Barre Town Newsletter

Municipal News

Vol. 15, No. 3 August 2012

Introducing the New DPW Superintendent



Richard "Tate" Tetreault

You may have noticed a new face driving the DPW Superintendent's truck recently. That's okay – he has the keys to it! Richard Tetreault (Tate) assumed the role this past May.

Tate comes to us with a great deal of municipal experience. Since 2003, he had been the Road Superintendent for the Town of Berlin. Tate also spent many years as a driver and mechanic for the City of Montpelier. He has had the opportunity to have his hand on all sorts of different public works projects – from finding creative drainage solutions to keeping the plow trucks running during a blizzard – all while keeping the budget (and the taxpayers) in mind. Outside of government employment, he has experience in building construction, renovation, and maintenance and he's worked in both the granite and concrete industries.

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As a manager, don't expect Tate to stick to his desk. He can often be found at or bouncing between work sites or talking with community members about their various suggestions or concerns. Though still learning the intricacies of all of our neighborhoods, Tate is from here and knows the area well. He is always looking to meet more of the residents while striving to improve the quality of our infrastructure.

Many of you may already know Tate or at least recognize him from the area. In any case, the next time you see him feel free to introduce yourself, say hi, and welcome him to town.

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

Home Improvement Loans Available

Leaky roof? Heating system failure? The Central Vermont Community Land Trust might help fix some of your major (or minor) home deficiencies. Flexible term loans are available to income eligible households in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties. For example, a Washington County 3-person household would be eligible if the total income of house members is less than \$52,056. This program is intended to help with a diverse range of home improvement projects.

As energy costs continue to rise, home weatherization becomes increasingly important. There are real savings to be realized by upgrading your insulation, sealing exposed seams, closing drafty areas, and generally buttoning up your home. Don't burn through your money trying to keep warm. Weatherization improvements not only save money, but they can help protect your property, make your living conditions more comfortable, and improve your property value.

If you are interested in this program and think you may qualify but have no idea where to start, the HomeOwnership Center staff at the CVCLT is at your service. They can help determine a work plan, obtain bids from contractors, and even assist in monitoring the project process. Call 476-4493 and ask about the Green Mountain Loan Fund.

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Lost Your Pet?

The Town of Barre employs an Animal Control Officer (ACO) who handles animal complaints including dog/cat bites, domestic animal nuisances, ensures

animals are licensed, and that they have their rabies vaccination. He also takes lost or found pets calls.

The best way to ensure your pet is returned to you should you become separated is to license your dog with the Town Clerk and be sure the animal is wearing its license tag. You may also wish to attach a separate tag with the animal's name, your name, and telephone number. The ACO has access to current lists of dog/wolf-hybrid licenses. If he locates a stray animal, he will check the tag number against the current list. If he is able to determine the owner, the animal will be returned to them.

If the ACO is unable to determine the owner, the pet will be transported to the Central Vermont Humane Society (CVHS). The CVHS staff will keep the animal 3 days (excluding Sundays). During that period if the owner claims the animal, it will be returned to them provided they can show it has a current rabies vaccination and town license. The owner will also be required to pay CVHS a fee for boarding the animal. If the owner cannot be determined, the animal will be put up for adoption after 3 days.

If your pet becomes lost, please call Animal Control Officer Justin Pickel at 498-3808, or the Police Department at 479-0508. Please be prepared to provide a description of your animal and the area where it was last seen.

- Sgt. William Dodge, BTPD

Begin the Adventure - Join Cub Scouting!

Boys from age 7 (or in 1st grade) through age 11 (or in the 5th grade) may become a Cub Scout. Boys will enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, and more. The Scouts will have fun building and racing their own Pinewood Derby cars, boats, and rockets.

Come with your son to register and find out more about scouting. The registration sign-ups will be held at Barre Town Middle & Elementary School on September 19 starting at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, you can contact Leslie from Pack 717 at 476-8399.

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



The Grand Re-Opening of the York Library in East Barre was held on Sunday, July 29 with dozens of people attending. Cutting the ribbon is Jeff Blow, Chairman of the Selectboard, while Librarian John Poeton and Aldrich Library Trustee Chairperson Nancy Pope watch.

Town Forest Update

The fate of the Town Forest hinges on two decisions which are imminent. To close the real estate deal, all funds must be raised and a conservation easement must be signed. The Town could learn the decisions on these matters any day.

In May, the Trust For Public Land (TPL) submitted (on behalf of the Town) a U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Grant application to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (VTFPR). VTFPR forwarded the application to the U.S. Forest Service in June. The TPL expects to receive a grant decision very soon. The \$400,000 grant would be the last major grant needed to pay for purchase of about 350 acres of land in the area between Littlejohn Road, Donahue Road, Graniteville Road, and Church Hill Road.

Some of the funding sources require a conservation easement, a document signing the development and other rights over to a third party. The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) is one of the funding sources requiring the easement. In fact, the VHCB would hold the easement and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) would administer it. Since the Spring, the Selectboard has been negotiating the terms and conditions of the easement. A final decision about the easement is expected very soon.

If the Town and TPL are awarded the Community
Forest Grant, and if the conservation easement is signed
shortly thereafter, the real estate closing could be held this
Fall. It is not clear what course of action would be taken if
the Town, VHCB, and VLT cannot reach an agreement
about the easement or if the Community Forest Grant is not
successful. Last Spring, the Town applied for a \$20,000
VTFPR Trails Grant. The Town sought money to pay for
making two parking lots for Town Forest users. The
application was not selected for funding.

NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Voting: When Where	~ Handicap accessible to include the Vote-by-Phone feature ~ Tuesday, November 6, 2012 – 7:00 a.m7:00 p.m. Barre Town Elementary School gymnasium	
Voter Registration Deadline: When Where	Wednesday, October 31 – 5:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office	
Ballot Information: Early voting ballots available Early voting ends Last day to request JP ballot delivery Sample ballots	Friday, September 21 (45 days prior to voting day) Monday, November 5 – 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 5 – 4:30 p.m. Posted at Hannaford's Market, Trow Hill Grocery, Lawson's General Store, Municipal Building, and on Town website (www.barretown.org)	
Voter Rights:	Secretary of State's website (www.sec.state.vt.us)	

For detailed election information, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391 or email dkelty@barretown.org.

Let There Be (Better) Light



The Town is entering the final stages of the LED streetlight conversion project. A summary of the project results can be found by visiting www.barretown.org/lighting.html or follow the link on the Town's homepage. At the August 7th meeting, the Selectboard authorized a

work order to be placed with Green Mountain Power. That order included: (1) the recognition of 561 Town-leased streetlights eligible for replacement; (2) the removal of 86 of those lights; and (3) the addition of 24 new lights. When it's all said and done, the Town should play host to 499 LED streetlights. Privately owned or leased lights were not considered during this project, and Town-leased flood lights (in addition to some developments' area lighting) are not eligible for LED conversion at this time.

Why LED? Light Emitting Diode technology is much more energy efficient than our current stock of mercury vapor (MV) and high-pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures. LEDs produce a better quality light which does not discolor (HPS lights turn increasingly yellow as they age) nor fade over time. LEDs are also much easier to position, so the illumination of a specific object results in less light pollution which is that glow you see *above* many current streetlights.

Why now? The Town has considered LEDs for a few years. When they were first available, the Town would have needed to purchase the lights, install them, and then maintain them. That would have been an expense well beyond what we pay now to rent them. As with most technologies, the price has dropped considerably since first being introduced. New programs have become

available as the State, Efficiency Vermont, and the utility companies have started to aggressively promote the benefits of swapping out the old technologies for the new. As of late 2011, when the tariffs (the monthly rental fees) were last adjusted, most comparable LED streetlights have actually become cheaper than their MV and HPS counterparts. The opportunity to use less energy and save taxpayer money – all while providing a higher quality service – was finally worth pursuing.

Also, you may have noticed more of this new style of light in neighboring towns. Waterbury, East Montpelier, and Berlin have converted their inventories already; and others in Washington County aren't far behind.

So, you're taking away my light? No and yes. The Town's Streetlight Policy has three primary purposes: "to (1) light roadway features such as edge of pavement, intersections, sharp curves, deadends; (2) light obstructions such as median strips and bridge piers; and (3) provide pedestrian safety". The policy goes on to clarify that streetlights are not intended to provide private security, and further still, that streetlighting is a discretionary action. Guided by the policy, the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee over the course of approximately eight months reviewed and discussed every Town-leased light, having first examined them in person. There were found to be a number of lights around that did not adhere to the policy; existing simply because they always had. Most of those lights are expected to be removed (and very few people in Town will ever know the difference). The majority of proposed removals are in areas where one new light is expected to provide the same level of service that two lights are doing now. This is especially true on shorter streets where multiple lights exist between the intersection and the deadend but don't actually light either.

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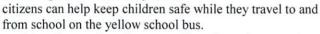
Let There Be Light (continued from page 3)

I disagree with the outcomes of this project. That's okay. Generally, it is recommended that before removing a light fixture, a trial period is offered where the light is simply turned off rather than taken down. This period allows people who don't closely follow Town business the opportunity to learn of the changes before they become permanent. LED streetlights require a new arm, not just a new bulb, so the process will be a little different. All of the old fixtures will be coming down, and new ones will be installed as recommended by the TSAC and approved by the Selectboard. If a light is removed, but not replaced, there will still be the opportunity to request reconsideration – but please first review the three primary purposes of streetlights listed prior.

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

School Bus Safety

School is back in session, and that means it's time to cooperate with buses and bus drivers. By learning and observing school bus safety laws, citizens can help keep children safe while



Motorists need to observe traffic safety rules around school buses. First and foremost, they must know that it is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that has stopped to load or unload students. Motorists must learn the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists that they are going to stop to load or unload students:

- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- Red flashing lights and extended stop arm indicate that
 the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or
 off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the
 red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they start
 driving again.

Motorists should also observe the following traffic safety rules:

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking to the bus stop.
- When driving in neighborhoods, watch out for young people; they might be goofing with friends or chasing a paper blown into the street by wind. Assume the role of the person being safety conscious.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops.

 Be alert and ready to stop. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

You can help Barre Town have a 100% safe school year. Keep the State law and driving tips in mind.

- Chief Michael Stevens, BTPD

NOTICE

- (1) No street openings or work in the right-of-way will be allowed after November 1.
- (2) No connections to water or sewer mains will be made between November 1 and April 15.

CVSWMD Collections

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) has at least 4 special collections yet this year. All collections are open to residents of District member towns. Barre Town is a District member; Barre Town residents can use these collections. A \$15 per car fee is charged for household hazardous waste collections. Other collections are free. To check details, visit the CVSWMD website (www.cvswmd.org) or call the office at 229-9383. The remaining collections for 2012 are:

Sept. 8, Bradford - hazardous waste, electronic waste, textiles, books

Sept. 22, Montpelier - hazardous waste Oct. 6, Chelsea - electronic waste, textiles, books Oct. 13, Montpelier - document shredding

A tire collection might be held in Bradford in November. Check the District website for more information.

Residents can dispose of tires closer to home at the Wheels For Warmth tire collection on October 25, 26 and 27 at DuBois Construction, 46 Three Mile Bridge Rd., Middlesex. Disposal of reuseable (pass legal inspection) tires is free. The charge for non-driveable tires is \$4. Proceeds from the tire collection are donated to the Central Vermont Community Action Council's emergency fuel assistance program. Legal, used tires are sold on Saturday, October 27 from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at DuBois Construction.

The Town Offices will be closed on the following holidays: Sept. 3 - Labor Day, Nov. 12 - Veterans Day, Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 22 & 23 - Thanksgiving.

FALL BULK TRASH COLLECTION

The Fall bulk trash collection will be held **Saturday**, **September 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the DPW garage (129 Websterville Road). With 2 stations set up to off-load debris, residents usually are in and out of the DPW yard quickly. This collection is a good time to clear out and clean up the attic, basement, porch, garage, or outside storage area. It is a good way to dispose of building waste after a home improvement project. The box below lists items accepted and fees charged. Users will also be asked to donate to the Barre Town Recreation Department.

BRING	FEES	
Wooden and upholstered furniture	Car\$5.00	
Large plastic toys	Pickup truck	
Swimming pool liners	Unloaded car or truck w/loaded trailer \$8.00	
Porcelain fixtures	Loaded car or pickup w/loaded trailer \$13.00	
Carpet, mattresses	Truck larger than pickup (1-ton max.) \$13.00	
· Building materials - doors, windows, siding,	Loaded large truck w/loaded trailer \$20.00	
lumber	Loads of roof shingles will be charged double.	

DON'T BRING	TAKE TO
Tires Computers Consumer electronics - TVs, stereos, copiers Metal, including appliances Household trash, recyclables Household hazardous wastes Trees, branches, grass clippings	Wilson Depot Wilson Depot Wilson Depot Wilson Depot Wilson Depot CVSWMD HHW Collection Holden Road lawn waste site

Building scraps such as sheetrock, wood, plaster, and <u>especially roof shingles must be in boxes</u>, buckets or barrels. Lumber must be cut down to easily-handled lengths; the side of a shed or half of a garage roof in one piece is not acceptable. The service is for Barre Town residents' home use only; be prepared to show proof of Town residency.

Salvaging is permitted during the event, but the public must be careful around the equipment and vehicles. Children should stay in their vehicle for safety reasons. Pallets will be pulled from the waste stream and set outside the DPW gate for the public to take. The Wilson Depot is open 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tues. and Sat. They accept many items every day it is open.

Lawn Waste Site Leaf Disposal

As a reminder if you are not a regular lawn waste site user, the site on Holden Road is open Saturdays from 8 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. As the days shorten, the Wednesday afternoon hours could change. For the leaf disposal season, hours will be added on 3 weekends, usually in mid to late October, depending on weather conditions. On these 3 weekends, the site is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and noon-4 p.m. on Sundays. The weekends with additional hours will be announced at Selectboard meetings and will be posted on our web site.

Don't burn leaves or rake them into a ditch or drainageway. Leaves and tall grass often are dry in the Fall. A little wind can blow burning leaves into woods or fields starting a wildland fire. Leaves are trouble for ditches, culverts and streams causing back-ups which could lead to unnecessary erosion and property damage.

To haul more leaves, chop leaves once with a lawn mower. Using a plastic sheet or tarp reduces off-loading time.

Thanks to everyone who has been using the site as intended. Problems have been nearly non-existent. Thanks to volunteers Joe and Clifton Coates and Ed Relation who make weekday service possible.



REMINDER:

The next installment of property taxes is due November 15.

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	www.barre	town.org
With that all said, it ha	has changed over the years, the structus ite has been designed with you, the To Town offices and functions without refind basic information. You can view meetings; you can download most of the projects. Additionally, you can get but meetings and, new this year, you can pubase. It is also intended that the websit inking of relocating to the area. It is been some time since we sought feedly we are ready to re-evaluate how this part	www.barretown.org went on-line. While much of the content re – and more importantly the purpose – has remained. The own resident, in mind. The idea is that the website represents quiring you to call or step foot within the brick and mortar to agenda and minutes from our board and commission he Town permits; and you can follow the progress of Town diget and tax information, watch video of past Selectboard ull up your property assessment card through our GIS data the can serve as a marketing tool to help attract prospective back on the site itself. With improved software, hardware, tricular tool is being offered. Please take a few minutes to
How often do you	visit the Barre Town website?	 □ Never □ Almost never □ Every once in a while □ Regularly □ Daily
		ation are you seeking, what tasks are you trying to complete?
If you don't use the	he website, why not?	
Now, pretend then	re is not already a site. What resources	should the Town make available on-line?
homepage (open through S	September 15), OR you can email respo form in person. If you do not use on-lin	rase complete the survey available by the link on the Town's nee to these three questions to offices@barretown.org , OR ne resources, that's important for us to know, too. - Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

Project Updates

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- Bridge Street Bridge: The VT Agency of Transportation's (AOT) Structures (bridge) Division has completed final construction plans. AOT's current schedule calls for seeking construction bids in October. It is expected construction will begin in April 2013 and be completed in October 2013. The current project cost is \$2,560,000. New Vermont legislation allows the local share of construction costs to be reduced from 10% to 5% if the host municipality agrees to close the bridge during construction. Several years ago Barre Town decided to close the road for construction so the project could be completed in one year and to reduce project expenses (no need for a temporary bridge). As a result of that decision and the new cost-sharing formula, Barre Town's local share will be \$146,000, not \$256,000 as calculated by the old formula. The
- South Barre bridge likely will be closed sometime in April 2013. Local residents and commuters who use Bridge Street will need to use an alternate route during the 7-month project.
- Semprebon Bike Path: The plan for the path from the school parking lot to the top of Sterling Hill Road is virtually set. The path would skirt around the parking lot, down along the school driveway, down Websterville Road past the cemeteries, and cross over to Sterling Hill Road. Near the top of the hill the bike path would turn into the woods following the snowmobile trail. The project engineer, Dubois & King (D&K) of Randolph, has researched deeds and surveyed the probable path location from the school parking lot to the top of Sterling Hill Road. From a point behind houses on Silver Circle, the path

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - Summary Report

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (D. Newhall, P. White, V. Vallerand, C. Liese, B. Kirby)

March 2012: Began streetlight review and assessment for LED replacement program with GMP and Efficiency Vermont.

April 2012: Continued working with Assistant Town Manager Shawn Benham on town-wide streetlight review.

May 2012: No action items.

June 2012: Reviewed assessments for streetlighting on Beckley Hill, Sterling Hill, Quarry Hill, and South Barre; recommended to Selectboard the installation of Hidden Drives signs on Websterville Road between #314 and #332.

July 2012: Recommended to Selectboard that two Blind Person signs be installed for 422 Websterville Rd.; recommended the Town Engineer refer to VTrans the request for sight distance at Sterling Hill/Rt. 14 intersection looking north.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, G. Richards, J. Valsangiacomo)

May 2012: Continued request by Estate of F. Bailey for boundary line adjustment with abutter K. & W. Bailey on Phelps Rd.; approved request by G. & J. McCool for boundary line adjustment on LePage Rd.; approved request by D. & J. Mugford for boundary line adjustments on East St. Ext., Maplewood Ave., and Meadow Lane; continued request by M. Bilodeau for site plan approval to fill land on E. Barre Rd.

June 2012: Approved requests by Estate of F. Bailey for boundary line adjustment with abutter K. & W. Bailey on Phelps Rd. and with abutter K. & L. Bailey on Curtis Rd..

July 2012: Approved request by I. Lugowska for 20' variance from road r.o.w. for construction of 10'x16' shed at 201 Littlejohn Rd.; continued request by H. & E. Sargent for 8' variance from side yard setback for 24'x10' carport.

August 2012: Approved request by S. Marceau for conditional use to allow a commercial school known as Shooting Star Dance Studio (169 Sterling Hill Rd.) to operate at 47 Cherrywood Dr.; approved request by H. & E. Sargent for 4'6" variance from side yard setback for 24'x10' carport; continued request by H. & A. LaPerle for 10' variance from road r.o.w. for 30'x40' detached garage at 370 Donahue Rd.; approved request by W. Burke for 24' variance from road r.o.w. for 16'x22' addition to existing single-family dwelling at 92 West Rd.

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

April 2012: Continued request by L. Stowell for allowed use determination to convert existing single-family dwelling into 2-family dwelling at 328 So. Barre Rd.; continued request by L. Kwasnik for allowed use determination to convert existing building approved as used car business into woodworking shop on property owned by M. Rossi at 263 Quarry Hill Rd.

May 2012: Denied request by L. Stowell for allowed use determination to convert existing single-family dwelling into 2-family dwelling at 328 So. Barre Rd.; approved request by L. Kwasnik for allowed use determination to convert existing building approved as used car business into woodworking shop on property owned by M. Rossi at 263 Quarry Hill Rd.

June 2012: No public hearing.

July 2012: Approved request by L. & D. Bracken for additional curb-cut for property at 576 Higuera Rd.

Project Updates (continued from page 6)

alignment is uncertain. Town bike path committee members, D&K engineers, and Town staff have walked the Sterling Hill/Silver Circle area twice. Terrain presents challenges for making a bicyclepedestrian path that meets ADA requirements, is appealing to users, is not objectionable to landowners, and is affordable. After the site visits and discussions, the Town bike path committee and engineers have reached a consensus the path should go to Sterling Hill Road (in South Barre) rather than the playground on Wilson Street. The path will extend down Sterling Hill Road, across Route 14, and then down Bridge Street to the existing bike path. Watch for a public meeting announcement this Fall, after the engineers and committee select a preferred alignment around Silver Circle and Platinum Plain.

Management (VEM) approved the Town's application to be included in the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant application (that's old news). FEMA officials came to town, with VEM staff, on July 16 to examine the site. The culvert is still included in the grant, but the Town has not received approval to start the project and probably will not receive authorization in time for construction activity this Fall. When authorized, the Town will seek bids for the construction, delivery, and installation of a 5' x 8' reinforced concrete box culvert to cross Sterling Hill Road just downhill (west) of Cherrywood Drive. The new culvert probably will be installed next June. The Town's share of the project is 25% or an estimated \$23,750.

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Project Updates (continued from page 7)

▶ East Barre Bike Path: Constructing a 500' segment of the path (off of Websterville Road near Church Street) is a major item in the 2012-2013 budget. The Town Public Works Department will construct the segment, except paving and fencing. The DPW is planning to create the access from Websterville Road to the old railroad bed this Fall. Paving probably will be held off until next Spring. Expenses for the project total \$32,575.

South Barre Playground: The Recreation Board has spent the past two years planning, designing, and fundraising for the South Barre playground which is located at the end of Wilson Street behind Hannaford's. What used to be just a set of swings and often under-used basketball court is now the site of a colorful playground designed for our younger residents (those roughly 3-6 years old). The hoops are gone (in exchange for a large picnic shelter) but the swings are still there. So are toddler swings, two spring riders — "Wally the Whale" and "Freddie the Frog" — and a tri-colored camel-back climber. A grand opening is scheduled in the Spring 2013.

Visit us at our website: <u>www.barretown.org</u>
for announcements, publications, permit forms, monthly calendar, etc. It also
includes meeting minutes, genealogy information, information on boards and
departments, and much more!

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