



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

New Town Manager Named

In the August newsletter I told you that Barre Town’s long-time Town Manager, Carl Rogers, had announced his intent to retire, and that the search process to find Carl’s replacement had begun. I am happy to report to you now that as a result of that search process, Chris Violette has been chosen to be Barre Town’s next Town Manager.

Carl Rogers announced to the Selectboard on January 25th, 2022, that he intended to retire in January 2023, giving us about a one-year notice. Carl has served as our Town Manager for more than 31 years. Advertisements seeking applicants for the job went out to various publications and websites during the last week of August, and interviews occurred in October and November. On January 3rd the Selectboard announced that Chris Violette was appointed to the position of Assistant Town Manager effective immediately, and would be appointed to the position of Town Manager upon Rogers’ retirement.

Chris is no stranger to most Town residents. He is a life-long resident of Barre Town and has been employed as the Town’s Planning and Zoning Administrator for the past 24 years. In addition to serving as the P&Z Administrator, Chris has been a member of the Barre Town Fire Department for more than 35 years, the last 18 years serving as Fire Chief. He has also been a member of the Town’s Planning Commission, and has served in the past as a Justice of the Peace. Our Town Charter prohibits the Town Manager from holding any other position in the Town, therefore Chris will be required to resign from the other positions that he holds.



Chris is currently serving as Assistant Town Manager, a position that has been vacant since the departure of Elaine Wang who left Barre Town to become the Winooski City Manager in May 2022. In this capacity Chris will work with Carl for several months to help with the management transition, and upon Carl’s official retirement (which is anticipated to occur no later than April 29) Chris will be appointed to the position of Town Manager. Congratulations Chris!

By Paul White, Selectboard Chairman



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Waterline Projects

Websterville Water Mains: Seven bids for this contract were opened on April 21. The low bidder was Munson Earth Moving. The bid was higher than expected, therefore the Selectboard accepted the recommendation to eliminate from the contract: replacing the main in Sabetto, adding a main in Brook Street between Libercet and Church Hill Road, and re-paving the excavations. On May 3 the Selectboard awarded a \$555,306 contract to Munson. The pre-construction meeting was held on October 10. Work began in November. At this time all the new main lines have been installed. All the houses have been connected to the new 8” mains except one house on Brook Street and the six on Violette Street. The house connections should be completed by the end of February. Munson will return in the spring to do any necessary restoration. The trenches are being restored with asphalt millings until streets are re-paved in 2024. As of this writing Munson has billed \$289,227. The project is expected to wrap up under budget. The Town is using CLFRF to pay for this project.

Wilson Industrial Park Waterline: This project is laying 2,725’ of 8” water pipe from the existing end of 8” pipe in Parker Road to existing 8” pipe near the bottom of Bolster Road. With this project all waterline extensions in the W.I.P. will be done. On September 14, 2022, eight construction bids were opened. Munson Earth Moving again was the low bidder at \$374,950. The Selectboard awarded the contract on September 20. A pre-construction meeting was held on February 13. As of this writing Munson is preparing the site for construction activity. Digging and laying pipe is expected to be completed in the spring.

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Dates & Events

- March 3 - 5 - Annual FFF Winter Softball Tournament
- March 7 - Town Meeting Day
- March 11 - Rabies Clinic (Drive-Thru)
- April 1 - Dog Licenses Due
- April 1 - Winter Parking Ban Ends
- April 8 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- April 18 - Homestead Declaration Due
- May 9 - Barre Town Annual Elections



The State of Vermont requires all dogs to be licensed with their town, 20 V.S.A. § 3581. If you own a dog that is six months of age or older it must be licensed annually by April 1 through the Town Clerk's Office.

To license your dog, you must present the following items to the Town Clerk's Office:

- A current copy of the rabies certificate
- Payment for the license: \$10.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$14.00 for a dog that is not fixed.

These prices are good until April 1, 2023. Unlicensed dogs (after April 1, 2023) will be charged a late fee plus you could receive a fine of \$35.00 from Barre Town.

License by Mail: If the Town Clerk's Office has a current rabies certificate on file for your pet, a license renewal form was mailed to you in early January. Please be sure to review the information carefully and make any necessary corrections. You will need to sign the license and enclose the payment and license renewal form in the return detachable self-addressed envelope. This can be mailed or simply dropped in one of the drop boxes located at the Municipal building. A dog license tag will be mailed to you upon receipt of required paperwork and correct fees.

If the rabies certificate on file has expired or will expire before April 1, 2023, you would have received a postcard reminder in January. Once you have obtained an updated rabies certificate for your dog, simply bring the certificate to the Clerk's Office to obtain the license. You may also use our online Dog Licensing Form! The online Dog Licensing Form is a PDF fillable form dog owners can complete online and email, mail, or drop off to the Clerk's office. Cash or checks can be mailed with the form or residents can make a miscellaneous payment using our online payment service. Licenses and tags will be mailed to you upon receipt of all required paperwork.

Please help by reminding your friends and neighbors to license their dogs. If you no longer own a dog, whether it is deceased or has gone to a new home, please contact the Town Clerk's Office to let us know so we can update our records.

By Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Barre Town Public Works Yard, 79 Pitman Rd, will once again be the site of a household hazardous waste collection event on April 8, 2023, beginning at 9:00am. The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, which Barre Town is a member of, will host this event and anybody that is a resident of a member town is able to drop their waste off. Eligible items include paint thinners, solvents, paints or stains



WITHOUT identifiable labels, cleaners that contain bleach, drain openers, oven cleaners, pesticides, and aerosols. The cost of this event is \$20 per vehicle and proof of residency is required. Gates will close at 1:00pm. Check cvswmd.org for more details.

By Chris Violette, Assistant Town Manager

The Barre Town Fire Department will host its annual Rabies Clinic for dogs & cats on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at the Public Works garage, 79 Pitman Road, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The cost is \$15 per vaccine (checks made payable to the Barre Town Firefighters Assoc.). This is a drive-thru clinic; we encourage people to stay in their vehicles as a vet tech will come to get your pet. Please make sure that dogs are leashed and cats crated.

To help expedite the process, please fill out an intake form and consent form which can be found at www.barretown.org.

Barre Town residents will also have the option to be able to license their dog(s) during the Rabies Clinic hours. The Clerk's Office will be open that day, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Once your pet has obtained their rabies vaccination simply stop by the Clerk's Office at 149 Websterville Road and they will be happy to assist you in licensing your dog.

By Chris Violette, Assistant Town Manager

March Town Meeting Day

The first Tuesday in March is the traditional day for Town Meeting in Vermont. As usual for Barre Town, the March election will be for school issues only, as Barre Town Municipal/Town elections are held in May by Town Charter. The Barre Unified Union School District and Central Vermont Career Center School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Gymnasium.



On March 7, 2023, voters will be asked to make decisions on items such as School Directors, the proposed school operating budget, and whether to allow the School Board to borrow operating funds and authorize the School Board to assign funds for the Spaulding High School Asbestos Remediation, Barre City Roofing project, and Spaulding School lighting upgrade lease.

The Barre Unified Union School District will hold a floor vote on March 6, 2023 at Spaulding High School, Library, 6:00 p.m. to elect a School District Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and to approve stipend payment for those elected officials.

The Central Vermont Career Center School District will hold an Annual Meeting and Informational Meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the CVCCSD, room 136. The business to be transacted by floor vote is to elect a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer and to approve a stipend payment for elected officials. Other items to be voted on are whether to allow the Board of Directors to borrow funds, and to authorize a mailed notice of the Annual Report and proposed school budget.

For more information on the articles to be voted on or to view a copy of the warnings and sample ballots visit www.barretown.org.

How do I request an early or absentee ballot? You must request ballots each calendar year. There are no standing orders.

There are multiple options to request an absentee ballot:

- ◆ Call the Clerk’s Office at 802.479.9391
- ◆ Email bgarbacik@barretown.org or tlunt@barretown.org
- ◆ Use the My Voter Page portal at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

How to register to vote? There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the Town Clerk’s Office or going online to: <https://olvr.vermont.gov>.

For more information regarding elections, visit the Barre Town website at www.barretown.org and go to the Town Clerk page and click Election Information.

By Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

Filing Nomination Papers

Are you thinking about serving your community? If you wish to run for office, you must submit a Consent of Candidate Form and Petition to the Town Clerk’s Office by **Friday, March 24, 2023** for Barre Town’s Municipal Annual Election of Officers “Town Meeting” on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

Consent of Candidate Form and/or Petition Form:

- Visit the Barre Town website at www.barretown.org – the form is located on the Town Clerk page, under Election Information
- Visit the Town Clerk’s Office
- Call the Town Clerk’s Office at 802.479.9391 or email tlunt@barretown.org
- VT Secretary of State’s website at <https://sos.vermont.gov>

Town Caucus: The Barre Town Non-Partisan Caucus meeting will be held on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building.

A Town Caucus is a meeting of the members of the political parties who gather to nominate a candidate for an elected office (Selectboard, Moderator, Town Clerk, etc.) Non-Partisan means that the political parties holds their meetings together, not separately. It has been a Barre Town tradition to hold a non-partisan Town Caucus meeting to help with the recruiting process ensuring there is at least one candidate for each municipal office.

By Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

Budget Work Progress

The Budget Committee began meeting January 31. As of this writing the Committee has received budgets for the Building Fund, Cemetery Fund, Equipment Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Sewer Capital Improvement Fund, and Records Restoration Fund. The Committee will receive the Highway Fund, Ambulance Fund and General Fund budgets soon. The Committee will review and study these budgets until March 28 when it will vote to set the amount of the General and Highway Fund budgets that will appear on the Town Meeting ballot for voter action. The Committee will adopt the other eight budgets.

In December the Town sought applications for citizens who wished to serve on the Committee. Nine residents applied. From that group of nine the Selectboard appointed Jamie Cushman and Todd Provencher, both first-time Committee members. The Town Clerk appointed Mike Gilbar who has

served on the Committee in recent years. Those three appointed Chris Neddo and Josh Howard. The five citizens and five Selectboard members are the Budget Committee.

The Committee will meet every Tuesday night from 6:00 to 7:50. The public is welcome to attend in-person or remotely. Information about how to join the meeting is printed on every agenda which is posted on the Town website and at Hannaford, Trow Hill Grocery and Graniteville General Store. The budget summary and highlight pages are posted on the Town website. Look under the Publication and Budget link on the homepage. The dollar amount and percent change for each completed budget are presented below:

-Records Restoration	+\$430	or	2.29%
-Sewer	-\$9,925	or	-.82%
-Sewer Cap. Improvement	-\$18,125	or	-100%
-Water	+\$49,515	or	10.50%
-Equipment	+\$141,560	or	9.09%
-Cemetery	-\$1,320	or	-1.60%
-Building	+\$3,775	or	5.97%

Some Town property owners use the Town water and sewer systems and pay user fees. For the Water Fund budget a 2% increase in the water consumption rate is proposed while the base charge would stay the same. For the Sewer Fund, it is proposed the rate remain at \$350 per unit (household) per year.

For more information contact the Town Manager’s Office at 479-9331.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

CLFRF Update

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARAP) included a program known as Covid Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF).

Barre Town received \$2,307,709 from CLFRF. The money must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. To date the Selectboard has spent or earmarked (not necessarily obligated) about 58.3% of the Town’s CLFRF award.

Three items have been purchased and paid for thus far: **1)** meeting room digital audio-visual equipment (\$43,812); **2)** Old 302 pump station pump controls (\$12,198); and **3)** DPW shop emergency power generator (\$35,616)

Use of CLFRF money has been designated for nine items: **1)** Town radio system (\$450,000); **2)** providing water and sewer service to the Town owned lot on Buick Street (\$5,800); **3)** DPW Yard stormwater facility (\$45,000); **4)** waterline crossing the Jail Branch on the new Rt. 110 bridge (\$112,145); **5)** Websterville waterlines (\$555,000); **6)** engineering expense for connecting Town and Websterville water systems (\$12,000); **7)** Cemetery columbarium (\$27,500); **8)** Barre City water and sewer communication system (\$12,180); **9)** two automated flaggers (\$34,000).

In the paragraph above, the amounts designated by the Selectboard are listed. The final cost for some of these projects/purchases will be less than designated. Work in one form or another is underway on six of the nine designated uses. You can read about items 3, 4, and 5 in the Project Updates article starting on page 1. Research on the radio system improvements is underway. The engineering services letter for number 6 was signed recently. The contract to build the Wilson Cemetery columbarium was awarded last fall.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager



Employee Changes

Barre Town has seen many staff changes over the last few months. New positions, staff turnover, retirements, and new hires! Please see below for a summary by department.

Chris LaMonda has resigned as the Director of Barre Town EMS effective 12/31/22. Chris has decided to pursue his teaching career where he will continue to have an impact on the EMS world as he trains upcoming caretakers. Thank you, Chris, for your time with Barre Town. We wish you the best as you pursue your passion for teaching.

Paul Ginther was hired on January 16, 2023, as the new Director of Barre Town EMS. Paul comes to Barre Town from Jacksonville, Florida. He recently retired from the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, where he had served since 1997 most recently serving as Captain since 2006. Paul had been certified as a Paramedic since 1992 and plans to pursue Vermont certification after he begins his new position in Barre Town. Welcome, Paul!

Louie Messier: Long-time EMS employee Louie Messier served as a dedicated full-time member of our EMS team for 23 years. Thank you for your service, Louie. We are also pleased to welcome **Kyle Brown** and **Natalie Mattson** to the full-time team.

Johnny Crossley: On October 25th Johnny joined Barre Town as our first Recreation Director. He will oversee the field reservation system, Town Forest and maintenance of all recreation properties. In addition, Johnny hopes to create new recreational opportunities, events, and festivals.

Born and raised in Marcy, New York, he graduated from Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with a dual concentration in Sport Management and Marketing, and a Minor in Economics. After college Johnny served as a Gaming Operations Inspector for the New York Gaming Commission for six years.

If you would like to discuss Recreation in Barre Town you may reach Johnny's Office at (802) 477-1382 or by e-mail at JCrossley@barretown.org.

Department of Public Works: accepted three resignations in the last few months. Shawn Codling took a position with the Town of Plainfield and Tyler Spooner pursued his dream job with Wilkins Harley Davidson. Most recently, Craig Pelletier tendered his resignation after accepting a job with the Town of Berlin. We wish them all luck at their new endeavors.

James Hood and **Chad Hatch** were hired to fill two open positions. James is a former mechanic from Bellavance Trucking before going on his own as a large truck mechanic. His skill set will come in handy as he will be working on our fleet of vehicles. Chad has worked as a crusher foreman, most recently for Pike, and he owned his own logging business.

Ryan John was hired to fill an additional position in DPW. Ryan has come to us from F. W. Webb. He has been on the Fire Department for several years and will be a great help to Public Works. Please join us in welcoming James, Ryan and Chad to the crew.

Chris Violette stepped down from his long tenure as Fire Chief upon becoming the Assistant Town Manager. Chris

served on the Fire Department for 35 years, the last 18 years as Chief. **Andrew Lange** has been appointed Fire Chief by the Town Manager and approved by the selectboard. Andrew has served on the Fire Department for 15 years, most recently as the Assistant Chief in charge of the South Barre fire station. Welcome, Andrew!

Cindy Spaulding: In the wake of the changes that came with Chris Violette's advancement toward the Town Manager position, Cindy will be serving as the Interim Planning and Zoning Director until the permanent position is filled. The hiring process for this position is currently underway. Thank you, Cindy, for filling this role in the interim.

By Katelyn Kran, Finance Director

Town Forest Management Plan Committee

The Community Forest Management Plan Committee was created by the Barre Town Selectboard in June of 2022 with the purpose of reviewing and renewing the Community Forest Management Plan. The Committee consists of: Larry Rogacki (Chair), Jim West (Vice Chair), Patty Meriam, David Rouleau, Lori Bernier, Dean Preston, and Josh Howard. Meetings are scheduled for Monday, February 13th, 20th, and 27th at 6:00 pm. Additional meetings will be scheduled and are announced on Front Porch Forum, in the Times Argus and on the Town website. All meetings are open to the public.

The Committee is interested in hearing from you, whether you are an active user of the Forest or have never set foot in the woods. Your input can help steer the next 10 years of management of the Town Forest. The Committee is currently developing a town-wide survey to gather input on current and future activities.

For more information see the Barre Town website or contact Recreation Director, Johnny Crossley at (802) 477-1382 or by email at JCrossley@BarreTown.org.

By Johnny Crossley, Recreation Director

Employment Available—Assistant Town Clerk

The Town is accepting applications for a full-time assistant town clerk. This assistant town clerk will have primary responsibility for recording land records (deeds, mortgages, easements and similar documents). Both assistant town clerks are required to work on all daily tasks at the counter, by phone and via email, and occasionally attending nighttime meetings to take minutes. Other Town Clerk's Office duties include monthly water billing; dog licensing other licenses such as marriage, fishing and hunting; vehicle registration renewals, taking payment for taxes and fees, and election work. There is a variety of work everyday.

Applicants must have at least a high school diploma or GED, strong computer skills acquired through work experience, excellent customer service and communication skills. Barre Town residency is not required. A successful assistant town clerk will be well organized, attentive to details and be a team player.

Starting pay is \$18.62-\$19.16 depending on experience. Union contract raise kicks in July 1, 2023. One year after hire the pay range is \$20.51-\$22.21. Good benefits package. Work hours are M-F, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm with one hour lunch for a 37.5 hour week.

Applications are available online at www.barretown.org/Permits_Forms/employmentapplication.pdf. Applications may be picked up at the Town Manager's Office or by calling 479-9331. Resumes may be submitted with but not in place of an application. Applications will be accepted until March 8. The Town of Barre is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

File Homestead Declaration

All Vermont property is assumed to be non-homestead unless it is declared (by the owner) to be a homestead. In Barre Town the 2022-2023 non-homestead tax rate set by the state is \$1.4123. The state's homestead property tax rate is \$1.1760. If a homeowner did not file the homestead declaration form (H-122) they would be taxed at the higher non-homestead tax rate. For a home assessed at \$250,000 the owner would pay \$590 more in property taxes over the year.



The HS-122 form must be filed every year. To obtain the homestead tax rate you must own the home you live in. The HS-122 must be filed even if you (like retirees) do not file a state income tax return. If you know a senior citizen that lives in their own home, confirm they've filed the HS-122.

April 18 is the deadline to file the HS-122 this year. You may file the form after April 18 (until October 16) and still receive the reduced homestead tax benefit, but there will be a penalty. The HS-122 can be printed from the VT Department of Taxes website (<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>). Another option to obtain the HS-122 is by calling the Town Assessor's Office at 479-2595.

Homeowners with 2022 income (from all sources) lower than the state's threshold of \$134,800 are eligible for a property tax credit. To claim this credit file the household income (HI-144) form with the HS-122. The HI-144 also must be filed every year.

For more information visit tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration or call the Town Assessor's office at 479-2595.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Grieving Assessed Value of Property

In early June the Town assessor will lodge the abstract of the grand list, the listed value (for tax purposes) of all property in the Town. When the grand list is lodged the assessor gives notice by posting notices at general stores, post offices, on the Town website and in the newspapers. Any property owner may file a grievance within fourteen days of the date the grand list is lodged.

The April issue of this newsletter will include an article about the tax assessment grievance and appeal process.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Applying for Disabled Veteran's Tax Exemption

If you are a disabled veteran, a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran, or a child of a qualifying disabled veteran, you may be eligible for \$40,000 off the assessed value of your Barre Town primary residence that you own. This means if an eligible veteran lives in a home valued at, for example, \$200,000, then that veteran's home would be taxed at \$160,000. Veterans are eligible if they are:

- Receiving Disability Compensation at a rating of 50% or higher;

- Receiving Non-Service Connected Pension (also called Improved Pension); or
- Collecting permanent military retirement pay for a medical military retirement.

The state recommends calling the US Department of Veterans Affairs', Benefits line at (800) 827-1000 no later than April 1st annually to request proof of eligibility, so that you can provide that proof of eligibility to Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs by the due date of **May 1st each year**. State law mandates a minimum \$10,000 exemption. The law also gives towns the option to increase the exemption to \$40,000, with remaining town taxpayers sharing the cost of the remaining \$30,000 in value per residence. In recognition of veterans who have sacrificed so much, Barre Town voted to increase its exemption to \$40,000 (from \$20,000) in 2007. This share appears as the "local agreement rate" on our tax bills.

Source: <https://veterans.vermont.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-benefits/tax-exemptions-veterans>.

By Elaine Wang, re-printed from the February, 2022 newsletter

Annual Freezing Fun For Families Tournament

Freezing Fun For Families is a Vermont based Non-Profit that offers financial support to Vermont families with a child battling cancer. Through grants, community funding, donations and world-renowned fundraisers such as The Worlds Largest Snow Softball Tournament; Freezing Fun For Families has been able to help multiple Vermont families through some of their most trying times.



This year's Snow Softball Tournament will take place at the Barre Town Recreation Area **March 3rd, 4th, and 5th**. Team registration is now open on their website: www.freezingfunforfamilies.com. This year marks the second year in a row in which beneficiary families will be paid out before the event. This year five families will receive a donation. FFFF is now also hosting a Golf Tournament, in addition to their Snow Softball Tournament. Check out their website for more information. The Golf Tournament is played at the Barre Country Club. In its first year they raised over \$10,000 for families in need. Thank you to all who participate in these heartwarming community events!

By Johnny Crossley, Recreation Director

Online Payments

We know that online payments have been a source of frustration for some of our residents. We have spent many hours researching solutions, none of them have panned out to meet the needs of our residents.

To those who are currently registered to make online payments; we thank you for your continued patience and assistance as we are working to improve this process. We appreciate those who provided feedback during this process.

We'll be communicating changes as they happen on the payment page of our website, so please read that page when you go to make an online payment.

You can make a payment on our website by using the miscellaneous payment link found on the "Make a Payment" page. You will not, however, be able to view your balance

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(Cont'd - Online Payments)

due. If you need this information please call the Town Clerk's Office for assistance.

As always, if you have any questions please reach out to us at 479-9391.

By Tina Lunt, Town Clerk, and Katelyn Kran, Finance Dir.

Employment - Public Safety:

Police Department - Applications for both full-time and per diem police officers are being accepted. Applicants that are not currently certified in Vermont will be required to complete all testing, attend the Vermont Police Academy, and an "on the job" training period. For per diem officers the police academy is two weeks, followed by additional classes and a field training period. For full-time officers the police academy is 18 weeks followed by a field training period.

The Barre Town Police Department participates in the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Officers may work dedicated patrols to combat alcohol and aggressive driving offenses. In addition, we provide school resource officer duties at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School and police services for Thunder Road. Full time positions work rotating shifts with weekends off every other month, as well as a generous compensation package. For more information contact Chief Dodge at 479-0509 or email William.dodge@vermont.gov.

EMS - Barre Town EMS is seeking motivated EMTs, AEMTs and paramedics to join our team. Multiple per-diem positions throughout the week are available.

BTEMS offers a challenging work environment involving all aspects of EMS: 911 response, routine interfacility transports, and critical care transports throughout central Vermont and the surrounding area.

Applications can be found on the Barre Town website (www.barretown.org) or can be picked up in person during normal business hours at the Barre Town Municipal Building. All applications must be submitted with copies of a current resume, NREMT licensure, BLS, ACLS, and PALS cards.

For more information, contact EMS Director Paul Ginther at 476-3147, or via email at pginther@barretown.org.

In Search of...

Deputy Health Officer: The deputy health officer (DHO) acts as the health officer when the health officer is not available. The Town receives about a dozen health officer related calls or complaints per year. The health officer's primary duties are rental housing code enforcement, improper storage and disposal of household trash compliance, and dog bite case follow-up. Training and information from the Vermont Department of Health is available. For more information check out <https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/town-health-officer> or call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331. The DHO receives a quarterly stipend of \$100. Submit an application to offices@barretown.org.

Green Up Day Coordinator: Until the Covid pandemic Green Up Day in Barre Town was handled by the Town Manager's Office (TMO) and a volunteer Green Up Day Coordinator. The TMO has interacted with Vermont Green Up to receive promotional posters and Green Up bags, and file reports. The TMO acquires safety gloves and safety notifications. Citizen volunteers sign up for Green Up work and receive bags, gloves and educational material at the TMO. The Town assumes responsibility for collection and disposal of Green Up bags.

Before Covid the coordinator worked on offering rewards for the volunteers. These included a free lunch at the recreation area picnic shelter, raffle prizes, and small gift certificates. The new coordinator could continue and enhance some or all of these efforts, or bring their own ideas about how to recognize and reward volunteers, including making Green Up Day a community event.

If you would like to contribute to keeping the Town's roadsides and public spaces litter free, can solicit donations and organize events, contact the TMO at 479-9331.

Employment Opportunities - Summer Jobs

Public Works Summer Helpers: This year the Town is offering two summer helper positions with the Department of Public Works (DPW). Ideally the summer helpers would begin work about mid-May and work through mid to late August. The usual work week is Monday-Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm for a 40-hour week. The hourly rate will be \$16.50. An end of summer attendance bonus of up to \$1.25 per hour is possible. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a valid drivers license. The summer helpers could be assigned to cutting brush (tree limbs) around road signs, assisting with repairs to catch basins and manholes as needed before road paving, performing an assortment of manual labor tasks along roads before and after paving, and flagging for work site traffic control. Flagger training is provided. Application information is provided below.

Recreation Maintenance Helper: One summer recreation maintenance helper position is available. The Town would prefer to have someone who could work 40 hours per week from mid-May to mid to late August. Works hours are Monday - Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. The hourly rate will be \$16.50. An end of summer attendance bonus of up to \$1.25 per hour is possible. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a valid drivers license. The recreation maintenance helper will report to work at the Town recreation area and work with at least two other maintenance workers. Work tasks include trash and recyclables collection, grass-cutting, trimming, building maintenance, athletic field preparation, maintenance (wood chips) under playground equipment, and similar outdoor maintenance or project tasks. See below for application instruction.

Full-time Seasonal Maintenance: The Cemetery Division and the Recreation Division employ seasonal outdoor maintenance workers from the last week of April into November, depending on weather and ground conditions. One or more of these positions might be available during 2023. The Cemetery Division works a 35 hour week (M-F, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm). The Recreation Division works a 40 hour week (M-F, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm). 2023's first year pay rate is \$16.50. The Cemetery Division maintains the grounds at three cemeteries and the lawn at the Municipal Building. Most of the work is cutting and trimming grass using riding and push mowers and string-trimmers. Fewer than ten graves a season are dug using a skid steer loader. The Recreation Division is responsible for the recreation area, six neighborhood playgrounds, two picnic areas and three bike paths. Staff could perform all the work listed in the Recreation Maintenance Helper ad above. The full season workers also have performed special maintenance projects such as replacing posts and cables, building wooden fences, replacing bike path bridge planks, removing trees across bike paths, staining picnic shelters, repairing basketball backboards, and preparing for and assisting with special events.

Applications for any of these positions can be picked up at the Town Manager’s Office, by calling the Manager’s Office at 479-9331, by emailing offices@barretown.org, or by visiting the Town website at www.barretown.org/Permits_Forms/employmentapplication.pdf. Completed applications (please specify position(s) applying for) can be hand delivered to the Manager’s Office, emailed to offices@barretown.org or mailed to Town of Barre, P.O. Box 116, Websteville, VT, 05678. Application review will begin March 22. Barre Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Men and women are welcome to apply.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Removing Ash Trees

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation’s first confirmed sighting of emerald ash borer was in the Town of Orange along Barre Town’s northeast border. Since then FPR has found the ash borer in Barre Town and in several other counties across Vermont. The emerald ash borer (EAB) bores into white, green and black ash. The larvae bore underneath the bark killing the trees. When ash trees die limbs drop or the tree breaks off. A strong wind is not needed. Dead ash trees are unsafe to cut down because limbs may drop or tops may break off during the cutting.



To reduce incidents of dead ash trees or limbs falling into the road and to keep workers safe, the Town Department of Public Works (DPW) has been removing ash trees from road rights-of-way (r.o.w.). DPW started its cutting work along roads nearest to the first sighting of EAB. DPW is working concentrically outward from the first sighting.

This winter DPW has finished its cutting work on Lyman Road and on East Cobble Hill Road from W. Cobble Hill to Sunnyside Drive. Letters have been mailed to owners of property along Sugarwoods Road and Windywood Road from Sunset to Oak Drive. The next batch of letters will be to owners along Taplin Road and Partridge Road. Based on an ash tree inventory completed by the C.V. Regional Planning Commission in 2019 there are many ash trees along Taplin and Partridge Road.

DPW will drop every ash tree they safely can take down. If there are wires, buildings or other obstructions to a safe fall, DPW will skip over the tree and call in a contractor with a bucket truck.

The letter to property owners advises they can keep the wood. Owners are instructed to call the DPW, if they want the wood left at their property.

Property owners should check their land for ash trees, especially near buildings and often used sections of the property (lawns for instance). For safety reasons owners should consider having the ash trees cut down before they succumb to the EAB.

For more information about the EAB and ash trees see the website www.vtcommunityforestry.org.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Report Ice Jams



From the road or public property Town staff cannot see all of the Jail Branch and Stevens Branch. Residents living along these streams could assist the Town by reporting ice jams. The Jail Branch, in particular, is prone to

build up of ice. Report observations of ice jams to the Town Manager’s Office.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

(Cont’d - Waterline Projects)

After voter approval (March 2021) the Town secured a state loan for the project. Seventy-five (75%) percent of the loan is forgivable. The Town plans to pay for the waterline loan using proceeds from sale of W.I.P. lots. The loan is pre-payable.

Rt. 110 Bridge and Waterline: The bridge replacement is 100% a state Agency of Transportation (AOT) project. The construction contract has been awarded to CCS Construction. It is anticipated the project will start late this spring. There will be a 60-day bridge closure during July and August. The total project will be completed in 2023. The contract calls for construction of sidewalk on both sides of the bridge with extensions to existing sidewalks.



The AOT agreed to attach the Town’s 8” waterline to the new bridge. Moreover, AOT agreed to incorporate the waterline work into the bridge construction contract. The Town bought the necessary pipe and fittings (\$42,900). CCS’s lump sum price for the waterline work, billable to the Town, is \$61,144. The Town is using CLFRF money for these expenses.

DPW Yard Stormwater: A pre-bid meeting for this contract was held on February 2, 2023; ten potential bidders attended. Bids will be opened February 17. The Town has to install a stormwater treatment facility at the DPW Yard because of the 3-acre regulations. The Friends of the Winooski River secured partial grant funding for the job. The facility will be situated in the lower right corner of the Yard and will be underground so the Town may continue using the surface area. Work may begin May 15 and substantial completion must be achieved by September 30, 2023. The Selectboard designated \$45,000 of CLFRF to pay the Town’s share of this project.

Wildersburg Common Stormwater: The Town was awarded a \$512,525 state public-private partnership grant to bring the Wildersburg Common subdivision into compliance with the 3-acre stormwater regulations. The project could be constructed in 2024. The grant will pay 100% of engineering and construction costs.

Rt. 14 - Bridge Street Intersection: The AOT’s Rt. 14 - Bridge Street project tentatively is scheduled for construction in 2025. The project will add left turn lanes in Rt. 14, and a traffic signal. There is no cost to the Town for this project.

Rt. 14 - Quarry Street Intersection: The primary focus of this project is the Rt. 14 Quarry Street intersection in Barre City, but Quarry Street will be improved up to the Town line. Stormwater work will cross over the Town line to tie into the Town’s stormwater system. When completed the intersection will have a traffic signal and left turn lanes on Rt. 14. Two downhill lanes on Quarry Hill Road will be extended to Rt. 14. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2025. The project has a local share. Because of the minor amount of work in Barre Town, the Town’s share is minimal; less than 1%.

By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer and Carl Rogers

Board and Commission Reports

Development Review Board – By C. Spaulding; Members: M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Neddo, J. Valsangiacomo, A. Valentinetti, J. Fecteau and A. Labrador. Alternates: G. Otis and G. Galfetti

SP=Site Plan; CUP=Conditional Use Permit; SD=Subdivision; BLA=Boundary Line Adjustment; V=Variance

August 2022: SP appr. Montessori School; CUP appr. J. Southgate; CUP (cont'd to Sept.) Velie Ave. LLC to allow up to 8 apartments.

September 2022: SP appr. Montessori School; SD appr. 2-lots L&B Bibeau; V appr. E. Parsons; CUP appr. Velie Ave LLC to allow up to 8 apartments; SP Velie Ave. LLC (cont'd to Oct.) for 5,550 s.f. lot.

October 2022: SD appr. 3-lots to B&L Bibeau; SD appr. 2-lots J. Southgate; SP (cont'd from Sept.) Velie Ave. LLC for 5, 550 s.f. lot.

November 2022: CUP appr. Lorenzini up to seven living units

December 2022: SD appr. 2-lots R&K Clark; 2-lots E Poulin; CUP appr. R. Hutchins two-family dwelling; V appr. C. Violette

January 2023: SD appr. 2-lots to S&G Wells

Planning Commission – By C. Spaulding; Members: C. Sanborn, B. Atwood, G. Clain, M. Gilbar, T. Reil and C. Chase

AUD=Allowed Use Determination

August 2022: Guest speaker Clare Rock from CVRPC

September 2022: Joint meeting with Selectboard presenting proposed zoning bylaw amendments and information on solar EAC

October 2022: Solar project Lowery Rd; cont'd discussion to create EAC; update Selectboard on approved zoning amendments

November 2022: ACCD presentation on Village Ctr. Designation Prog; reviewed 2023 Consolidated Renew. Standards; reviewed proposed legislation on housing and zoning

December 2022: Discussed proposed housing and zoning legislation with town reps; cont'd to create EAC

January 2023: Cont'd to create EAC; cont'd to pursue Village Ctr. Designation; review of legislative bills and CVRPC report

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - By Josh Martineau; Members: S. Corbett, D. Freeman, B. Meyer, V. Calcagni, T. Amaral

August 2022: No Meeting

September 2022: Reviewed Bus Stop Ahead sign locations; Voted to install new signs on Richardson Road and Camire Hill Road

October 2022: No Meeting

November 2022: No Meeting

December 2022: Voted to install No Outlet Sign on Philbrook St; Voted to install School Bus Stop Ahead signs near Anderson Rd.

January 2022: No Meeting