

Berkshire Planning Board  
Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2011

Members with term expirations:

Ken Ceurter	Chair	2015
Joe Palmeri	Vice-Chair	2012
Tim Pollard	County Planning Board Rep. (through 2013)	2014
James Lacey		2011
John Gehm		2013
Sarah Albrecht	Ad Hoc Member/Secretary	2011
Darlene Hoffmier	Ad Hoc Member	2011

A) Meeting called to Order at 6:38 p.m.

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Role Call/status of membership: Gehm excused. Hoffmier absent. Albrecht given voting rights.
- 3) Secretary's minutes: Lacey move to accept. Palmeri seconded. Carried.
- 4) Privilege of the Floor – None.

B) Meetings & Committee Update

- 1) Town Board activities that pertain to PB –Summary of Town Board minutes: There was a public hearing on the budget, so the main focus of the meeting was the budget. The dog control law was approved. Ceurter informed them that our org. meeting was December 13, and asked them to schedule the public hearing for Unregistered Vehicle law (to be Dec. 19). Virtue was not present, so a review of the contract with Berkshire EMS was not possible. Ron McEwen was there, and Ceurter has sent him a list of website issues. No status on junkyard law from Perkins or TING meeting. Spoonhower has not yet finished work on the town hall; flooding issues have slowed progress on that project.
- 2) County Planning Board issues pertaining to Berkshire–did not meet in November; no 239 reviews, so meeting was cancelled.

C) Unfinished business:

- 1) Action items from previous meeting – Fire Station status: Pollard reported that they met last night; they have written confirmation from the state that the bldg. would be Class B, which allows amortization of the loan over 25 years. Bids will go out again, but they will be structured in a way to force bidders to separate the truck bay portion from the community hall portion. The community hall portion would then only be approved if truck bay is first approved and we can afford the community hall as well.
- 2) TING handbook and more gas stuff – Letter to Mike; lawsuits in other towns, etc.; No status.
- 3) Training opportunities – Ceurter and Gehm certificates for 10/29 training. Albrecht and Lacey attended Hydrofracking forum in Binghamton on Nov. 17.
- 4) Posting of roads for ATV and Snowmobile - Pollard will arrange with Ceurter to do the survey over the holiday break.
- 5) Dog Law Status – Received official notice of filing by the State on October 25, so law is now in effect. Ceurter has worked with Tami Payne to update the web site with the new version.

- 6) Unregistered Vehicle law was reviewed and finalized for the public hearing on Dec. 19 at 6:45 p.m. A draft is on the town web site. A few minor revisions to wording were made to the draft, and Albrecht will email that draft to the Planning Board within the next 24 hours. Ken will forward to the Town Board.
- 7) Other Local Law reviews: Junkyard, road preservation. The Planning Board will discuss local law priorities at the January meeting.

#### D) New Business

- 1) Lacey is concerned about the railroad tracks at the crossing on East Berkshire Road. Planning Board recommended he contact the Town Board to get action through the county IDA since they have jurisdiction over it. Ron McEwen's email is: [mcewenrn@yahoo.com](mailto:mcewenrn@yahoo.com).

Lacey moved to adjourn regular meeting. Palmeri seconded. Carried at 8:10 p.m.

Ceurter called organizational meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

#### E) Organizational Meeting

- 1) December or special meeting Organizational meeting preparation
  - a) 2012 appointments – Pollard moved to recommend reappointment of Lacey for 5-year term. Ceurter seconded. 4 Ayes, Lacey abstained. Pollard moved to renew Albrecht's appointment for one year. Lacey seconded. 4 Ayes, Albrecht abstained. We will hope that Wayne Antal can be at our January meeting to be considered for the other vacant ad hoc position since he was not able to attend today.
  - b) Elections: Chair – Palmeri moved that Ceurter remain chair. Lacey seconded. 4 Ayes, Ceurter abstained. Vice Chair – Palmeri nominated Lacey. Pollard seconded. 4 Ayes, Lacey abstained. Secretary – Pollard moved that Albrecht remain Secretary. Ceurter seconded. 4 Ayes, Albrecht abstained.
  - c) Bylaws Review – No changes to bylaws at this time. If there is a change from “ad hoc” to “alternate” member title, we will have to revise, but it is not necessary to do so until that law is revised.
  - d) Fee Schedule review: We rejected the idea of having a building permit extension fee. Recommend change from \$25 to \$50 for wood stove, chimney, or fireplace installation due to investment of time to insure safe installation. Noted that we do not have enough information to revise seizure and impoundment fees for dog control.
  - e) Submit materials to Town Board by their workshop of Dec. 15
    - Cover letter 2012 appointments (all in one letter).
    - Cover letter and fee schedule (finalize & approve),
    - Share revised Bylaws (Ken will send an email noting that there were not changes)
    - Cover letter with training worksheet.
    - Local Law Review priorities for 2012 (Ken will ask if that is necessary).

Next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Lacey notified us that he expects to still be out of town and absent from that meeting.

Next Town Board meeting is scheduled for Mon., December 19, and workshop is Thurs. December 15.

Albrecht moved to adjourn. Pollard seconded. Carried at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Albrecht, Secretary