

# Barre Town Newsletter

Vol. 15, No. 1

February 2012

## Sterling Hill Road Update



*This temporary open channel replaces the 36" culvert and closes Sterling Hill Road.*

Sterling Hill area residents are all too familiar with the power of nature. This section of town has seen major flash flood damage in 1973, 1983, 2007, and twice in 2011. To most, the seasonal one-way road is an occasional shortcut between Quarry Hill and Websterville to South Barre and beyond. To many, Sterling Hill is part of their daily commute when available.

The future of Sterling Hill Road was a regular Selectboard agenda item in 2011. Discussions ranged from talking about initial cleanup efforts with the neighbors to selecting contractors for bank restoration projects. A well-attended public hearing was held to gather as many ideas as possible before taking action.

### CONTENTS

Egg Hunt for Kids	2
Rabies Clinic Scheduled	2
Summer Employment Opportunities	2
Home Repair Loans	2
Free Electronics Recycling	3
Dog License Deadline is Near	3
Animal Nuisance Reminder	3
Barre Town 2012 Election Calendar	4
March Town Meeting Day	4
Budgeting & Budget Tour	5
Town Caucus Date Set	5
Parcel Mapping Online	5
State Property Tax Forms	6
Winter Softball Tournament	6
Project Updates	7
Travis Mercy Skate Park Fundraiser	7
Boards & Commissions - Summary Report	8

While some residents were in favor of restoring the road and others want to see the road kept closed, everyone agreed that any investment made should be for permanent solution.

Efforts thus far have stabilized the brook. Lamoille Construction has widened parts of the roadside stream, eliminated a number of "pinch-points", and reinforced some of the brook's bank. All is well but for the large open channel that now divides Sterling Hill Road just south of Cherrywood Drive. A hydraulic analysis of the site recommends installation of 70 feet of 8 feet wide by 5 feet tall reinforced concrete box culvert. The previous culvert at this location was 36 inch diameter corrugated metal pipe. The larger box culvert would allow for a more natural streambed, increased flow volume, and could be placed at an angle more suited to the brook's course relative to what previously existed. The estimated cost of this upgrade approaches \$95,000.

After any Presidential disaster declaration, grant money is made available specifically for hazard mitigation efforts. With the still increasing costs associated with Tropical Storm Irene recovery, the funds available for mitigation (set at 15% of the direct damage costs) is also growing. State and Federal officials have noted that property acquisition mitigation, similar to the Town's project in 2007 involving properties along Route 302, will have priority. Other projects to receive serious consideration are those in which the benefits greatly outweigh the costs (benefits include preventing continued damage to habitually affected areas) and those in which a thoroughly developed solution has been presented. Town officials feel the culvert upgrade project very closely meets the grant eligibility requirements, and a hazard mitigation grant program (HMGP) application will be submitted before the mid-February 2012 deadline.

Town staff have worked with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, Vermont Emergency Management, and FEMA to complete the preliminary steps necessary for an HMGP application. In November, the Selectboard authorized staff to submit a Letter of Intent to express our official interest in this program. Through December and January, CVRPC and Town staff worked to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. After a public hearing was held January 24, the plan was submitted to FEMA for review. The Selectboard will be required to

*(continued on page 2)*

**Hazard Mitigation Plan Updated** (*cont'd. from p. 1*) adopt the plan upon FEMA approval. Town staff will work with FEMA-funded consultants to complete the HMGP application prior to submittal. If the Sterling Hill Road project is selected for funding in either the first (March) or second (June) rounds, the Town would be responsible for 25% of the total cost. ■

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

## Egg Hunt For Kids

The City and Town Recreation Departments are pleased to announce the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Egg Hunt on April 7<sup>th</sup> promptly at 10 a.m.. Mark your calendars for one of the most popular special events the Barre area has to offer! Thousands of delicious chocolate eggs, along with special plastic eggs and other goodies, will be hidden and waiting for eager youngsters to gather up and fill their baskets. The bunny plans to stick around for the hunt, so bring your cameras and capture the fun.

The event will be held rain or shine so it is important to dress for the weather. Participants will also need a basket or bag to collect their goodies.

Parking is available at the Barre City Elementary & Middle School, and the hunt is just a short walk down the hill to the park. The event is very popular, so we encourage carpooling. It is also advised (for safety reasons) that you leave pets at home.

There is no fee for this event; instead we ask all participants to bring a non-perishable food item(s) that will be placed in collection barrels just outside the hunt area. The food will be donated to the Vermont Foodbank and distributed to those in need here in our communities. ■

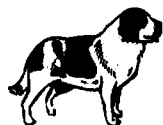


## Rabies Clinic Scheduled

Once again the Town of Barre Fire Department, with the department's auxiliary and Barre Animal Hospital, will host the annual rabies clinic at the South Barre fire station on Saturday, March 24. This event is an affordable way to protect your dog or cat from getting rabies, and proceeds benefit the Fire Department. While all are welcome, the Barre Town Clerk will be on hand to register dogs that reside in town.

The event kicks off at 1:00 p.m. and will go until 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$12. Please make sure that all dogs are leashed and cats are in a carrier.

If you can't attend this clinic, the Town of Orange is holding a rabies clinic on Tuesday, March 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Orange Town Hall. ■



## Summer Employment Opportunities

Barre Town hires several people for full-time summer jobs. If you are interested in full-time work and like working outdoors, consider applying for a job with the Town. The Department of Public Works hires four summer workers who will work on road and utility projects; the Parks and Cemetery Divisions share one worker for green space maintenance.

DPW work hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Parks/Cemetery hours are generally 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Employment applications are available on the Town website ([www.barretown.org/PDFfiles/forms/employment.pdf](http://www.barretown.org/PDFfiles/forms/employment.pdf)).

For more information, call 479-9331 or email [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org). Applications may be mailed to the Town Manager's Office, PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or dropped off at the Municipal Building, 149 Websterville Road, by 4:00 p.m. on March 16. Residents and non-residents may apply. Barre Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer. ■

### Barre Town Middle & Elementary School Kindergärten Registration

Registration for children entering kindergarten in the Fall of 2012 will be held on Wednesday - March 14, Thursday - March 15, and Friday - March 16. Registration is for children born on or before August 31, 2007. Please call Tina Gilbert at 476-6617, ext. 6306, to schedule an appointment for your child.

~ If your child already attends preschool at Barre Town School, you do not need to make an appointment for registration. ~

## Home Repair Loans

Several years ago, the Town of Barre partnered with the Central VT Community Land Trust to administer the Barre Town Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. With money in hand from the program, CVCLT began making low interest loans to qualifying Town residents. Loans must be used for rehabilitation to resolve health and safety issues such as weatherization, structural problems, or system failures. A weatherization or energy efficiency project loan could reduce heating costs and make your home more comfortable. Terms are set based on the applicant's ability to pay. For more information, contact the CVCLT at 476-4493. ■

- Chris Violette, Community Development

## Free Electronics Recycling

Free year-round electronics recycling facilities are now available throughout Vermont. *Vermont e-cycles*, a program of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, is hosted by dozens of sites which will accept computers, monitors, televisions, printers, and computer peripherals (mouse, keyboards, etc.) at no cost. Some other devices may be accepted for a fee.



The program is open to households, not-for-profit organizations, school districts, and small businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Visit [www.vtecycles.org](http://www.vtecycles.org) or call 1-855-6-ECYCLE for complete details including a list of all participating sites and tips on how to remove personal information from devices. It is recommended that you call a site to verify hours of operation and participation in the program prior to bringing in your items. ■

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

addressed envelope along with a check/money order for the license fee. The Clerk's Office, upon receipt of the envelope, will validate the license, issue a tag, and return the license and tag to the pet owner by mail.

• What if my dog's rabies certificate has expired? Owners who licensed their dog(s) in 2011, but do not have a current rabies certificate on file in the Clerk's Office, have been mailed a "reminder postcard" informing them their pet will require a rabies shot before it can be licensed.

• What are the license fees? For a neutered or spayed dog, the license fee is \$9.00. The open dog fee is \$13.00. Any dog licensed after April 1<sup>st</sup> is subject to a 50% penalty under State law.

• If my pet is an indoor dog, do I still have to purchase a license? Yes. State law mandates ALL dogs must be licensed. Pet owners who are in violation of the dog licensing law may be subject to a fine of \$35.00 plus the cost of a new license.

If you would like more information on dog licensing or to review the Barre Town Animal Nuisance Ordinance, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391, by email ([dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org)), or visit the Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org), Charter, Ordinances & Policies). ■

- Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

## TAXES DUE!

Property taxes and sewer use charges are due Wednesday, February 15. Envelopes must bear the postmark of February 15 to avoid penalties. A drop box to the left of the front door of the Municipal Building is available for your after-business-hours convenience. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the box contents will be removed at midnight; after that time a payment is considered late and a 5% late charge will be assessed.

## Dog License Deadline Is Near!

Vermont law requires all dogs and wolf/hybrids to be licensed annually in the Town in which the pet resides. The deadline to license is April 1, 2012.

To better assist Town residents with this task, the Town Clerk's Office is offering a "dog licenses by mail" program. If you meet the criteria (see below), the renewal license form(s) was mailed the week of January 9.

• How does the license by mail program work? All dog owners who licensed their pet in Barre Town in 2011, and have a current rabies certificate (one that does not expire before March 15, 2012) on file in the Clerk's Office, will receive a renewal license by mail. The pet owner will verify/correct the information on the renewal license, sign the form, detach it from the envelope at the perforation, and return it to the Town Clerk's Office in the self-

## Animal Nuisance Reminder

Owning an animal is a responsibility. In addition to proper care, owners are responsible for their animals' behavior and will want to be sure their animals are not creating a nuisance as defined in Barre Town's **Animal Nuisance Control Ordinance** (Sec. 4-90 through 4-100 of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances).

The ordinance lists ten sub-paragraphs describing the circumstances or conditions that are a nuisance. One sub-paragraph describes the conditions commonly referred to as the "dog leash law". Basically, dogs must be physically restrained by leash, cord, or chain – except on its owner's land or on the property of someone who has given permission for the dog to be there unrestrained. The Selectboard, as owner of Town streets, has not given permission for dogs to be loose on Town roads. It definitely is not permissible for dogs to defecate on the property of someone other than its owner.

The Town employs a part-time Animal Control Officer who works under supervision of the Police Chief. Complaints can be reported to the ACO by calling 479-0508. Dispatch will answer at night and on weekends.

If you love your pet, don't let it create a nuisance. Keep or maintain your animals in a safe and sanitary manner that doesn't create a nuisance for others. ■



## BARRE TOWN 2012 ELECTION CALENDAR

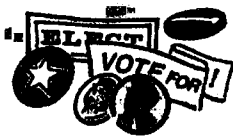
2012 Election	Event Date	Petition Deadline Date - 5:00 p.m.	Voter Registration Date - 5:00 p.m.
Annual School Meeting	March 6, 2012	January 30, 2012	February 29, 2012
Presidential Primary *	March 6, 2012	n/a	February 29, 2012
Town Caucus	March 19, 2012	n/a	n/a
Open Town Meeting	May 2, 2012	n/a	May 2, 2012
Annual Town Meeting	May 8, 2012	April 3, 2012	May 2, 2012
Statewide Primary	August 28, 2012	See State Statute	August 22, 2012
General/Presidential	November 6, 2012	n/a	October 31, 2012

*\*For the March Presidential Primary election, Vermont law requires that a voter must "declare" a party and that the election official must record the party on the Entrance Checklist.*

- Election information is available at the Municipal Building, various local markets, and our website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)).
- Hours: Australian ballot voting will take place at the Barre Town Elementary School gymnasium. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. for all elections.
- Handicap services are available. If you require assistance from the school parking lot area, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391 prior to each election.
- Early Voting Ballots: There are NO standing orders – you must make your ballot request for each election. To make a request, call 479-9391, stop by the office, or email [dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org).
- Checklist (Voter Registration) Applications: Available at the Town Clerk's Office.

- Clip and Save -

## March Town Meeting Day



Traditionally, on the first Tuesday in March voters from around the state gather at their respective polling places to make decisions on local issues. This day has become known as Town Meeting Day.

Whether voting by early ballot or at the polling place, Town

Meeting Day on March 6, 2012 will be a little different. In addition to the School District meetings, there also will be two Presidential Primary Elections. If you choose to participate in a Primary Election, you will have more than one ballot.

What is on the School District ballot? Barre Town has two school districts (Barre Town Middle & Elementary School and Spaulding Union High School). However, all questions will be on one ballot. Voters will be asked to elect 3 School Directors (one for SUHS and two for BTMES), a School District Treasurer, and to approve a stipend payment for these elected officials. Other questions include: approval of the proposed fiscal year 2012-2013 school operating budgets, authorization to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, and to put aside

\$25,000 for the school roof repair fund. This article is being written prior to the School Districts signing their Election Warnings. Therefore, I am unaware of any other "special" questions.

Things to know about the Presidential Primaries: A primary election is where party members (voters) select candidates for an election. In Vermont, the Presidential Primary is held on Town Meeting Day. This year there will be two Primary Elections – one for Republicans and one for Democrats. You can vote only in ONE Primary Election. Vermont law requires that a voter "declare" a party and the election official must record the party on the Entrance Checklist in order to vote in a Presidential Primary. A Presidential Primary is held once every four years. During the March voting, 17 year olds (who will turn 18 by the November 2012 General Election), will be allowed to vote in a Primary Election.

Can't make it to the polls? Request an early ballot. To request an early ballot for the Primary Election or the Annual School meetings, contact the Town Clerk's Office (479-9391) or by email ([dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org)). Just a reminder that you will not be voting on municipal government issues in March because our Town Meeting Day is in May.

Let your voice be heard - VOTE!

- Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer



## Budgeting!

In May, voters will vote, among other matters, to approve or disapprove the Town's General Fund budget and Highway Fund budget. Voters can learn about the budgets by reading the budget booklet provided about two weeks before the election. Voters (the public in general) can learn more about the Town's eight fund budgets by attending weekly Budget Committee meetings and joining the Budget Tour (see following article).

The 2012 Budget Committee began its meetings on January 31. The weekly Tuesday night (6:30-8:00) meetings will continue through March. The Committee will start by reviewing the Town Manager's proposed Building Fund, Cemetery Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund budgets. The Equipment Fund, Ambulance Fund, and Highway Fund normally follow. Typically, the General Fund budget is examined last. The topic for each budget review session is listed on the Selectboard meeting agenda which can be seen on bulletin boards at Hannaford's, the Graniteville General Store, or Trow Hill Grocery, or on the Town website: [www.barretown.org/pages/boards/select.html](http://www.barretown.org/pages/boards/select.html).

Last spring the Legislature approved and the Governor signed legislation adopting a Town voter-approved Charter amendment. The amendment gives the Budget Committee authority to set the General Fund and Highway Fund budgets presented to voters, as well as adopting the final budgets for all other funds.

The Budget Committee consists of the five Selectboard members and five Town citizens. The Selectboard appointed Jason Pinard and Jay Perkins. The Town Clerk-Treasurer appointed Tom White. Those three selected Paul Malone and William Kirby.

The budgets may be examined M-F, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the Town Manager's Office.

## Budget Tour Invitation

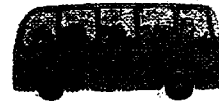
Since time out of mind, the Barre Town Budget Committee has been treated to a tour of Town facilities and project areas. The tour gives the Committee the opportunity to witness condition of Town buildings, to see the plethora of "things" a municipal government uses and offers its customers, and to talk with Town staff. The purpose is to help the Committee prioritize the numbers that fill the budget book.

Town residents and guests are invited – indeed urged – to join the tour. Residents participate in the question/answer sessions same as Committee members. Come out; ask Town staff about operations, recent acquisitions, and about new budget requests. It is a Saturday well spent. (And the Wilson Depot will be open when you're done!)

This year the tour is on Saturday, February 25. The starting point is the Municipal Building at 8:00 a.m.

Arrive early; drink your coffee while talking with Town staff, Selectmen, and Committee members.

Transportation is provided. The tour returns to the Municipal Building about 12:30 p.m. Children with adults are welcome. ■



## Town Caucus Date Set

Are you an aspiring local official? Do you want to meet the prospective candidates for open positions in the upcoming elections? Do you want a better understanding of your local government? If so, the Town Caucus is the place to be.

This year's Town Caucus is scheduled for March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectboard room at the Municipal Building. Historically, the purpose of the caucus is to ensure at least one individual is running for each municipal office. This meeting holds no official standing, but it is an important part of our heritage.

Be advised per Town Charter, Section 7, Nominations of Candidates, "All town elections shall be non-partisan, and no party designation or slogan shall be printed on any town ballot or petition".

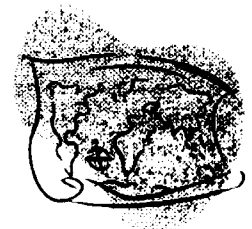
Contact the Town Clerk's Office (479-9391) for complete election details.

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

## Parcel Mapping Online

The Town's improved online parcel mapping program is now up and running and available to be used by anyone with a computer and internet connection. Cartographic Assoc., of Littleton, NH, has created an online version of our GIS parcel mapping that allows you to find any property in Barre Town. Several layers of data can be overlaid on the parcel map showing valuable information including, but not limited to, the Town zoning map, aerial photographs, wetlands, floodplains, and even fire hydrants. Tax data is also available. The site is relatively easy to navigate, but if you have questions, feel free to contact me at 479-2595. The parcel mapping link can be found by going to the Planning & Zoning page on [www.barretown.org/departments/planningandzoning](http://www.barretown.org/departments/planningandzoning).

- Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Administrator



### State Property Tax Forms

It is income tax filing time, but don't forget the State property tax forms!

In 2010, the State changed the requirement for filing a homestead declaration (HS-131) every year. If you filed an HS-131 in 2010 or 2011, you don't need to file the HS-131 this year, unless: use of the property has changed; or if a new or different property has become your homestead. If an apartment in your house has been reconfigured to be part of your homestead (principal residence), or if you no longer operate a business from part of your house, file an HS-131. Don't pay the higher non-residential tax rate unnecessarily.

A homestead is described as a principal dwelling and the surrounding land that is owned and occupied by a Vermont resident as their domicile as of 4/1/12. Property is not classified as a homestead when:

- the property is used for commercial purposes;
- or is used as a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage;
- or used for purposes other than a homestead on April 1;
- or has not been declared a homestead by the due date (April 17, 2012).

A property may be classified as both homestead and non-residential if a portion of the property is used for business or is rented.

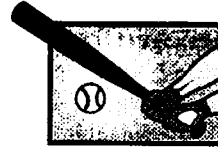
When a residential property is sold, the seller must file a withdrawal form, and the buyer should complete and file a homestead declaration at the time of closing or within 30 days of the property transfer to avoid penalty. The buyer must complete the HS-131 form with the Vermont Department of Taxes if the buyer expects to be a Vermont resident on April 1 and owns and occupies the property on April 1 as their principal home.

NOTE: The claim for a property tax adjustment still must be filed each year using Form HS-145. The due date is April 17, 2012. September 4, 2012 is the last day to file a Property Tax Adjustment Claim or Renter Rebate or a homestead declaration, if applicable, but penalties will apply.

Don't believe it? Visit the Vermont Department of Taxes' website at [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov). On that site you can file your property tax adjustment form (HS-145), homestead declaration (HS-131), homestead withdrawal, and check the status of your filings and refunds. To talk with a Tax Department representative, call 828-2865, M-F, 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The next issue of the Barre Town Newsletter will be published in April 2012.

### Winter Softball Tournament



The crisp crack of the bat ... the thud of leather against leather as glove stops ball mid-flight ... the crunch of fresh fallen snow as you

round first ... it's that time of year again! Freezing Fun For Families is hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Co-ed Charity Softball tournament on March 2-4 at the Barre Town Recreation Complex on Websterville Road.

Since 1999, the tournament has raised over \$220,000 to help families with seriously ill children. This year's beneficiaries are 9-year-old Shanoah Addis and Stella Thomas who will be three months at the time of the tournament. Shanoah has been battling Ewing Sarcoma and has gone through chemotherapy and is starting radiation treatment. Stella recently underwent major surgery to remove a tumor resulting from stage 4S Neuroblastoma found during her two-week checkup.

Organizers are still accepting team registrations (until February 24) and donations (year round). For those not interested in playing, feel free to attend as a spectator, cheer on your favorite teams, and visit the concession stand. All proceeds go to the cause. There also will be a dinner, dance, raffle, and auction on February 25. Cocktail hour starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Barre Elks Club, followed by dinner and the night's events. Only 300 tickets are to be sold, so get your's early!

Complete details for this year's event are available at [www.freezingfunforfamilies.com](http://www.freezingfunforfamilies.com), or calling Corey at 249-0827.

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager



### Board & Commission Meeting Schedule

Selectboard	Every Tuesday (6:30 p.m.)
Development Review Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. (7:00 p.m.)
Planning Commission	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. (7:00 p.m.)
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. (7:00 p.m.)
Cemetery Commission	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. (6:30 p.m.)
Recreation Board	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon.* (6:30 p.m.)

\*except when it is a holiday, then 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon.

## Project Updates

■ **Semprebon Bike Path:** The Town bike path committee (BPC) wrote a request for proposals (RFP) with the City BPC. The RFP for survey and design services was released in early January. A pre-proposal meeting was held on January 10; eight firms attended and several more are working on proposals which are due January 31. Three BPC members from the City and Town, plus the transportation planner from the Regional Planning Commission, and a Semprebon family member will evaluate the proposals, interview the firms, and make a recommendation to the City and the Town. The goal is for the Selectboard and Council to award the contract on February 21. The selected engineering firm would begin survey work as soon as weather and ground conditions allow. A public hearing will be held after the survey plans are submitted and before work on preliminary plans begin. In Barre Town the path would connect the Barre Town School to the South Barre Bike Path at Bridge Street. The Semprebon Path would follow Websterville Road, Sterling Hill Road, and Bridge Street. The path would make one large loop off of Sterling Hill Road and around Silver Circle and Platinum Plain.

■ **East Barre Bike Path:** The East Barre Path would run from the town office building to East Barre (Websterville Road by Church Street). The path, over an old railroad bed between Millstone Boulevard and Gerard Street, has been cleared and graveled. The town BPC was charged with planning for completion of the path, especially closing the gap between Websterville Road and the improved section. The BPC asked that the money (\$32,000) needed for work be included in the proposed 2012-2013 budget; it is – so far.

■ **Streetlight Conversion:** Town staff have met with the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee twice in the recent months to discuss the conversion of streetlights in town from mercury vapor to LED, a more energy efficient and longer lasting technology. An inventory of town lights has been assembled, and the committee hopes to begin making recommendations soon. No lights will be added, removed, or relocated without final authorization from the Selectboard, so keep an eye on the agenda each week if you'd like to follow the progress. About one dozen LEDs are around town already, having replaced burnt out lights. See the new technology for yourself:

- Pole 118809, Mill St. across from E.B. fire station
- Pole 49935, Richardson Rd. at bend between Ford/Ledge
- Pole 53297, Websterville Rd. at intersection with Buick
- Pole 75841, So. Barre Rd. in front of Fired Up Tobacco Shop
- Pole 79390, Peloquin Rd. at intersection with Bonnie Ln.

■ **FEMA Reimbursement for May Storm Damage:** Representatives from FEMA have worked very closely with Town staff to complete applications for reimbursement of costs associated with the cleanup on Town highways from the May 26, 2011 flashflood events. The total reimbursement could be in excess of \$300,000 with 19 different sites being considered. Upon completion of the May damage reimbursement, the Town will be eligible to apply for a similar program related to the cleanup costs from Tropical Storm Irene. Fortunately, Irene did not cause much damage to Barre Town infrastructure relative to the May 2011 and July 2007 events.

## Travis Mercy Memorial Skate Park Fundraiser

The Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club has worked with the Mercy family hosting an event to benefit the Travis Mercy Memorial Skate Park. The skate park is located at the Barre Town Recreation Area. This year we are proud to be hosting it for the 11<sup>th</sup> year. To date, we have raised over \$20,000 and donated it to the Town of Barre for use at the park.

With these funds we have been able to assist in building a half-pipe, providing a water fountain, and assisted in the general upkeep at the park such as painting and resurfacing.

This year's event will continue to be a snowmobile poker run, followed by a chicken/mostaccioli meal at Suzanna's Restaurant, and a silent auction. All proceeds will be donated to the Town of Barre towards upkeep at the park or how they see fit to allocate the donation. Travis' grandmother has continued her involvement in this event and made another quilt that we will be raffling off as well. The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 18. The poker run starts at 8:30 a.m. at Maplewoods in Berlin. Lunch will be served around noon.

We thank you in advance for considering our event. Donations are always welcome and appreciated. Email [info@barretownthunderchickens.com](mailto:info@barretownthunderchickens.com) with any questions or to coordinate a donation for the event. ■

- David Rouleau, President, Barre Town Thunder Chickens



## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - Summary Report

**TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (*D. Newhall, P. White, V. Vallerand, C. Liese, A. Miller*)

**Nov. 2011:** Reviewed Airport Road intersection to consider possible designated right and left turning lanes with signing, lines, and arrows; reviewed request from M. Berry, 160 Websterville Rd., to review winter safety conditions for students walking along road from bus drop-off at Bolster Rd.; listened to presentation from Asst. Town Mgr. Shawn Benham on new program to upgrade street lights with Green Mt. Power and Efficiency VT; tabled request from D. Kaltz, 212 Allen St. for Hidden Drive - Left sign (uphill) on Allen St.

**Dec. 2011:** No meeting.

**Jan. 2012:** No quorum, but Asst. Town Mgr. Shawn Benham presented status of street lighting inventory he has been working on.

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD** (*M. Nicholson, J. Valsangiacomo, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, J. Fecteau, P. Malone, J. Hameline*)

**Dec. 2011:** Approved request by WCMHS for conditional use to operate private school off So. Barre Rd.; approved request by WCMHS for preliminary site plan approval for exterior improvements for conversion of building from dealership to school for property located off So. Barre Rd.; continued request by A. & R. Avery for appeal of Zoning Administrator's issuance of violation.

**Jan. 2012:** Approved request by WCMHS for site plan approval for exterior improvements for conversion of building from dealership to school for property located off So. Barre Rd.; upheld appeal by A. & R. Avery.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** (*C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, K. Yearman, C. Duke, D. Wilson, J. Hamelin*)

**Nov. 2011:** Continued request by M. Tatro for allowed use determination to operate a service and retail business off Mill St.; approved zoning bylaw amendment off E. Cobble Hill Rd. and E. Barre Rd.; approved request by M. Saba for additional curb-cut off Smoke House Ln.

**Dec. 2011:** Approved request by M. Tatro for allowed use determination to operate a service and retail business off Mill St.; approved request by CVCLT for additional curb-cut off Don Camp Dr.

**Jan. 2012:** No meeting.

**TOWN OF BARRE**  
**PO Box 116**  
**Websterville, VT 05678-0116**

PRESRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 222  
BARRE VT