



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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www.barretown.org

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

Ash Tree Removal

Barre Town was among a handful of towns where signs of the emerald ash borer (EAB) was first observed in Vermont. The bugs likely have been here several years. The town (Department of Public Works) is facing an increase in roadside tree maintenance because of the invasive bugs. Actually, it is the EAB larvae which is out of sight under the outerbark that does in the ash trees. 99.7% of ash trees die because of the EAB. Once dead, the wood begins to decompose; branches fall off or the entire tree falls over.



Removing dead trees from road rights-of-way (r.o.w.) is not new to DPW. The dead ash trees will make a difference, however. Although 5% of Vermont trees are ash, many ash trees will die the same year and some could be very large. DPW cuts down some roadside trees. Sometimes it hires a tree removal service - for very large trees, where dropping the tree must be done precisely or the tree must be taken down limb by limb.

To help DPW manage ash tree removal the C.V. Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) offered to inventory ash trees in road r.o.w.s. CVRPC staff will check every road and street. They will record the location, size and condition (dead, showing signs of infestation, etc.) of every ash tree. The CVRPC will deliver: 1) a map showing location of ash trees, and 2) a list by street giving location and description of trees. The service will cost the town \$1,200 or 10% of the estimated total. The CVRPC has a grant for doing inventories for its members. The inventory should begin in early February. You may see two CVRPC staff walking streets in your neighborhood.

(Continued on page 2)

Budget Work in Full Swing

The 2019 Budget Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, January 29. At a minimum it will meet the following eight Tuesday nights as it reviews and sets the nine fund budgets.

The Budget Committee has ten members, the five Selectboard members and five town voters. The Town Clerk-Treasurer appoints one member (this year Andrew McAvoy); the Selectboard appoints two members (this year Cedric Sanborn and Justin Bolduc). Those three appointees select two members (this year Alan Garceau and Phil Cecchini).

Tuesday night from 6:00 to 8:00 pm is the Committee's regular meeting time. Some Tuesday nights the Selectboard will keep its meeting short, then the Budget Committee will reconvene for another 45 minutes or hour. Special meetings may be held.

Meeting time is needed for review of nine fund budgets and ten appendices (five-year plans and finance related information). Some meeting time is set aside for meeting with organizations that receive funding through the General Fund budget. The nine fund budgets are General, Highway, Sewer, Sewer Capital Improvement, Water, Equipment, Cemetery, Ambulance and Building.

A fund refers to a pot of money for a specific purpose. For instance water bills paid by the town's roughly 600 water customers goes into the Water Fund and is used to pay expenses associated with operating the water systems (Websterville and town's original system). Properties not connected to the town water systems do not pay for water expenses.

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DATES & EVENTS:

- TBA - Recreation Board Sledding Party
- 2/15 - Property & Sewer Taxes Due
- 3/1 - 3 - Charity Co-Ed Softball Tournament
- 3/9 - Rabies Clinic
- 3/18 - Town Caucus
- 4/1 - Dog Licenses Due
- 4/1 - Winter Parking Ban Ends
- 4/15 - Homestead Declaration Due
- 5/14 - Town Meeting

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Look for the next Town newsletter in.....April, 2019
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(Cont'd - Ash Tree Removal)

The town increased its tree removal line item for F.Y. 18-19 and will increase it again for F.Y. 19-20. For the DPW crew's safety, training about removing ash trees is being sought.

Property owners should ascertain if they have white, green or black ash trees (the EAB destroys all three) near their buildings or around their lawn. Safety concerns - personal injury and building damage - should be considered. For more information about the EAB and ash trees click on <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

(Cont'd - Budget Work in Full Swing)

Staff begins preparing budget appendices in September. Later, department heads submit their budget requests to the town manager who reviews the requests, completes other budget accounts and prepares a complete budget for the Committee's review.

As decided by town voters (a Town Charter amendment), the Committee has the final word on all budgets except the General and Highway Funds. For those two, the Committee decides what will be presented to the voters for a decision. The amount of General and Highway budgets must be decided in time to include the budget questions on the Town Meeting Warning and printed ballots. That deadline is in early April.

Town residents are welcome to attend any Committee meeting, which are held in the Municipal Building. The topic of discussion is shown on an agenda posted on the town website and at Hannaford, Trow Hill Grocery and Graniteville General Store the Friday evening before a meeting. As budgets are completed the cover or summary page is posted on www.barre.town.org. All budget documents can be reviewed at the Town Manager's Office, M-F, 8:00am-4:30 pm.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

2019 Dog License Renewals

Do you own a dog? Does the dog live in Barre Town? If you answered yes to both questions then by Vermont law your pet is required to be licensed annually in the town where it is kept.



What you need to get a dog license:

1. A copy of current rabies certificate
2. Payment for the license (\$10 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$14 for an animal that is not fixed).
3. Obtain the license by April 1, 2019. If your pet is found to be unlicensed after April 1 you will be charged a late fee to obtain a license plus you could receive a fine of \$35 from Barre Town.

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

If the Town Clerk's Office has a rabies certificate on file, but it will expire before April 1, 2019, then you will be mailed a postcard reminder. See the Barre Town Rabies Clinic for more details.

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 Kelly, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Employee Changes

Shawn Codling Jr., has joined the Department of Public Works as the town's second mechanic. The two mechanics and Shop Foreman maintain about 50 town vehicles. The mechanics diagnose issues, repair and do preventive maintenance on heavy equipment like loaders and plow trucks, as well as fire vehicles, ambulances, police vehicles, and light trucks in the town's fleet. They also maintain various pieces of small equipment like lawn mowers and chainsaws for public works, recreation, cemetery and fire departments.

Police clerk-dispatch Nicole Poulin resigned in January after almost 12 years with the town. The clerk-dispatcher provides important clerical and administrative support to the police force and helps people who call the non-emergency line or walk-in to the department. Recruitment for her replacement is underway.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Barre Town Rabies Clinic

When: Saturday, March 9, 2019
Where: South Barre Fire Station
Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



- Cost \$15.00 per vaccination
- Dogs and cats must be leashed and/or in a carrier
- Save time in line by completing the Vet required info sheets. The form is available on the town website
- Residents and non-residents are welcome

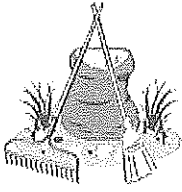
The Town Clerk will be available at the clinic to license Barre Town dog(s). For more information call 479-9391.

By Donna Kelly, Town Clerk-Treasurer

~ Sponsored by the Barre Town Fire Department Auxiliary ~

Green Up Coordinator Needed

The town is looking for a Green Up Coordinator. This volunteer will help make Green Up in Barre Town this May successful by recruiting volunteers, suggesting areas for cleanup, and reporting back to the Green Up organization. The Town Manager's Office helps with these tasks and more. For more info, call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331.



By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

2019 Local Election Information

Voter registration: There is *no deadline to register to vote in the State of Vermont*. Registration has never been easier: call the Clerk's Office (802) 479-9391 to request a voter application be mailed to you, stop by the office and complete the voter application, register online through the Secretary of State's Office (<https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>), or on election day register to vote at the polling place.



General voting information: Election *warnings and sample ballots* will be posted on the website (www.barretown.org) as they become available. *Early ballots* can be requested by calling (802-479-9391) or emailing (wmoore@barretown.org) the Town Clerk's Office. *Polling hours* for all elections are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School gym unless otherwise advertised.

School Election Calendar: Most everyone knows by now the Special Barre Town Middle & Elementary School reconsideration vote on January 8, 2019 failed. This means there will be more school elections than normal during the next 4 months.

By virtue of the recent State declaration, Barre Town and Barre City Schools have been merged into a new school district which is called the Barre Unified Union School District (BUUSD). As directed by State law, this new school district held its interim Organizational Meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the Spaulding High School cafeteria. During this meeting the interim Board conducted business relating to how the BUUSD would operate. Other statutory items need to be decided by the voters of the BUUSD prior to the beginning of the new school year (July 1, 2019). That is right – more elections regarding school district operations. As of the printing of this article, this is the information I have for upcoming School elections.

- Voting by Australian Ballot will be held for the Barre Unified Union School District on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Registered voters of both the Town and City will be asked to amend the State's Default Articles of Agreement. The amendments to be voted on are: Increase the number of school director seats, state their term length, define how many seats will come from City, Town, or at-large (representing both communities); School restructuring and closing must be approved by the voters of the Barre Unified

Union School District; Redistricting/Choice – Students will not be required to attend a school outside their current town of residency. However, they may voluntarily request assignment at another elementary school (PreK – 8) based on policies established by the School Board.

- Voting by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 (Traditional Town Meeting) will be to fill the school Director seats of the existing school boards (Barre Town Middle & Elementary School + Spaulding Union High School) and to seek authorization to borrow monies, if needed, to operate. These school districts will continue to operate through June 30, 2019. Petitions for Office and the Consent of Candidate forms were due on January 28, 2019, 5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerks Office.

- On or before April 11, 2019 – there will be a vote to elect Board members for the new BUUSD whose terms will begin July 1, 2019. Petitions and Consent of Candidate forms are due to the Town Clerk the 6th Monday prior to the election date.

On or before May 22, 2019 the budgets for BUUSD and Central VT Career Center will also need to be voted on. The hope is the stars align and the BUUSD budget vote will be the same time as the Barre Town Municipal election.

Municipal Election Calendar:

- The next municipal event will be the Barre Town Non-Partisan Caucus to be held on Monday, March 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room.

- Open Town Meeting (from the floor vote), Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room.

Election of Officers and voting by Australian ballot will be held at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School gymnasium, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. This vote is for the municipal budget and various Town offices. Deadline for Petitions and Consent of Candidate forms is Monday, April 8, 2019, 5:00 p.m. at the Barre Town Clerk's office.

To get the most up-to-date election information be sure to visit the Town website (www.barretown.org) frequently. See you at the polls!

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Winter Recreation Offerings

The fluffy white stuff outside may be a pain to shovel, but its fun to play in! There are several places to cross-country ski and snow shoe in town. The town forest boasts a variety of trails to suit your skill level. The Millstone Trails Association maintains the trails, as well as maps and trail conditions. You can pick up a paper map at the town offices at 149 Websterville Road, see an online version at millstonetrails.org, or see maps and trail conditions on your smartphone by following Millstone Trails on the TrailHUB app, available at your preferred app store.



(Continued on page 4)

(Cont'd - Winter Recreation Offerings)

For more leisurely jaunts, there are three options. Two of them are accessible when you park at the Barre Town School. Millstone West Bike Path goes about a mile one way through woods, past the Rock of Ages Visitor's Center, and comes out on Compo Street in Lower Graniteville Village. There's also the Barre Town Rec Area Loop. Both are groomed by Millstone Trails Association. The third option is the East Barre Bike Path. The closest public parking is on Mill Street.

Some of you may remember the great sledding party of February 2017. After several other attempts were foiled by weather, this season the Barre Town Rec Board has opted to review the weather forecast during their regular meeting before deciding whether to have a sledding party the following weekend. Keep an eye on barretown.org, Front Porch Forum, or the Barre Town Recreation Facebook page for the announcement. In the meantime, anyone may use the hill behind the town offices for sledding. Just park in the lot at 149 Websterville Road.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Dog Leash Law

The Town of Barre handles nuisance animal complaints through two different avenues; either an animal control officer appointed by the town manager, or in their absence through the police department. As a reminder, the nuisance ordinance applies to domestic animals, while Vermont Fish & Game has primary responsibility for wild animals. For animal control assistance, call the police dispatch line (479-0509). Violations of the nuisance ordinance may result in a monetary fine that increases with subsequent violations, among other penalties. Nothing in the ordinance prevents the police department from bringing criminal charges for a violation of state law. Typical violations include, but are not limited to:

- An animal that injures a member of the general public; or kills or severely injures a domestic animal or pet.
- An animal that repeatedly disturbs or threatens the safety of members of the public.
- An animal that has been permitted to damage the property of anyone other than its owner including damage to gardens, defecating on the property of another and causing injury or worry to another's domestic animals and pets.
- An animal that is being maintained in an unsanitary condition which results in an offensive odor or is dangerous to public health or safety.
- Property that is offensive, annoying or dangerous to public health because of the number of animals or type of animals kept on the property.
- An animal is repeatedly or habitually barking, whining, howling or making any other loud noise in a continuous or untimely manner that interferes with the reasonable use of

neighboring premises.

- A domestic animal that is diseased with either rabies or another disease that is dangerous to public health.
- An animal that habitually chases, snaps at, barks at, or otherwise harasses pedestrians, other dogs, bicyclists, or generally any other passerby.
- A dog that is trespassing onto property that does not belong to the dog owner and without permission from the property owner.
- Any other general domestic animal nuisances.

All dogs must either be on a leash or under voice control of its owner at all times. This includes while in the Town Forest and in the town recreation area. All dogs over 6 months old in Vermont must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. See the article on page 2 about licensing your dog.

By William Dodge, Chief of Police

20 Years of Freezing Fun

In 2019, Freezing Fun for Families (FFFF) will hold its 20th winter softball fundraiser at the Barre Town rec fields. The mission of the organization is to alleviate stress and financial hardship for families battling childhood cancer. Over its lifetime, FFFF, participating softball teams, and many other donors have raised over \$450,000. This has helped 40 families bridge the financial gap between what they are forced to do while their child is receiving treatment and what they can afford to do as their families continue to battle childhood cancer.



Freezing Fun For Families' oldest and largest fundraiser is its world-record holding, annual winter co-ed softball tournament. The 2019 tournament will be held March 1-3. Registration is open until February 23 and is limited to the first 68 teams. The cost is \$300 per team.

For their 20th anniversary, FFFF is highlighting the families of 15-year-old Julia Chase and 4-year-old Jayden Krause, both of whom were diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. An exciting thank-you celebration is in the works and games and festivities are free to attend.

Freezing Fun For Families also organizes an annual banquet and silent auction. This year it will be held on February 23 at the Barre Elks Lodge. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet current and prior year beneficiaries. Tickets are \$25 per person, available at the door or in advance through the Barre Elks Lodge or Freezing Fun for Families (802) 498-3884.

According to FFFF, 25 to 30 new cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed in Vermont each year. In recent years, to expand its ability to help more families, FFFF has added an annual charity golf tournament and the Konner Drury Fund (with support from the Drury family) which provides \$250 stipends to families to help with immediate financial needs.

Freezing Fun for Families hopes to do even more in the next 20 years. To see how you can help, register a team, or make a cash or in-kind donation visit freezingfunforfamilies.com.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Skate Park Fundraiser

The annual Travis Mercy Skate Park Fundraiser is almost here! If you like snowmobiling, poker, food, silent auctions, quilts, or skateboarding, make sure you've set aside time for the Barre Town Thunder Chickens' annual fundraiser extravaganza on Saturday, February 16.



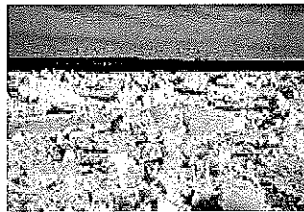
Those who snowmobile will want to meet up for the Snowmobile Poker Ride that starts at 9am at the Great Energy Store, Cor.14B WN13/WN16. Registration is from 8:15am to 9am.

The rest of us can drive, walk, or ski to the Barre Town School Cafeteria for the silent auction and quilt raffle, 11am -2pm. The pulled pork and chicken dinner with all the fix-in's, catered by Randy Henry and The Racing Chefs, will also be there, serving at 1pm. \$10 for adults and \$5 for children; free for children under 5 years of age. Proceeds benefit the Travis Mercy Memorial Skate Park in the Barre Town Rec Area.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Ice Jams

An ice jam is sheets or chunks of river ice creating a blockage. The hazard created by an ice jam is flooding-upstream (behind the blockage) flooding or downstream outburst flooding. Ice jams usually happen in late winter to early spring. According to the National Weather Service (NWS) 41% of jams occur in March, 26% happen in January, 17% come about in February, but April sees only 5% of jams.



Jams build up predominately in late winter and spring because ice has had time and sufficient cold temperatures to form and thicken. (A rule of thumb is ice 12" thick ice is enough to cause a jam.) In late winter and early spring snow melt and rain raise water levels moving chunks of ice downstream creating potential for jams.

Prime locations for ice jams are: 1) dramatic changes in slopes; 2) a change in channel depth (deep to shallow); 3) sharp bends; 4) narrow channels; 5) a channel obstruction such as bridge piers, islands, intact ice and trees in the channel. Ice jams tend to occur in one place in Barre Town - in the Jail Branch along Rt. 302. Referring to the prime location listed above, the Jail Branch between East Barre and Barre City has dramatic changes in slope, sharp bends, narrow channels and channel obstructions.

An ice jam, per se, is not a hazard. Flooding that could be caused by an ice jam is the hazard. There could be flooding upstream (behind the jam), which would be like typical open water flooding with water overflowing the channel banks. Flooding could happen downstream if the ice jam suddenly burst open (outburst flooding).

In the current town Hazard Mitigation Plan ice jams are rated a moderate threat with minor impacts. The occurrence of jams was judged to be occasional to likely. Occasional

means a 1%-10% probability in a year or 1 chance in the next 100 years. Likely means more than 10% probability but less than 100% probability of a jam per year or 1 chance in the next 10 years.

Every winter ice will form on the Jail Branch. An ice jam may form but flooding may or may not happen. To break up a jam the river needs to rise three times the ice thickness. For example, if the ice averages 15" thick the river would have to rise 45". "It is difficult to determine if river ice will melt out or break up and its even harder to determine if it will cause ice jam flooding..." (NWS).

Barre Town staff monitor the Jail Branch ice situation along or near roads. Town management attends VT Emergency Management's (V.E.M.) annual Spring Flood seminar. During spring flood season the town receives weather and flood condition information from the NWS and V.E.M.

The public should heed advice not to drive through water across a road-any time not just during spring flooding. If residents see a jam or water backing up behind a jam call the town, 476-3522, 479-9331 or 476-3147. Ice sheets and chunks may be interesting but it is not advisable to walk on ice along a river whether water is backing up or not.

(Editors note: much information for this article came from a NWS presentation at the VT Emergency Preparedness Conference in September 2018.)

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Water in Basement Safety

A common problem during winter months and rainy seasons can be water in your basement. It is very important to understand that water in your basement can have both health and safety concerns and dealing with it should be approached in a timely but cautious manner.

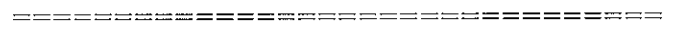


First, do not go into water in your basement until you know that no electrical equipment such as your furnace, hot water heater, etc is in contact with the water. Standing water in the basement can be energized and electrocution can occur. You need to make sure that nothing electrical is in the water which can include cords to electrical equipment or even extension cords. The height of the water in the basement may make the difference between safe or not. A couple of inches might be okay, a foot could be a different story. When in doubt, contact an electrician or somebody else who can help you determine whether it is safe. A good common practice is to make sure any electrical device or cord is not on the floor.

Once safe, the water needs to be removed immediately or damage can occur to your house or mold can form causing a host of other issues. If capable you should remove the water with pumps or wet vacs and use fans to dry the area. There are also professional services that can be hired to dry the basement. Always be cautious and when in doubt stay out and get help.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief

*Property Tax and Sewer Fees are due
on February 15, 2019*



Current Land Use Program - State Requirements

If you have property enrolled in Vermont's Current Use program, remember that the state requires you to take certain actions in order to maintain the property's eligibility in the program.

Forestland: For land enrolled as forestland, you must have an approved forest management plan. There are state standards to follow for this plan, although your plan may have elements that are specific to your own objectives. The property must then be managed according to your approved management plan. The property will be inspected by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation at least once every 10 years to ensure accuracy of the management plan and monitor implementation. Furthermore, by February 1 a Forest Management Activity Report must be filed with the Vermont Department of Taxes to report any management activity which occurred during the previous calendar year. If no activity occurred, no report is due.

Agricultural land: For land enrolled for agriculture, you must complete and submit the Annual Agricultural Land and Building certification by November 1. These forms are mailed to you in the late summer.

If you do not follow these requirements for your property enrolled in the Current Use Program, the state may remove it from the program and tax you accordingly. More information about the requirements, and links to standards for the plan and reporting, can be found at <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-use/current-use-enrollment>. For more help, call the Current Use Program at 802-828-5860, Option 2 or send an email to tax.currentuse@vermont.gov.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Attention VT Resident 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 your property qualifies as a homestead, filing this form ensures that you will be paying the lower education tax rate, versus the non-residential education tax rate. If you don't file an HS-122, your taxes for the coming year will be based on the non-residential rate. In Barre Town, the non-residential education tax rate has been higher than the residential rate since the two rates were created for 2004-2005. On average over the last five years, the non-residential education tax rate in Barre Town has been 14% higher than the residential rate.

Deadline and penalties: The deadline to file your HS-122 with the Vermont Department of Taxes is April 15, 2019 for the home you own and occupy as of April 1, 2019. The penalty for filing after April 15, 2019 is 3% of your education tax bill. If you miss this deadline, you can still file by October 15, 2019 and have your tax rate corrected.

Take note: If your household made less than \$136,500 in calendar year 2018 (whether from a job, retirement income, or other income), you may be eligible for a property tax adjustment. To claim a property tax adjustment, file a Household Income (HI-144) Form with your HS-122 (both parts a and b) by the same deadlines, April 15, 2019 to be on time, and by

October 15, 2019 with a \$15 penalty. Filing both forms will potentially reduce your tax burden even more.

Since retirees often don't file income taxes, they sometimes overlook filing an HI-144 and HS-122 and potentially are paying thousands of dollars more than needed in property taxes. If you have an older family member or friend, check to make sure they are submitting their forms.

If your home is leased on April 1, 2019, but for not more than 182 days in the 2019 calendar year, you may still claim it as a homestead.

Accessing the forms: The 2019 HS-122, and HI-144, can be completed online once myVTax becomes available mid-February at <https://myvtax.vermont.gov>. If you would rather fill out a paper form, you can get one from the Barre Town Assessor's office. Stop by or call 479-2595 to have one mailed to you. The Aldrich Library can also print out the HS-122 and HS-144 forms for you for 60 cents for all 4 pages.

More information is online at tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration. If you have any questions, contact the VT Department of Taxes Homestead specialists at 828-2865.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Seasonal Work Opportunities

Continuing a long-standing practice the town is planning to employ five seasonal helpers this summer. Four summer helpers will work in the public works department (DPW). The other helper will split time between the recreation and cemetery divisions (mostly with recreation). The summer helpers typically work from mid-May to late-August.

The usual work schedule at the DPW is M-F, 7am - 3:30pm. These summer workers will help with most every job DPW undertakes. Common jobs are cutting brush (tree limbs) around road signs and flagging. Training for flagging is provided as are safety materials. Catch basin and manhole rehab (in preparation for road paving) is another usual assignment - working with one or more full-time DPW staff.

The recreation - cemetery helper will work where assigned. The work week is M-F. Starting time may vary (7am - 8am). Most work time is spent with the recreation crew doing park maintenance. With both divisions almost all work is related to lawn maintenance. Possible other work is athletic field maintenance, light building maintenance, painting, emptying trash and recycling barrels.

For 2019 the first year pay rate is \$11.55 per hour. Summer helpers who come back receive an additional \$.25 per hour for each additional year. A bonus of up to \$1.25 for each hour worked is offered for excellent work attendance.

Use of power equipment is required. Because of child labor laws applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Applications can be picked up at the Town Manager's Office or by calling 479-9331. The employment application also is accessible through the town's website, www.barretown.org/Permits_Forms/employmentapplication.pdf. Applications can be dropped off at the Town Manager's Office, mailed to P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT, 05678 or emailed to offices@barretown.org. Application review will begin March 26.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Project Updates

Rt. 110/Mill Street Intersection: This VT Agency of Transportation (AOT) project is slated to be released for bidding in mid-March. Contract award could happen in late April. AOT staff managing the project think construction will commence in early August. The contract documents have a November 15, 2019 completion deadline.

One-way traffic on Mill Street in the work zone is planned. From Rt. 110 to about the fire station apron (overhead doors), Mill Street will be one-way south, i.e. from Rt. 110 to Websterville Road. The one-way traffic pattern is expected to be in place for much of the project. A public information meeting, during a Selectboard meeting, will be held mid-June to July.

The town department of public works will replace a section of water pipe from the mouth of Old Rt. 302 into Bianchi Street. Rt. 110 in that area will be repaved as part of the intersection project.

When completed Mill Street's intersection with Rt. 110 will be shifted to the south (towards Waterman St.) making it a more traditional T-intersection. Squaring up the intersection will improve the sight line for drivers stopped on Mill Street looking to their right. The realignment also will remove the straight shot drivers have from Rt. 110 up Mill Street, which should reduce the speed of traffic on Mill Street. A new sidewalk will be constructed from Old Rt. 302 to Summer Street.

AOT will pay 100% of the project expense using federal highway safety money.

Waterline, Jail Branch Crossing: In late December AOT arranged a meeting with town officials (consulting water engineer, town engineer, town manager) and AOT staff working on the Rt. 110 - Mill Street project (described above) and the Rt. 110 bridge. AOT staff were trying to coordinate the three projects.

Barre Town was planning during May, June 2018 to lay a short section (about 60') of 8" water pipe from the Jail Branch to the end of a pipe under the Rt. 302 roundabout. To use that space the Town needed an easement from the state. The AOT permit division didn't issue a permit/easement because it was uncertain how the waterline and subsequent pedestrian - waterline crossing of the Jail Branch would affect the state's bridge plans.

The scoping (information collection) phase for the Rt. 110 bridge started during the summer of 2018. AOT is very, very early in the planning, design and construction process.

Coordination of details for the intersection project were settled. The Town's pedestrian, waterline crossing is on hold until the state has a better idea what its bridge project will be. The abutments on the downstream side of the bridge are the major factor. The pedestrian crossing structure could be beneficial to the state, thus AOT is trying to accommodate the town's proposed project.

The pedestrian - waterline crossing and short section of pipe from the Jail Branch to Rt. 302 are the last steps in the town's mission to have an 8" water pipe connection from East Barre village to East Cobble Hill Road (where 8" pipe is in the ground).

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Foodbank Grant and Project: The Vermont Foodbank's distribution facility located in the Wilson Industrial Park here in Barre Town is growing once again. After starting in South Barre, the Foodbank constructed a new building in the industrial park which greatly increased its distribution capacity. Now, serving 153,000 food insecure persons in Vermont each year, and a focus on fresh food preparation, the Foodbank finds itself in need of more improvements.

The Vermont Foodbank is beginning a three-year capital project designed to renovate the Barre Town warehouse and office building. The first phase consists of renovating cooler and freezer space, as well as exterior site work for stormwater improvements. The three-phase project is estimated to cost 4.6 million dollars.

The money to pay for the proposed projects comes from several sources. Barre Town can help by applying for a Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) grant. While Foodbank employees write the grant application and will administer a large portion of it, only a municipality can apply for VCDP funds. In February, a \$ 1,000,000 grant application will be submitted by Barre Town to the VCDP in hopes of being awarded money that will go a long way towards helping the Vermont Foodbank serve food to over two-thirds of the State of Vermont.

The Vermont Foodbank doesn't only help feed hungry Vermonters, it provides jobs to area residents. This grant will help in many ways and Barre Town is proud to have partnered before with the Foodbank and we are looking forward to another successful project.

By Chris Violette, Planning and Zoning Director

Visit Town Departments

More than 25 years ago the Budget Committee started taking a tour of town departments. For almost as long town residents have been invited to join the tour. It is likely the 2019 Budget



Committee will visit town departments and buildings. When the date and time are set an invitation for the public to participate will be announced and posted. On the tour everyone - Committee members and citizens - are given the same access in buildings and same opportunity to converse with department heads.

At a minimum the walk-throughs and visits will include the municipal building, two fire stations, ambulance station and two public works garages. Participants walk around the buildings, check-out equipment and hear the department heads' presentation (usually show and tell) on a major topic. A question and answer period follows.

A booklet is offered. It gives a description of each department and building(s), a report on recent budgeted items and proposed items. An extensive list of key budget facts is included.

In the past many people accepted this invitation. They found a lot of information was made available and they gained a better understanding of department operations.

Children accompanied by an adult are welcome. Watch and listen for the tour announcement. Call the Town Manager's Office (479-9331) for more information.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

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PO BOX 116
WEBSTERVILLE VT 05678

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February 2019

Development Review Board – *By Julie Kimball, 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 2018: Denied VT Creamery, LLC Site Plan; Appr. 1st phase hearing VT Foodbank Site Plan; addressed appeal regarding discharge of firearms at 196 Richardson Road, continued to December 12.

December 2018: Appr. BLA One Bridge Street, LLC; Appr. 2-lot SD at 221 Jensen Road; Appr. Site Plan One Bridge Street, LLC; Appr. 2nd hearing req. Site Plan for Foodbank; CUP req. cont'd date certain to Jan. 9 for 500 Upper Prospect Street; Appeal cont'd from Nov. 14 meeting regarding firearms target practice at 196 Richardson Road. Deliberation session to be held within 45 days for decision.

January 2019: Appr. One Bridge Street, LLC amended Site Plan off So. Barre Road; CUP at 500 Upper Prospect Street, to be continued to Feb. 13th; Discussion regarding potential BLA at 21 Garden Street.

Planning Commission – *By Julie Kimball, 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 2018: No meeting.

December 2018: Discussed Enhanced Energy Plan; discussed reclass of surface water with Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

January 2019: 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)*

November 2018: No meeting.

December 2018: No meeting.

January 2019: Reviewed and discussed VTrans plans for Mill Street/Rt. 110 realignment project; discussed possible traffic calming measures for Daniels Drive; discussed 2019-2020 budget items, possibly increasing the line items for signs and posts; discussed, reviewed and followed up on various recommendations/Selectboard Action items. Items will be reviewed at February meeting.