BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
March 31, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of March 31, 2015 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Robert LaClair, Rolland Tessier, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Tom White, and Jeff Blow.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:27 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting minutes of March 24, 2015 with the following corrections:

1. Page 3, Resolution #2-15, second sentence should read "It states the Selectboard must authorize submission of the VCDP grant application."
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White also noted that in the Budget Meeting minutes of March 24, 2015, Page 1, Budget Wrap-Up, Equipment Fund, 4th paragraph, last sentence; add that White also voted no.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Town of Barre is looking for seasonal volunteers to help with maintaining the “butterfly garden” on Websterville Road and volunteers to oversee the Holden Road lawn waste site. Please call 479-9331 for more information.

- The annual Barre City and Barre Town Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Barre Town Recreation Facility on Websterville Road. The egg hunt is for families with children from ages of three to ten.

- Please remember that home owners must file a Homestead Declaration form known as HS-122 by April 15th to avoid penalties and receive an adjustment on property taxes. For more information contact the Vermont Department of Taxes at 1-866-828-2865.

- Green Up Day is coming on May 2nd. The Town is looking for volunteers to help beautify the Town. Please visit the Town Manager’s office to learn more or to sign up.

- For more information on any of these announcements visit www.barretown.org.

GUESTS – None

PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Background: The Planning Commission approved a proposed amendment to the Zoning By-Laws during the January 2015 meeting and is recommending the Selectboard adopt it. On March 3rd the Selectboard agreed to dates for the review, public hearings (as required), and adoption. This is the first step – Selectboard review and introduction.

Zoning Administrator Violette was present and reviewed the 4 changes which were heavily discussed during the Town Plan adoption process. They include: 1) changing heavy industry from a permitted use to a conditional use; 2) Exempting commercial and industrial increased setbacks when abutting a cemetery; 3) Changing zoning designation on part of Wilson Industrial Park land from “office building retail” to industrial; and 4) changing the zoning designation of property on Bridge Street (former Isabelle Electric building side).

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing on April 21, 2015 during the regular meeting to take public comment on the changes.

PROPOSED SOLAR ARRAY ON WILSON INDUSTRIAL PARK LOT.

Background: Deutsche Eco is proposing a 500,000 KW solar array on the Patrick Malone property (former Maine Drilling and Blasting lot). Deutsch’s local attorney from Primer, Piper, Eggleston and Cramer sent out the 45 day (countdown begins March 17, 2015) pre-application notice. There is no off-taker mentioned in this notice, but it is described as a net metering project. All the electricity generated may be going to Green Mountain Power’s grid. The Zoning Administrator is reviewing the Wilson Industrial Park covenants and the Town Attorney was also asked for an opinion.

Primary issues for the Selectboard include: array setback from the road, reflectivity, and aesthetics. A question was raised as to whether or not this project would
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impact Novus’s ability to site a second solar project in the Industrial Park just around the corner from this one. Violette also had some concern with the solar panels being placed on 3 separate parcels and no setback between those parcels. The Town Attorney’s opinion is that this project does not violate the Park covenants.

The consensus is to have a joint meeting (Planning Commission and Selectboard) sometime during April to further discuss this project.

WARNINGS FOR TOWN MEETING AND ANNUAL ELECTION

Background: The annual Town Meeting warnings are being presented for Board approval. The Open Town Meeting (Wednesday before Australian ballot voting) contains the standard articles (dates being changed). The Australian ballot warning has one addition - the Aldrich Public Library question which is Article 5. There are no changes to the not-for-profit agency amounts requested.

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Barre Town 2015 Open Town Meeting as presented.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Annual Election Warnings with the following corrections:

1. Article 5: Shall the town of Barre authorize $55,000 to the Aldrich Public Library, in addition to $120,000 included in the General Fund authorizations in Article 2 above?; and
2. Article 16 – add the word (Capstone) to the end of the question since CVCAC changed their name.

FIRST READING - YIELD SIGN ON CARNES ROAD AT BIANCHI STREET

Background: In response to a resident’s concern about speeding on Carnes Road and the intersection layout of Carnes Road and Bianchi Street the Traffic Advisory Committee, (after a public hearing about adding a stop sign), is recommending a yield sign.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to read by title only “An Ordinance Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont Amending Section 7-44(C) Of The Barre Town Code Of Ordinances By Adding One New Yield Street.”

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to advance “An Ordinance Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont Amending Section 7-44(C) Of The Barre Town Code Of Ordinances By Adding One New Yield Street” to a second reading (public hearing) on April 14, 2014.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Background: To address some of the speeding concerns on Bianchi Street, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, (see minutes of March 28, 2015 meeting), is recommending an advance warning “Recreation Area” word sign, rather than a symbol, be placed on Bianchi Street near the easterly side of the Locarno property.

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the installation of a “Recreation Area” (W15-1) word sign be placed as recommended by the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee on Bianchi Street.

APPOINTMENTS TO CV REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Background: Each year the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) asks member municipalities to appoint their representatives and alternate(s). Barre
Selectboard Minutes of March 31, 2015 continued:

Town's representative is Byron Atwood. He is willing to be re-appointed. Mark Nicholson is the alternate and has also agreed to continue serving in that capacity.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to re-appoint Byron Atwood as representative and Mark Nicholson as alternate representation to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for a term of 1 year.

**AUTHORIZE CLASS 2 ROAD PAVING GRANT APPLICATION**

Background: Vermont Agency of Transportation Class 2 Road Paving Grant applications are due April 15th. This grant is an 80/20 split. The Selectboard is being asked to consider submitting the grant for Cummings Road, the largest Class 2 road paving project planned for 2015.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize submission of the State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, Class 2 Road Paving grant application featuring Cummings Road.

**AUTHORIZED USE OF FY 14-15 BUILDING FUND MONEY FOR TROW HILL PLAYGROUND SHELTER & FENCE**

Background: The current fiscal year (2014-2015) Building Fund budget included $15,000 for the new Upper Websterville Playground shelter. The cost to build was substantially less than that ($3,582) leaving an unspent balance of $11,418. The Trow Hill Playground improvement plan includes putting a new roof on the existing shelter ($500) and fence repairs/refurbishment ($3,000). The East Barre fence work has been re-estimated to cost $7,340. These are Building Fund type expense. The total comes to $10,840. The Recreation budget transferred $3,505 per year to the Building Fund because of its buildings, shelters, and fences (including backstops). Part of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund budget resolution included authorizing use of these unused Building Fund monies to pay for some work at Trow Hill and the East Barre fence. A request before the Selectboard is to reallocate the Building Fund monies for the projects noted above.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize use of up to $11,500, in Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015, from the Building Fund account (050-462-450) to pay for the roof replacement and fence improvements at the Trow Hill Playground and for fence repairs at East Barre.

**WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant for March 31, 2015.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the signing of a 2015 Second Class Alcohol License for Trow Hill Grocery.

The Manager informed the Board that as a result of the Montessori School community development grant application the Town has to report the status of existing/previous grant monies and how they are being used. It was noted there is about $87,900 in funds to expend. Since a portion of balance is from the Foodbank loan repayments we are obligated to use some dollars (not specified) for housing rehab loans (CVCLT manages this program for the Town). There was discussion of offering the Montessori School an additional (very low interest) loan in addition to the grant application
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request; possible use of funds by the Websterville Baptist School, or for some other types of projects, if they meet the grant guidelines.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to disburse $10,000 of the community development monies for housing rehab loans, and to tentatively offer the Montessori School up to $50,000 in a very low interest loan and to use the remaining funds for any legally possible projects given the grant guidelines.

Assistant Manager Dorsett thanked Hannford’s Market for donating the candy and goodies for the Annual Barre Town/Barre City Easter Egg Hunt being held this Saturday, April 4, 2015, 10:00 a.m. at the Barre Town Elementary School.

ROUND THE TABLE

Mitchell noted the grass cutting RFP had been mailed. He inquired if it included some of the items discussed during the Budget meetings. Rogers stated it did not. RFPs were mailed only to those individuals/businesses which the Town has deemed reliable. One contractor from last year was not included in the mailing this year due to poor performance.

Mitchell changed hats to the Emergency Management Chair. He referred Selectboard members to the ICS 402 handout in their meeting packets. This is a course “to provide an orientation to the Incident Command System for Executives and Senior Officials.” The Selectboard should consider taking this course as future disbursements from the Federal Government (FEMA, Hazard Mitigation grants, etc.,) will be looking to ensure Town Officials have had their necessary education on how to handle emergency situations. All five Selectboard members agreed they could attend the April 29, 2015 training in Montpelier. Rogers will be sure to sign them up.

Mitchell stated he may not be attending the Open Meeting law training tomorrow night. The CVSWMD Board is meeting and will be discussing the Act 148 changes they need to make.

LaClair’s Legislative Update – The budget was a big task. It did pass with $35 million in new taxes. He was disappointed that Legislators would not take a pay decrease. House bill 361 – revamping education was quite enlightening. Barre Town, Barre City and Spaulding are doing a fabulous job with keeping the cost per pupil well below the state average. Hats off to those Boards! The next big hurdle will be the discussion on cleanup of Lake Champlain.

Blow once again, reminded the viewers that the Joint City/Town Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday is being held at the Barre Town Elementary School this year – not at Rotary Park in the City.

Now that the budget work is complete, Blow gave Selectboard members a homework assignment – bring to next week’s meeting 3 items they would like to work on over the next 3 months.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session whereby premature knowledge would put the Town at a disadvantage.

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session for legal and personnel at 8:43 p.m.
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On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard