

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012  
7:30 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

February 13, 2012 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the minutes of February 13, 2012 Regular Meeting

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

Alana Chernila announced that March is a month long celebration of women writing in the Berkshires. The Berkshire Festival of Women Writers has many events that are free. More information can be found on [Berkshirewomenwriters.org](http://Berkshirewomenwriters.org).

Mr. Bart Elsbach said that he and his wife, Janet, have been trying to secure the fairgrounds property for 15 years and hopes to acquire the property. He said that they are looking at it from a 'best use' standpoint, which puts the community and the environment as the priority, rather than commercial use. This property is not suitable for commercial development due to the fact that portions of it flood regularly. Mr. Elsbach said that the owners have become more motivated at this point to sell, but want a lot of money for the land. In his work to put together a plan to acquire the property, they discovered the need for a firm commitment of energy and resources from the town. Mr. Elsbach said that the property is along the river and he hopes to develop a river-walk and devote half of the land for a town park. This may include gardens, walkways, jogging tracks and possibly a playground. His desire is to pull people in to the site and create a magnet to connect the southern section of river-walk and the established area north. Mr. Elsbach said that funds are available from the state for acquisition and development of parks and open spaces if the town can formally state their interest and priority for the venture. They will then likely get funds.

Steve Bannon said that it sounds like a good idea, but research will have to be done before the Board makes a commitment.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that he will meet with Mr. Elsbach and look at the grant application and get more information.

Mr. Elsbach said that they are meeting with the sellers within the next 2 weeks and would like to have a sense of the town's ability to commit to helping.

Sean Stanton said that the town is interested in figuring out what can be done and is excited to help.

A. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETINGS IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

The Board discussed reviewed the various meetings in the following month and discussed who would attend each meeting.

**4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Kevin O'Donnell said that there are vacancies on the Council on Aging, the Cultural Council and there are 8 openings on the Charter Review Committee. Kevin also encouraged people to volunteer in the Swap Shack. Anyone who is interested should contact him.

**5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: None**

**6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

A. NICK MICOZZI FOR A DRIVEWAY PERMIT AT 113 CHRISTIAN HILL ROAD.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell pointed out that this is the first driveway permit application using the new form.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the driveway permit with conditions as specified in the DPW Superintendents memo.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

B. MATTHEW LINICK/RUNNING AWAY INC. FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS (ROUTE 183, DIVISION STREET, ROUTE 41 AND VAN DEUSENVILLE ROAD) ON MAY 27, 2012 FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY MARATHON RACE.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to grant permission to use town roads on May 27, 2012 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Memorial Day Marathon Race.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. TREE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell said that there is one member that, due to personal matters, is not available to attend many of the meetings. The resolution establishing the Tree Committee does not provide for alternate members, attendance requirement or a removal mechanism. The tree committee would like to maintain a full membership.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to remove Abby Schroeder from the Tree Committee due to personal issues

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to add a position of an alternate member to the tree committee

**SECOND:** Andrew Blechman

**VOTE: 5-0**

The Board agreed to allow Kevin O'Donnell to amend the Resolution pursuant to the above Motion that was passed.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN FY2013 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to participate in the FY 2013 household hazardous waste collection program

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

9. **SELECTMEN'S TIME:** None

10. **MEDIA TIME:** None

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary