time. Taxes are an issue, he said, yet one reason the town is attractive to so many is for the services it provides. Mr. O'Donnell said that just the fact the board wants to undergo a self-evaluation is proof of its forward thinking. Members will take up the survey again at the Jan. 9 meeting.

B. Meetings calendar. Board members discussed which meetings of other town boards they planned to attend.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Appointment to Tree Committee. On a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, the board voted unanimously to appoint Dennis Gibbons for one year, after which he would be in a three-year cycle.

B. Appointment to Energy Committee. On a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, the board voted unanimously to amend the makeup of the Energy Committee to have a nine-person membership, and for Ryan Caruso to be one of those members, for a three-year term.

## **7. SELECMEN'S TIME**

## **8. MEDIA TIME**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon and voted unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard A. Drew  
Recording Secretary