

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
August 3, 2021

P.I.L.O.T – Quarterly report Barre Area Development

6:00p.m.

1. Call to order. 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving July 20 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Public discussion regarding Town Forest logging.
8. Consider approving a memorandum of understanding regarding Good Samaritan Haven’s plan for transitional housing at 580 South Barre Road.
9. Consider approving request for extension to complete reappraisal grievance hearings.
10. Consider setting new date for first property tax installment.
11. Consider awarding a contract for EMS station attic insulation and air sealing work.
12. Consider authorizing signing agreement for the grants-in-aid (road stormwater) grant.
13. Consider designating a group to volunteer at the fall bulk trash collection.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for July 27 and August 3, 2021.
15. Miscellaneous: **a)** fireworks permits – 1. Canadian Club for August 6 (Aug. 13 rain date) at 414 East Montpelier Road; 2. Thunder Road for August 14 at 80 Fisher Road.
b) Other licenses and permits, if any.
16. ‘Round Table
17. Executive session, if needed.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
August 3, 2021

The duly warned meeting of August 3, 2021 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Norma Malone, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Paul White and Justin Bolduc.

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Sandra MacDonald, Kenneth MacDonald, Brian Bibeau, Rick DeAnglis from Good Samaritan Haven and Julie Curtin from Downstreet. Attendance by phone: Diane Solomon, Lori Bernier, Amanda Garland, Doug Farnham, Tim Belcher and Caitlin Cusack from Vermont Land Trust.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve the meeting agenda. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of July 20, 2021 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The Recreation Board is once again offering ice cream events this summer, the first is tonight, August 3rd from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Trow Hill Playground, on Hill Street, and Lower Graniteville Playground, on Baptist Street. The next ones are Tuesday, August 10th at East Barre Playground on Pleasant Street and Upper Websterville Playground on Brook Street. The last ones are Tuesday, August 17 at Upper Graniteville Playground on Park Street and South Barre Playground on Wilson Street, behind Hannaford's Market. Scooped ice cream and freezer pops will be served. The events are free and open to all.
- ✓ If you are like thousands of other Vermonters who have fallen behind on their utility accounts during the pandemic, there is free grant money through the Vermont Department of Public Service that can help pay your overdue utility balance and get you back on track. These State grants are not a loan, and the money is first come first served, so don't put off applying.
 - \$40 million is available for qualified renters to help pay your past due and in some cases your future utility bills. For more information, visit vtutilityhelp.com or call 833-488-3727. You do not need to be behind on your rent to qualify for assistance.
 - \$15 million is available for homeowners, renters, businesses, and farms who have been impacted by COVID-19 to help get your utility accounts caught up. The details and online application are at publicservice.vermont.gov. Click on "utility bill help for businesses, renters and homeowners." Or call 833-295-8988.
- ✓ Sewer bill payments are due Monday, August 16.
- ✓ Chair Paul White was asked to share information regarding a statewide COVID-19 memorial service that is planned for Sunday, September 19, at 3:00pm on the Statehouse

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lawn. This event is to honor Vermonters lost to COVID-19 and is hosted by Vermont Interfaith Action. The heart of the event will be a ceremonial reading of the names so that each individual who has died of COVID-19 is recognized, in addition, various clergy will offer brief interfaith prayers and readings, and Governor Phil Scott has been invited to participate. If you are a family member or are otherwise closely connected to a Vermonter who had died of COVID-19, and would like to take part in the service, please contact Debbie Ingram at Vermont Interfaith Action, debbie@viavt.org or 802-651-8889.

GUESTS – None

TOWN FOREST LOGGING – PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Background: During the April 6, 2021 Selectboard meeting, several residents called to raise concerns over the logging activity within the Town Forest. Since then, many comments and discussions have taken place including a Town Forest Workshop. The Selectboard has invited public input as a chance for the Town residents to share their feelings and thoughts regarding the logging and future logging of the Town Forest.

The 20–30-acre parcel behind St. Sylvester Church is contracted out for logging during the winter of '21-'22. The Town will need to let Forester Jeff Smith and Limlaw know if they plan to complete the contract.

It is noted that Town Manager Carl Rogers shared Marc Bernier's comments with the Selectboard as he was not available to join the Board for discussion.

Chair Paul White welcomed Town residents who were physically present at the meeting and via telephone for comments. It is noted that three residents attended in-person and six by telephone for this public input discussion.

Town residents expressed their sentiments pertaining to the Town Forest logging. The Board heard from those that supported the logging. The supporters commented that the harvesting was done well. There were others that disagreed and thought it was inappropriate and voiced concerns over the number of trees that had been cut down.

Chair Paul White thanked the residents for their comments.

Memorandum of Understanding – 580 South Barre Road

Background: Downstreet Housing and Good Samaritan Haven need a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the Development Review Board (DRB) for the plans of transitional housing

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at 580 South Barre Road. The DRB heard Good Samaritan Haven's (GSH) application presentation in July. Rick DeAngelis of GSH has submitted a revised draft of the MOU that Town Manager Carl Rogers and Chief Dodge have reviewed. Subsequent questions have been answered and the necessary edits have been made in the draft MOU.

Rick DeAngelis commented that from his perspective all parties negotiated in good faith. He believes the document clearly states the purpose of the program at this property. He added that they both have the same goal; a house that helps people within the community.

Julie Curtin expressed her appreciation to Mr. DeAngelis, Town Manager Carl Rogers and the Town for all the hard work in making this happen.

Board members commended both parties for their revisions to the document. Norma Malone suggested the MOU should be reviewed annually. This will give the Town assurance that annual funding is available. Mr. DeAnglis agreed that this was also desirable to him. Town Manager Carl Rogers and Mr. DeAnglis agreed that the MOU will be reviewed, and updated if necessary, annually by April 30th.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the addition with provision to annual review. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

TOWN REAPPRAISAL – GRIEVANCE HEARINGS EXTENSION REQUEST

Background: The grievances are supposed to be completed 14 days after starting. Due to the number of grievance requests Town Assessor Russ Beaudoin is unable to complete the hearings in 14 days. Following the procedure for lodging the Grand List abstract, the Assessor's Office prepared a letter to the Vermont Department of Taxes and a copy was shared with the Selectboard members, which includes the August 16 completion date.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Chair to sign the completion of grievance hearing extension letter. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

PROPERTY TAX INSTALLEMENT DATE

Background: Town Assessor Russ Beaudoin will not be done with grievances for the tax rate to be set on August 6. Russ has called in Michelle Pingree to help with grievance hearings. Russ, Michelle and Administrative Assistant Jocelyn Pindari are working Saturdays to conduct grievance meetings and make phone calls. The final Grand List will be sent to the State on Monday, August 16. In speaking to the State Tax Department regarding the timeline they would be available to return the State education tax rate back to the Town, the goal is to hold a

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special meeting on Friday, August 20th to set the tax rate. The property tax bills would then be ready to be mailed out around August 26th or 27th. Town Attorney Mike Monte advised the payment due date can be changed; however, we must give the property owners 30 days from the date the tax bill is mailed.

The Board had a brief discussion and agreed upon the date of August 20, 2021 at 9:00a.m. to hold the Special Meeting to set the tax rate.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to change the first tax installment due date from September 15, 2021 to September 30, 2021. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

EMS ATTIC CONTRACT

Background: The EMS attic weatherization project was re-bid. It was sent directly to the 11 closest (within 30 miles) contractors on the Efficiency Vermont list, posted on the State bid registry and to the Town website. Bidders were given 4 weeks to respond and a work completion date of January 31, 2022. The Town received one bid from Energy Smart for \$18,943.76.

The Board had multiple discussions around the bid and inquired about energy savings.

Justin Bolduc asked if the building has Proper Vent. If not, he said it will cost the Town more if this is not in the bid. Mr. Bolduc noted that without Proper Vent, the blown insulation would block airflow and could result in ice build-up and damage to the building.

Norma Malone noted that the Building Plan states to replace the front section of the roof this fiscal year. Mrs. Malone's concerns are that roof issues, if they exist, should be addressed prior to completing this project.

The Board agreed that no action will be taken at this time as more information is needed to decide on how the Town will move forward.

GRANTS-IN-AID AGREEMENT

Background: In June the Selectboard approved submitting the application to claim this grant. The grant is for the Town's expenses completing certain roadside stormwater best management practices (BMP). The State makes a certain amount of money available to each Town. Barre Town's share is up to \$22,900. In June, it was discussed that the Town would use the grant to reimburse expenses incurred with the 2022 road paving work and gravel road.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign the FY '22 Grants-in-Aid (roadside stormwater) Grant Agreement #GA0023. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

BULK TRASH GROUP

Background: The Cemetery Commission has worked as the volunteer group at the fall bulk trash collection for many years. At the meeting Wednesday night, the Commission expressed its interest in volunteering and collecting donations again. No other organization or group has come forward. The four Commission members at the meeting said they would volunteer.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve the Town Cemetery Commission as the volunteer group to work at and solicit donations at the September 18 bulk trash collection. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants dated July 27, 2021 and August 3, 2021. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

Chair Paul White inquired about Town credit card usage. Town Manager Carl Rogers said that sometimes there are unique cases when the Town needs to use a credit card however, it is not best practice. Mr. Rogers said that credit cards should not be used for planned billing items and established local vendors. Chair Paul White noted we need to be consistent in how we are paying invoices.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve a fireworks display for the Canadian Club, 414 East Montpelier Road on August 6, 2021 with a rain date of August 13. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve a fireworks display for Thunder Road Speedway, 80 Fisher Road on August 14. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

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Town Clerk Tina Lunt shared that she was contacted by the two Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Administrators and Interim Superintendent Chris Hennessey regarding a time to meet with the Barre Town Selectboard regarding the venue for future elections. A suggested date of Tuesday, August 17 will be presented for this discussion to take place.

Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang shared that the Rec Board met on Monday, August 2. The Board approved a recommendation to create a subcommittee to review the Town Rec Board ordinances and guiding principles and provide a draft document to the Selectboard. The subcommittee will research similar documents in other municipalities.

‘ROUND TABLE

Justin Bolduc commented that he would like to have someone from Millstone Trails Association (MTA) come in for a future PILOT session. This would be regarding procedures, maintenance, inspection of the trails and best practices. He also noted that there are signs in the Town Forest advertising for a local bike shop.

Jack Mitchell expressed his thanks to Norma Malone and Elaine Wang for the time and energy they put into Donna Kelty’s retirement party. He added that he had a great time and that it was a nice location.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the power poles that are being replaced with new poles. The Town will need to have a conversation with Green Mountain Power to find out the plan on removing the old poles.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:34 p.m. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard