BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
December 1, 2015

P.I.L.O.T. - None 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from November 24, 2015 meeting.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider approving Sno-Bees snowmobile club's landowner permission form.
8. Consider approving logging contract.
9. Consider approving letter providing input to the state's solar Siting Approval Task Force.
10. Discuss Barre Grand Prix (bicycle race).
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
12. Miscellaneous- including any licenses and permits.
13. "Round the table"
14. Executive session: (if needed).
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
December 1, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of December 1, 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: Jeff Blow, Rolland Tessier, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, and Tom White. Rob LaClair was not present.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Chris Violette sitting in for Carl Rogers, Town Manager, Assistant Town Clerk Deborah Lefebvre and Paul McGinley.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the agenda with the following additions:
   a. Executive session for personnel (Item #14)
   b. New solar array application under miscellaneous (Item #12)

LaClair was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of November 24, 2015. LaClair was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are accepting letters of interest from South Barre residents interested in serving on the Phoenix House Community Relations Working Group, in other words, Committee. The Working Group meets quarterly for about an hour. Other people attending the meetings are the Police Chief, Town Manager, a
Selectman, Phoenix House staff, and a state employee. Contact the Town Manager’s office (479-9331) or one of us if interested or with questions.

2. The Town Selectboard is seeking registered voters to serve on the Barre Town Budget Committee between the last Tuesday of January through the last Tuesday of March. The Budget Committee reviews the entire budget for Barre Town, including the General Fund, Ambulance Fund, and Highway Fund. Serving on the Budget Committee gives you a say in all fiscal year 2016-2017 budgets, and is a great way to learn about town operations and budgets. If interested please send your letter of interest by 4:30 p.m., December 30th, to the Town Manager’s office. More information about the responsibilities of the Budget Committee is in the Barre Town newsletter that just went out. If you have questions please contact the Town Manager at 479-9331 or one of the Selectboard members.

GUESTS - None

SNO-BEES SNOWMOBILE CLUB’S LANDOWNER PERMISSION FORM

Background: The proposed trails cross one town property, the Trow Hill Playground, and rides along three (3) roads. All four locations are listed on the landowner permission form and are consistent with last year. Tim Stone, Barre Sno-Bees was present to answer any questions.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Sno-Bees 2015-2016 Snowmobile Landowner Permission Form and authorize Chris Violette to sign. LaClair was not present for the vote.

LOGGING CONTRACT

Background: The draft logging contract is being presented for Selectboard review. The Manager stated he liked the performance bond, the penalty for cutting unauthorized trees, the slash reduction and trail clearing provisions. However he does have a question and concern about the “close-out” not being required until July 31, 2016.

Chris Violette shared an email from Jeff Smith regarding the logging contract. He has added spruce and fir to the list of species and changed the “close-out” date to June 30, 2016. Comments and questions were taken on the contract and they will be addressed before the December 8 meeting. No action was taken.

INPUT FOR STATE’S SOLAR SITING APPROVAL TASK FORCE

Background: The Barre Town Selectboard and Planning Commission held a public hearing on November 17, 2016 to get input from the public regarding the placement of solar arrays in the town. This was followed by a joint meeting of the Selectboard and the Planning Commission. Chris Violette has prepared a draft letter for consideration and review.

The letter contains most of the items which were presented both at the public hearing and the joint Selectboard/Planning Commission meeting.

A paragraph at the end addresses the issue of valuation of the solar facilities for taxation. It was mentioned that this is not the focus of the Solar Siting Task Force, but rather the legislature. It was agreed that it should stay in the letter to make them aware of the issue, but some changes to the wording were made.

Blow noted that it might not be in the best interest of the town to use Industrial Park lots for solar instead of for something which creates jobs. If the town owned the lot(s) it could have some control over how it is developed.
Selectboard Minutes of December 1, 2015 continued:

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to authorize Chris Violette to sign the letter to the Solar Siting Task Force with the revisions as noted. LaClair was not present for the vote.

DISCUSS BARRE GRAND PRIX (BICYCLE RACE)

Background: Carl received an email from Jean LaCroix (SPARTA SYNERGY) to renew the conversation with the town about a possible Barre Grand Prix. Information was handed out that outlined a possible format over two days, including time trials, a road race, a mountain bike race and kids activities. It could include events in both the Town and City of Barre. Darren Ohl would work on the mountain bike event and SPARTA SYNERGY would work on the road event.

Discussions that need to happen include revenue sources, race routes and who will be the point person from the town. Do we want to seek input from the Recreation Board on this or do they have too much on their plate? Even if they do not take this on, they should be made aware of it at the very least. It was suggested that perhaps Elaine Wang might be a good point person as Special Projects person and is a biker as well. This would tentatively be scheduled for May 14-15 2016.

No action was taken other than the following:
1. Reach out to the Recreation Board
2. Have Jean LaCroix and Darren Ohl come to a meeting soon for a discussion.
3. Address the funding

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

Item passed over

MISCELLANEOUS

Covered in ROUND THE TABLE

ROUND THE TABLE

Violette- I closed Sterling Hill Road temporarily today due to ice. Tate was not available today, but will have him evaluate when it is time to close it for the season, but it was time to close it for today.

We received notice today of a new solar project proposed in the town and wanted to make the Selectboard aware of it. This one is a little different as it is only 150kw which is much smaller than the others built or proposed so far. It is a SunCommon community based project where people who might not otherwise be able to do solar can buy into it. The location is on Cummings Road, would be net metered and they have asked to come to the Planning Commission meeting on December 16 to present the project.

Mitchell- I saw a DRB warning in the paper for the property at Bridge Street and RT 14, is there something happening? Chris Violette reported that there is an application for a site plan review which is a major site plan review so it is on the agenda for December 9 and again hopefully in January. They are currently proposing an approximate 6,000SF building for commercial use. It most likely will be segmented for several uses. He currently has one commercial client signed.

Will entrance/exit and traffic be part of the review process? Yes

PLEASE be careful when out walking now to wear something bright so you can be seen by traffic.

We got a letter from the Graniteville Fire District to raise the water rate to the town effective December 1, 2015. Not sure how we resolve that with our budget since we have different fiscal years. Blow spoke with GFD and it is very unlikely that the town will buy
Selectboard Minutes of December 1, 2015 continued:
much water if any from the GFD over the next few months, so it should have little if any
effect on our budget. It does however help the GFD to try and close the gap when they
have to buy water through the town that is passed from the City by bringing in extra
revenue now.

White-nothing

Tessier- He was approached by a gentleman about the dual power poles; old poles and new
poles side by side. Is there anything the town can do to speed up the process to get the
old poles removed? Those noted are at Waterman St, Sterling Hill and near Bond Auto on
Morrison Rd.
Mitchell asked Tessier if he had ever gotten an answer to his question regarding something
on signs. Tessier deferred to White to explain the answer. The items which were placed on
the back of the sign(s) were placed there as markers for geocaching. Geocaching is a
hobby where if you have a GPS you can go to a website and get GPS coordinates and use
them to locate items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to find that
premature general public knowledge would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage
with regards to personnel matters. LaClair was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to go into
executive session for personnel matters at 8:09 p.m.; no action was expected. LaClair was
not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to come out of
executive session at 8:16 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at
8:16 p.m. LaClair was not present for the vote.

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Deborah LeFebvre – Asst. Town Clerk  Selectboard Chair
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Barre Town Selectboard