



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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P.O. Box 116, 149 Websterville Rd.
Websterville, VT 05678
(802) 479-9331/Fax (802) 479-9332

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Firefighters Donate Rescue Tools



The Barre Town Firefighters Club recently ordered two new sets of rescue equipment, commonly referred to as the “Jaws of Life”, at a cost of just under \$40,000. The two spreaders and two cutters will be delivered in early February. The purchase of these tools will be *entirely* paid for by proceeds of the last two 52-gun raffles. The East Barre Hose Company (East Barre station club) will make the purchase and donate the tools to the Town Fire Department.

The 52-gun raffle is an annual raffle offered by the fire department. 1,000 \$50 tickets are sold. Each week, using the Vermont Lottery Pick Three evening draw, a winner is determined. The winner picks their gun up directly at R&L Archery after passing a background check just like any gun buyer. To date, the raffles have raised approximately \$140,000 and have purchased a pickup truck with removable wildland skid unit, and an all-terrain vehicle and trailer.

A committee of officers reviewed and demonstrated rescue tools from four different jaws of life manufacturers. In the end the committee elected to purchase equipment from Amkus Rescue Systems distributed by Speedway Safety Service, Inc. of Claremont, NH.

(Continued on Page 6)

Budget Review Underway

Tuesday, January 30 the Budget Committee kicked-off its review of the proposed 2018-2019 budgets. Every Tuesday night, from 6:30 to 8:00 (and sometimes later) through March 27 the Committee will review proposed budgets. The meetings are held in the Municipal Building and are open to the public. Feel free to pop in any Tuesday night and observe the presentation and discussion. During these weeks the Committee will review the town manager’s proposed budgets for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Ambulance Fund, Equipment Fund, Sewer Fund, Water Fund, Cemetery Fund, Building Fund and Sewer Capital Improvement Fund. Meeting agendas are posted on the town website the Friday before the meeting. Minutes are posted within five business days after the meeting.

The General and Highway Fund budgets placed before the voters in May are set by the Budget Committee. The Committee also approves all other budgets and may make a recommendation on water and sewer billing rates. The General Fund budget includes the police department, fire department, recreation division, library contribution and the administration and finance departments. The Highway Fund budget provides money for road paving, streetlights, and winter road maintenance, among other expenses and services.

(Continued on Page 6)

Dates & Events:

- 2/11 - Sledding Party
- 2/15 - Property & Sewer Taxes Due
- 3/2 - 4 Charity Co-Ed Softball Tournament
- 3/6 - Town Meeting
- 3/12 - Town Caucus
- 4/1 - Dog Licenses Due
- 4/1 - Winter Parking Ban Ends
- 4/16 - Homestead Declaration Due
- ? - Rabies Clinic

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**Look for the next issue of the Barre Town
newsletter in April , 2018!**
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Employee Changes

Michael “Mickey” Witham was hired in late August to fill the paramedic vacancy left by Jonathan Cullen. He was first hired into the EMS Department in 2015 as a per diem EMT and earned his paramedic certification as well as his board certification as a flight medic from University of Texas health science center last August. Previously Mickey worked as a Licensed Nursing Assistant and a volunteer for Northfield Ambulance. He has also served as a Flight Paramedic in the Vermont Army National Guard. The department is happy to have him join the full-time team and proud of his service with the Guard.

Paramedic Marc Truedson left employment with Barre Town EMS to join the Montpelier Fire & Ambulance service. Marc worked for Barre Town EMS for 2.5 years. Fortunately, we were able to hire a replacement from our excellent roster of per diem staff. Michelle Brock started on the first of the year. Michelle first joined the department in April of last year as a per diem paramedic. She came to us with considerable experience, having been in the profession since 2002 working both in Florida and Vermont.

MaCaden Lyford was hired to fill the DPW vacancy left by the retirement of Gary Munson. A native of Chelsea, VT, in the past he’s run farm equipment, worked on a well-drilling crew, and for VTrans. The Superintendent is pleased to report MaCaden is working out very well and is proving to be a good worker.

By Elaine Wang, Asst. Town Manager

March Town Meeting Day

The first Tuesday in March voters from around the State gather at their respective polling places to make decisions on local issues. As is customary for Barre Town, this year the March election will be for school issues only.

What’s on the School Ballot? Barre



Town has two school districts (Barre Town Middle & Elementary School and Spaulding Union High School. On March 6, 2018 voters will be asked to vote on the standard things such as School Directors (one for Spaulding High School and two for the Elementary School), a School District Treasurer, and to approve a stipend payment for these elected officials. Other equally important questions will be the proposed fiscal year 2018-2019 school operating budgets, whether to allow the School board to borrow operating funds and asking for monies to be put into a capital reserve fund.

Where do we vote? All Barre Town elections are held at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School gymnasium (70 Websterville Road). Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Parking is available in the school lot. Please use the side entrance. If you need assistance getting from the parking lot to the gymnasium, please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 479-9391 prior to election day.

Can’t make it to the polls – request an early ballot. To request an early ballot for any election contact the Town Clerk’s Office (479-9391) or by email (dkelty@barretown.org).

Don’t have time to register to vote? No problem.... just contact the Town Clerk for an application or go online to the “My Voter Page” (hosted by the Vermont Secretary of State). This online site provides an individual many options for managing your voter rights. You can register to vote, change your voter registration from one Town to another, obtain information on state and federal elections, request and find the status of your early ballot request. To access the online voter page use the address: <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>.

More information on local elections (including the warning and sample ballot when available) are available on the Barre Town website (www.barretown.org).

Let your voice be heard – VOTE!

By Donna Kilty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Barre Town Caucus & Annual Meeting And Election

The Barre Town Non-Partisan Caucus meeting will be held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building.

What is a Non-Partisan Town Caucus? A Town Caucus is a meeting of the members of a political party who gather to select/nominate a candidate for an elected office (Selectboard, Moderator, Town Clerk, etc.). Non-Partisan means that the political parties hold their meetings together, not separately.

Why does Barre Town hold a Caucus? Many years ago, there were issues in recruiting individuals to run for an elected office. To ensure there is at least one candidate for each municipal office the decision was made to hold a Non-Partisan Town Caucus. While the meeting holds no “official standing” and is not required by law, we continue the tradition today for the same reason.

Barre Town's Open Meeting, (first Wednesday in May) is a from the floor vote. It will be held on May 2, 2018, in the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room, and begins at 7:30 p.m.

The second vote is the Election of Officers and Voting by Australian ballot which will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2017 at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School Gymnasium. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For more election information visit our website (www.barretown.org).

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Recreation Programs

Pickleball: Looking for an indoor exercise option? Come play Pickleball on Sundays this winter through March 18th in the Barre Town School gym. Play is between 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Pickleball veterans and newbies alike are welcome. The Rec Board provides three courts, rackets and balls. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers, and bring a water bottle. It's free!



Dog Park: The Dog Park has made considerable progress since the last newsletter though fundraising need remains. Thanks to volunteers and Lafayette Highway Specialties, the fence posts and fencing are up. Gate installation remains to be done. Once the park is open users may park in the school parking lot. Remember to keep your dog leashed until you are in the Dog Park with the gate securely closed behind you. Waste receptacles are available, but owners must pick up after their dog (s). No puppies under 4 months, or food, please. Other (common sense) rules will be posted at the Dog Park.



As of this writing, the Dog Park has raised \$5,386.79 after fence post expenses. Another \$2,838.46 needs to be raised to pay for the fencing in full. Based on survey results, the Committee would like to raise enough additional funds for benches, dog waste composter, shelter for humans, and more. Donations can be made by cash or check at the Town Clerk's Office. For an online donation option, search for "Town of Barre Community Dog Park" on Facebook.



Groomed Snow Trails: As in previous winters, Millstone Trails Association (MTA) is grooming loops in the Town Forest for XC skiing, snowshoeing, and fat biking this winter. The trails go over varied terrain and three different loops are possible when conditions are favorable. To access the groomed trails in the Town Forest, park at either Town Forest parking lot, at 44 Brook St., or the end of Barclay Quarry Rd. Easier options for low-key XC skiers are once again being groomed on the Millstone Hill West bike path (by the Barre Town School), and two short loops in the Barre Town Rec Area. These gentle trails are great for beginners and for anyone who wants to get out but not go all out. Visit the MTA website to find out what the trail conditions are for your preferred activi-

ty before you head out: www.millstonetrails.com/trail-conditions.

The trails are free to use by the public. MTA is run by volunteers, so if you can, please consider making a (tax-deductible) donation on their homepage www.millstonetrails.com to support this grooming and more.

Sledding Party: On Sunday, February 11, 1-3 p.m. the Barre Town Recreation Board will host a free sledding party, weather permitting, behind the Town of Barre Offices. Bring your own sleds, and have hot chocolate and marshmallows courtesy of the Rec Board!



By Elaine Wang, Asst. Town Manager

Charity Winter Softball Co-Ed Tournament

Since 1999 a small number, at first, and recently a very, very large number of co-ed softball teams have met in the winter at the Barre Town Recreation Area to play a double elimination tournament. At first the tournament benefitted the Central Vermont Co-Ed Softball League. After a short time the tournament proceeds were used to help a family with a child battling a serious illness. In the years after the inaugural tournament the event organizers have: raised over \$375,000 for charitable giving; given 26 Vermont families financial support; furnished a comfort room at Central Vermont Medical Center's cancer treatment center; developed the 501 (c) (3) Freezing Fun for Families organization; and set a Guinness World Record for World's Largest Snow Softball Tournament.



The tournament will be held in 2018 over the weekend of March 2 - 4 at the Recreation Area. The tournament is capped at 68 teams. The registration fee per team is \$300. Play begins at night on Friday, March 2. Play reaches its highest point on Saturday when up to seven softball fields are laid out and used in the recreation area. For more information about the tournament, including rules and team registration form visit www.freezingfunforfamilies.com/snow-softball-tournament.

Spectators are welcome and can contribute to this good cause by making purchases at the concession stands. Food and products are available.

The Town assists with the tournament by donating use of the recreation area and field lights. The week before the tournament the public works department removes snow from the park road so deliveries (trash dumpsters, port-a-lets and tents) can be made. The Town is proud to be a Grand Slam Member in support of Freezing Fun for Families.

Freezing Fun for Families' second largest (after the tournament) fundraiser is the dinner and silent auction. This year the dinner and auction will be held at the Barre Elks Club on February 17. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the door.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Fund Raiser for Travis Mercy Skate Park



On February 17, 2018 the Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club will host its 18th Annual Poker Run Fund Raiser for the Travis Mercy Skate Park. The Public is welcome to walk, drive or ride their sleds to this event.

Cost for the Poker Run is \$5 per hand. Extra hands will be available. Registration starts at 8:15 a.m. at Maplewood

Vermont Travel Center on the hill in Berlin and departure is at around 9: a.m.. Trail stops will be available at the start.

The main event will be held at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School Cafeteria with a silent auction, quilt raffle, and dinner prepared by Randy Henry and the Racing Chefs. Dinner will be pulled pork & BBQ chicken with all the fixings. Cost for the dinner is \$10/adult, \$5 for children 12 & under. Children under 5 are free. The gathering will start at 11:30 a.m. and dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m.

For more information call Linda Mercy at 469-3405 or Dave Rouleau at 839-0533 or check out the website www.barrethunderchickens.com.

By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

Dog Licensing Time!

Do you own a dog? Does the dog live in Barre Town? If you answered yes to both questions then by Vermont law (20 VSA Sections 3541-3591, 3801-3813) your pet is required to be licensed annually in the town where it is kept.



What do I need to get a dog license?

1. A copy of a current rabies certificate.
2. Payment for the license (\$10.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$14.00 for an animal that is not fixed).
3. Obtain the license by April 1, 2018. If your pet is found to be unlicensed after April 1, 2018 you will be charged a late fee to obtain a license plus you could receive a fine of \$35.00 from Barre Town.

Where do I go to get a license?

The Town Clerk's Office. In Barre Town, if the office has a current rabies certificate on file then a license renewal form was mailed to you in January. Once you receive the form be sure to check the information carefully (make corrections if necessary), sign, enclose your payment, and return to the Town Clerk's Office in the detachable self-addressed envelope.

Should the Town Clerk's Office have a rabies certificate on file, but it will expire before April 1, 2018, then you will be mailed a postcard reminder.

Be a responsible pet owner! Make sure your pet is licensed, has a current rabies vaccination, and the current year license tag is affixed to your pet's collar.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Update to Town Charter Amendments

On January 1, 2017 state law changes went into effect regarding elections and the duties of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA). This prompted a review of our Town Charter which resulted in a few amendments which were approved by the voters at the May 9, 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

Those amendments included:

- Section 6(b) – eliminating the need for the BCA to update the checklist on the Wednesday before an election (now there is same day voter registration).
- Section 6(b) – changing the responsibility of posting the checklist (still law) from the BCA to the Town Clerk and to post said checklist 30 days (not 4 days) before an election.
- Section 6 (e) adds a sentence pertaining to the BCA meeting quorum which will remain a majority of members for all meetings except those pertaining to checklist changes (only 3 are required).

The voter approved charter amendments were forwarded to the Legislature in House Bill 568. Testimony was taken in the House Government Operations Committee resulting in the bill passing out of the Committee on January 19, 2018. A floor vote is expected in the very near future. Once approved by the full Legislature the charter amendments must be signed by the Governor.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Brookfield Ambulance Service

On January 1, 2018 Barre Town EMS took over EMS coverage for the northern portion of the Town of Brookfield. Consideration of this change has been talked about for many years. Now after six months of negotiation and state regulations the change was finalized. The Brookfield select board has considered this matter for years based on board discussions and a town vote. Brookfield's geography and limited access to Interstate 89 has always been the driving factor for this change. While White River Valley Ambulance will keep servicing the southern portion of the town the changes will reduce the response time to the northern sections. However, it was made very clear to the Town of Brookfield that while Barre Town EMS will have shorter response times than they have seen in the past the times will still be more than 20 minutes in most areas.



By Chris LaMonda, EMS Director

Homestead Declaration Form

Attention Vermont homeowners! You must file the Homestead Declaration Form (HS-122) every year, even if you don't have to file a state income tax return. If you don't file an HS-122, you'll be paying higher taxes than you need to -



\$1000 more, on average, among Barre Town property owners! And the lower your income, the more money you can save on your tax bill.

The deadline to file HS-122 with the Vermont Department of Taxes to avoid the \$15 penalty is April 17, 2018 for the home you occupy as of April 1, 2018. However, you can file the HS-122 as soon as the form is available, and it is in your interest to file it early – that way, your property tax bills in the coming year are correct from the very first. For the same reason, file the HS-122 early even if you intend to ask for an extension on filing your income tax return.

Often, elderly residents who live in their home and do not need to file a state income tax return are not filing their Homestead Declaration Form, paying up to thousands of dollars more in property taxes than they need to. Check with your older family members and friends to make sure they are submitting their HS-122 forms.

The form will be available online. Visit tax.vermont.gov, and type “2018 HS-122” into the search box at the upper right of the page. If you don’t have a computer, you can get a form from the Barre Town Assessor’s office. Stop by or call 479-2595 to have one mailed to you. The library, senior center, and Project Independence can also help you access the form.

If you miss the April deadline, file the Homestead Declaration Form anyway, no later than October 15, 2018. If you do not file the form at all, you will be charged the higher, non-residential, tax rate for the state education tax part of the tax bill throughout the year, and pay anywhere from \$50-\$6000 more than you needed to.

Further, if you have income but not from any current job, you should file a Household Income Form (HI-144) with your HS-122. For example, if you only have income from social security, disability and/or retirement, you can file your HI-144 at the same time as your HS-122 and potentially reduce your tax burden even more.

If you have any questions, Joyce in the Assessor’s office is happy to help – drop by, or contact her at 479-2595 or jbeaudin@barretown.org.

By Elaine Wang, Asst. Town Manager

Annual Rabies Clinic

With help from a veterinarian the fire department has held rabies clinics for dogs and cats. The clinics have been held at the South Barre Fire Station on a Saturday in March. The clinic gives pet owners a lower cost option for vaccinating their dogs and cats.

The town clerk-treasurer with volunteer helpers have been on-site so Barre Town dog owners can license their dogs, too.

At print time a date for the 2018 rabies clinic had not been confirmed. If a rabies clinic is scheduled it will be announced on the fire department’s Facebook page, the town website and on Front Porch Forum.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Summer Employment Opportunities

Would you like to enjoy the outdoors and make money at the same time? Become a seasonal employee at the Town of Barre! We are hiring for five seasonal positions in two departments. The optimal candidates will be able to return for several summer seasons in a row. Pay begins at \$11.25 an hour.

Department of Public Works: Seasonal DPW employees assist with various tasks to help maintain and improve Barre Town’s roads and utilities. Whether clearing brush blocking the view of drivers or flagging traffic to keep their crewmates safe, DPW seasonals do work important to the Town. Required training will be provided. The schedule is M-F 7:00 am -3:30 pm. Application review for four spots will begin on March 19.

Recreation and Cemeteries: Recreation and Cemetery duties include mowing, trimming, and other landscaping tasks as well as painting and light work on buildings to keep those facilities inviting and safe for patrons. Application review for one spot will begin on March 19.

To apply: The application for these positions can be picked up at the Town Offices or downloaded from the town’s website, www.barretown.org. Submit your application by the dates above by email to offices@barretown.org or by mail to Town of Barre, PO Box 116 Websterville, VT 05678.

By Elaine Wang, Asst. Town Manager

School Property Transfer

The Barre Town Middle and Elementary School board and Town are working together to have the School transfer ownership of about 68 acres of land to the Town. The land would include the entire Recreation Area and most of the school’s wooded acres. The School would retain 20 acres, including the large parking lot, the building and playgrounds and some wooded land behind the building. The 20 acres would allow the School to add-on in the future and not exceed the zoning by-law for lot coverage.

Last summer, after the Town subdivision process was completed and during the state water and wastewater permit phase, it was learned the school was subject to an Act 250 land use permit. Because of the old land use permit an amendment was needed. Also the subdivision needed to show easements the School would have to deed to the Town. The easements are for water, sewer and electric lines across land the School would retain. No present day staff worked for the Town when those lines were laid in the ground; various forms of field verification were needed to place the easements on the plat.

That plat change was made. The Act 250 permit amendment application was completed, signed and submitted in January.

When the permits are in hand the School Board will publish and post a Notice of Proposed Conveyance.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

***Reminder: Property and Sewer Taxes are
due February 15, 2018***

(Cont'd - Firefighters Donate Rescue Tools)

Amkus is a proven leader in the rescue tool industry having been around for decades. Amkus is the supplier of rescue equipment for both NASCAR and NHRA.



Due to the advancement of battery technology, a substantial change with the new jaws of life equipment is being made. The new jaws will be battery operated as compared to using hydraulics like the current version. The battery operated equipment is much more versatile, easier to setup and start cutting, less cumbersome, quieter, and there are no hydraulic fluid leak worries. While the committee went into the demonstrations with some doubt about switching to battery operated equipment, those concerns were quickly quelled during the demonstration. The battery performance was extremely good; however adaptors allow the units to run off a generator if necessary. Each station will get a set of tools which consist of a spreader and cutter. While the purchase comes with training, the new tools should go into service almost immediately.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief

(Cont'd - Budget Review Underway)

When proposed budgets are completed and presented to the Committee the summary or cover page is posted on the town website. On the homepage select Government Information followed by Town Budget. Look for the FY '18 - '19 Budget Summary Pages.

The Budget Committee has ten members - the five selectboard members and five citizens. As stated in the Town Charter the Town Clerk-Treasurer appoints one member and the Selectboard two members. Those three people pick two more registered town voters to complete the Committee. This year the Clerk-Treasurer appointed Rob LaClair. The Selectboard appointed Norma Malone and Cedric Sanborn. The last two seats were filled by Justin Bolduc and Kevin Delude.

For more information about the budgets or the meetings call the town manager's office (479-9331).

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Project Updates

East Barre Sidewalk: The Town is close to finalizing rights-of-way on this sidewalk project along the south side of Mill Street and a bit on Websterville Road to the East Barre post office. The project is being paid for via federal grants administered by VTrans, requiring 20%, or \$50,080, cost share from the Town. Construction is still planned for 2018.

Forest Logging: There will be no logging in the town forest this winter. The logger decided not to finish the contracted logging. (There was one more large section to log.) He forfeited a \$500 performance bond. When that decision was learned there was not enough time to seek bids, award a contract and finish the logging this winter. This coming summer town staff and the consulting forester will consider the unfinished logging and the forest management plan to decide the next course of action.



Rt. 14/Sterling Hill Rd./Bridge St.: Construction now is expected during the 2020 and 2021 construction seasons. Relocating a water line in Rt. 14 is being planned for 2020. The intersection improvements would be made in 2021. AOT still has stormwater permit details to work out. The right of way acquisition has to be completed, but final plans are needed first.

On January 23 the selectboard was slated to approve a Finance and Maintenance Agreement. The town attorney suggested some revisions so no action was taken. The town attorney and AOT staff are working on the F&M Agreement.

The project will broaden the turning radius out of Bridge Street onto Rt. 14, add traffic signals, add left turn lanes on Rt. 14, add pedestrian crosswalks, and improve the sidewalks.

Websterville Fire District #3: Restoration of road and property disturbed for installing the new water pipe and service pipes to homes was completed last November. The emergency power generator and automatic transfer switch at the pump station/office were installed and completed. The electric panel upgrade at the treatment plant was finished. The WFD is working, as an additional improvement, to purchase and install an emergency power generator at the treatment plant.

As of this writing a VT legislative bill to merge the WFD and town water system has not been introduced.

*By Elaine Wang, Asst. Town Manager
and Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

Tour Town Departments

During its review of the proposed town budgets the Budget Committee visits the town's major facilities, meaning two public works buildings, two fire stations, emergency medical station and municipal building. For more than twenty (20) years the public has been welcomed to accompany the Committee on this town tour. The Budget Committee's town department tour is expected again, and the public again is invited.



In an effort to draw more members of the public, the tour might be held on a Tuesday evening. The final plan will be made when the Committee holds its first meeting on January 30. Check the town website for the date, time and place. Look for an announcement on Front Porch Forum, or call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331. Registering is not required; just show up!

This year the tour booklet, describing the town's depart-

ments and facilities, will be printed and made available before the tour. Key budget facts also are listed in the booklet. Watch for it on the website and at stores.

On the tour the Committee members and public will talk with department heads about recent budgeted purchases and about budget requests for 2018-2019. The public is encouraged to participate in the conversations.

For more information contact the town manager's office (479-9331) or offices@barretown.org.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Central Vermont Internet Vote



On January 16 the Selectboard voted to place the Central Vermont Internet (CVI) article on the May Town Meeting ballot. Voters will decide if Barre Town will join the proposed communications union district. Actually, by May it shouldn't be a proposed district. Nine other central Vermont municipalities will vote on the question at their March Town Meeting; on May Town Meeting it would be a pending district. Those towns voting are: Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Middlesex, Northfield, Plainfield, Williamstown, and Worcester. As of this writing Montpelier and Barre City had not decided if the question would be on the ballot but were planning to decide late in January.

The ballot question presented by chief organizer Jeremy Hansen of Berlin is: Shall the Town of Barre enter into a communications union district to be known as Central Vermont Internet, under provisions of 30 V.S.A., Chapter 82? Town residents wanting to research the proposal could read Chapter 82 of Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes. The CVI would be very similar to the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District d/b/a EC Fiber, a district of 24 towns. A few of the larger and closer member towns include: Chelsea, Brookfield, Bethel, Hartford, Montpelier and Randolph. Central Vermont residents' opinions about the question might be shared in the weeks leading up to the March Town Meeting. Barre Town will post information on its website before this May election.

If voters decide to enter CVI the Selectboard will appoint a representative to the CVI board of directors.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Energy Planning and Efficiency

For the last year or so, the Barre Town Planning Commission has been working in conjunction with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to create a comprehensive energy plan. The plan will address many issues and will hopefully provide the Town with substantial deference (to give substantial and meaningful weight) during Public Utility Commission proceedings when reviewing renewable energy projects in Barre Town. Part of the plan will include a target for Barre Town to supply renewable energy aimed at helping the State meet its goal of being

90% renewable by 2050. A big part of the plan will also include energy conservation and how important it is for Barre Town to do what we can to conserve energy.

Residents and businesses have an important role to play in meeting the state's, and eventually the town's, energy goals. Types of actions include not using more energy than needed (conservation), upgrading to more efficient appliances or vehicles when appropriate (efficiency), and installing renewable energy. These actions can save you money, provide better control over energy bills over time, and make us better stewards of shared resources. It can even be fun - many Vermonters enjoy the challenge of putting together just the right combination of actions to make their homes net zero energy users. The goal may sound far-fetched, but, thanks to current technology and access to plenty of good technical support, getting to net zero may be more doable than you think. Efficiency Vermont, the state-funded, state-wide resource for energy efficiency for residential and commercial buildings, is a great first-stop resource. Visit their website at www.encyvermont.com or call their toll-free hotline at 888-921-5990. If you're looking to green your commute, visit connectingcommuters.org (the state clearinghouse on transportation options), driveelectricvt.com (resource on electric cars), or VBike (resource on electric bikes). If you're looking to install renewable energy and are not sure where to start, visit Renewable Energy Vermont at www.revermont.org; the website can help you understand the various renewable energy technologies and find contractors.

Here in Barre Town municipal operations, we are striving to do our part. The biggest energy users among the town buildings underwent energy efficiency audits several years ago. We have been working our way through the list of recommendations each budget year since. These include lighting retrofits, motion sensors for lighting, and weatherization. In 2017, our freshly assigned "account manager" at Efficiency Vermont identified more opportunities, thanks to newer efficiency technology like variable speed pumps for heating distribution systems. Some of these have been added to the Town's 5-Year Building Plan. On the renewable energy front, Barre Town developed its own 500 kW solar farm on old industrial land, offsetting much of our annual electricity bill and some of Barre Town School's as well. Stay tuned to the newsletter for updates on the Town's energy plan and related activities.

*By Elaine Wang, Asst. Town Manager
and Chris Violette, Planning Commission Director*

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The proposed 5-year hazard mitigation plan was delivered to FEMA November 14. FEMA requested some revisions. The C.V. Regional Planning Commission's emergency planner drafted revisions, and submitted those revisions to the Town on December 31. Re-submission of the plan to FEMA is expected the week of January 29.

After FEMA's approval the Selectboard would adopt the 80 page plan.



By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Development Review Board – *By Emily Marineau, Planning & Zoning Admin. Asst., Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Admin. (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Neddo, J. Valsangiacomo, A. Valentinetti, J. Fecteau, B. Wolfe)*

AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit; SD=Subdivision; BLA=Boundary Line Adjustment

November 2017: Appr. Waiver for 15 Sesame St.; Appr. 2-lot SD at 408 & 416 Beckley Hill Rd.; Appr. 2-lot SD for 135 W. Cobble Hill Rd.; Appr. BLA for property off Airport Rd.; Appr. plan to create 4-unit mobile home park on land adjacent to 770 East Barre Rd.

December 2017: Appr. 2-lot SD for land off of West Rd.; Appr plan for 12,000 c.y. filling at 304 East Montpelier Rd.

January 2018: Appr. 2-lot SD for property located at 519 Anderson Rd.; Appr. 2-lot SD for property located at 6 McHugh Rd. and 15 Cogswell St.; Appr. SD & PUD of property off Beckley Hill Rd. and Daniels Dr.; Appr. variance for property located at 300 Miller Rd.; Appr. variance for property at 87 Bridge St.

Planning Commission – *By Emily Marineau, Planning & Zoning Admin. Asst., Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Admin. (C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Pierce, C. Duke, B. Atwood, G. Clain)*

AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit

November 2017: Discussed Energy Plan, VELCO presentation, Elaine Wang, Asst. Town Mngr. discussed Town's effort on energy conservation.

December 2017: Discussed and worked on Energy Plan.

January 2018: No meeting.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - *By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer and Tina Thurston, Executive Secretary (C. Liese, S. Corbett, J. Blow, W. Kirby, V. Vallerand)*

October 2017: No meeting.

November 2017: Reviewed Guardrail Inventory & Repl. Plan for upcoming budget year, will make recommendations to Select-board and Budget Committee during budget review process; Discussed increasing the hours of operation during the week for school radar signs.

December 2017: Discussed posting a Reduce Speed Sign on Camp St.; Reviewed request for crosswalk at intersection of Quarry Hill/Sterling Hill/Websterville Rd. As there are no sidewalks or landings at these intersections, TSAC set aside request until landings or sidewalks are present.