

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
May 5, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving: April 28, 2020 Selectboard meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider offering business recovery loans or participating in the State's RLF pool.
8. Consider request for port-a-lets at the Town Forest.
9. Consider approving renewal of the Quarries Disc Golf Course Operations and Maintenance Agreement.
10. Report on Coronavirus-19.
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for May 5, 2020.
12. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
13. 'Round the table.
14. Executive Session, if needed.
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
May 5, 2020

The duly warned meeting of May 5, 2020 was held at 6:00 p.m. in the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville.

The following members were in attendance: W. John "Jack" Mitchell in person and others by Zoom/telephone are: Bob Nelson , Norma Malone, Paul White, and Tom White (plus one).

Attendance in person for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, and by Zoom/Teleconference Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair Paul White called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Tom White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the May 5, 2020 meeting agenda.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Tom White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the April 28, 2020 Selectboard meeting minutes with the minor grammatical and spelling corrections presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you would like inspiration for responsible recreation options, search for and follow the Barre Town Recreation Facebook page, or visit barretown.org/departments/recreation. The Barre Town Recreation Board provides ideas weekly like responsible recreation bingo and first spring photos.
- The Barre Town Lawn Waste Site is open Saturdays only, 8:00 a.m. – Noon, at least until June. Please anticipate a wait and use the upper entrance to enter the site. Stay in your vehicle until it is your turn, wear a face covering while outside your vehicle, and keep at least 6 feet between you and other people at the site. Thank you for your efforts to keep everyone safe.
- Sign up to Green Up Saturday, May 30, 2020. Call 802-479-9331 to reserve the section of road you and any of your fellow volunteers plan to Green Up. This will help avoid duplication of effort. Supplies are scheduled to be available the first week of May.
- Due to COVID-19, the Barre Town Open Meeting and Annual Election of Officers & Voting by Australian Ballot normally held in May were postponed and rescheduled to be held on June 2, 2020. Barre Town voters are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to request a vote by mail ballot. Those who have standing orders for all early ballots during 2020 do not need to make another request. On June 2nd, there will be a drive-thru polling place available, but for everyone's safety, please request a vote by mail ballot. You may do so by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 802-479-9391. More details can be found on the postcard that has been mailed to every Barre Town registered voter, or on the Town website: www.barretown.org.

Vice Chair Paul White added that while drive-thru voting is available on June 2, 2020 the Town is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGING** voters to vote by mail to help avoid traffic issues and delays.

GUESTS - None

BUSINESS RECOVERY LOANS

Background: The Selectboard had asked the Town to investigate using our Business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) locally in lieu of donating to the State RLF for COVID-19 recovery. The Board had concerns with lack of information and the project being on the fast track. Since then, Barre Town Zoning Administrator Chris Violette, VCLF representative Will Belongia and BAD Director Joel Schwartz met. Violette is awaiting information. In the notes to the Selectboard the Manager listed criteria for our existing Business RLF, what we know about the State, and lots of questions to be answered if the Selectboard can do our own COVID-19 Business RLF.

Chris Violette informed the Board he still did not have answers to many of his questions. The Board addressed the following:

- If VCLF will not amend the current MOU with the Town regarding management of the Business RLF then this may be a mute issue.
- Information is still needed on what the State RLF will look like.
- There are still many unanswered questions from the State regarding a possible local Business RLF.

Consensus of the Board is to hold off another week. Violette stated he will try to have more information for the next meeting.

TOWN FOREST PORT-A-LETS

Background: Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham asked to speak with the Selectboard regarding the two port-a-lets located at the 44 Brook Street Town Forest parking lot. Due to the COVID-19 they are currently closed. The Board is being asked to decide if they can be opened.

Staff thoughts are: 1) people from outside the area should not be traveling to the Forest now; 2) local people used the Forest for many years before the Town began to offer port-a-lets at 44 Brook St; 3) if the port-a-lets are opened during the pandemic they need to be disinfected regularly, including more than once per day on the weekends; and 4) the Assistant Manager has CDC guidelines for recreation areas which suggest they should not be opened.

With the Governor’s new “turning of the spigot” more areas of the Recreation Area will be open. There is concern for cleaning/disinfecting the port-a-lets, the Town not contributing to the spread of the virus, and the State has port-a-lets in use with no signs advising of contamination. The Manager is recommending the port-a-lets stay closed. Further discussion noted the outside privies (out houses) be locked as well.

While not unanimous, the Board consensus is to let the Manager make the determination as to when the port-a-lets can be opened.

QUARRIES DISC GOLF COURSE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Background: Shortly after the Town Forest was purchased the Quarries Disc Golf Organizers proposed a course. The Selectboard allowed use of Town land with the understanding the organizers take care of everything else.

It is time to renew the Agreement with Quarries Disc Golf Organizers. The Agreement has proposed amended language to allow, at some point in the future, for the Recreation Department to put funds in the budget for the golf course.

Dave Rouleau noted the recent expense of replacing a weed-wacker. Other expenses can include hosting tournaments. Finding additional revenue is tough. Part of the initial fund-raising was to have advertisers “fund” a basket/hole. Tournaments are usually hosted by organizations but there is no revenue to the Organizers group. This sport has become a big draw and is a valuable asset to the Town. Doug Farnham noted perhaps it would be better for the Town if the Skate Park, Dog Park, and Disc Golf belonged to the Town. He noted use of facilities equate to revenue for local businesses.

Concerns raised included:

- Original push to have the Town approve this activity touted no tax dollars needed and the same for the Dog Park.
- Tardiness in getting this agreement (and others) to the Selectboard – this one expired in June 2019. Assistant Manager Wang stated she now has a tickler schedule for the agreements.
- Possible need to look at all these types of agreements together to find some “common language” and ensure they are treated equally.
- The change in the Agreement is to only help facilitate these specialized activities if/when it becomes necessary – on an occasional basis.

Selectboard Minutes of May 5, 2020 Continued:

The Selectboard wants to get the expired agreements completed as soon as possible. MTA agreement will be on next week's agenda. The Dog Park Agreement may be on as well if it does not need a third signer.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and sign the Quarries Disc Golf Course Operation and Maintenance Agreement as presented to include the changes to Items: 1, 2, 12, 16 (e), and 19.

CORNAVIRUS SITUATION REPORT

Manager Rogers provided the Board with the following information:

- Workforce has had some testing with all negative results.
- Supplies are good. Thermometers have been ordered, received more hand sanitizer and good on cloth masks.
- Required VOSHA COVID-19 training is complete for all full-timers, except one (on vacation). The Recreation/Cemetery crews started Monday and have completed their training. The Fire Department volunteers are working on completing theirs as well.
- Town costs associated with COVID are around \$3,500 at this time.
- Events: Green Up Day is May 30th. Posters arrived. Materials (bags, gloves) are available. The Police Department has agreed to help deliver items.
- Events: The Disc Golf tournament on May 30 is adjusting plans to include conducting over two days and modifying the timing of players.
- Events: The Town is still in the planning stages for the June 13th Bulk Trash event.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANTS

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant dated May 5, 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

'ROUND THE TABLE

Norma Malone inquired if the Budget Booklet would be completed. Manager Rogers stated yes – the plan is to have the Selectboard letter on the agenda for May 12th or 19th.

Bob Nelson and Board wishes everyone stay healthy. Mr. Nelson further thanked Tom White for sharing his plus one dance partner tonight. Very entertaining.

Jack Mitchell stated the Annual Election postcard that was recently mailed looked very good. He thought it was concise, a good font, and eye catching. Paul White echoed the comment and noted it was good to see the postings for the elections are happening frequently on Front Porch Forum.

Jack Mitchell inquired on the activity at the Lawn Waste Site this past weekend. The Manager stated the first one was very busy and did not have a report on the past weekend. City residents will begin using the site as well this week. For the viewing audience the traffic pattern, slightly changed was noted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session citing premature general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss real estate.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:01 p.m.

SELECTBOARD ACTION

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to signing a consent letter with the Town Attorney Michael Monte to handle the sale of the Ford property located at 6 Maple Street, South Barre regarding a complication of possible conflict of interest with Jeff Blow on an unrelated real estate issue.

Selectboard Minutes of May 5, 2020 Continued:

ADJOURN

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard