

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
February 23, 2021

1. Call to order 8:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving February 16, 2021 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Consider adoption Resolution No. 2-21 congratulating and recognizing Alice Bartlett upon her retirement.
8. Consider accepting Donald G. Allen's bequest of 5.1 acres of land to be used as a neighborhood park between Camp Street and Lague Lane.
9. Consider granting Novus Allen Solar, LLC's Allen Street proposal solar farm preferred site status.
10. Consider authorizing contract for testing, removal and disposal of water treatment plant garnet sand.
11. Consider authorizing a National Protection Act review for the proposed Wilson Industrial park waterline project.
12. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for February 23, 2021.
13. Miscellaneous: a) Global Montello Group d/b/a Jiffy Mart #450 Second Class Liquor License; and b) other licenses or permits if any.
14. 'Round the table.
15. Executive session, if needed.
16. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
February 23, 2021

The duly warned meeting of February 23, 2021 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville, Vermont at 8:05 p.m. and remotely using Teams.

The following member attended in person: W. John "Jack" Mitchell. These members attended remotely: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, and Bob Nelson.

Attendance in person for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers and Assistant Manager Elaine Wang. Attendance remotely or by phone for the regular meeting: Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Zoning Administrator Christopher Violette, Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham and Dave Rouleau, Alex Bravakis, Tom Longfellow, Regan Howard, Rob White, William Sugarman, Val Vallerand, the Lovejoys, Diane Hedding, Jean Semprebon, Cori Longfellow, Cindy McDougal, and Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus reporter).

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended meeting agenda;

- a) *Delete Item #7*
- b) *Agenda item #8 was scheduled to begin around 8:30 p.m. and therefore items 9 -14 will be heard until the hour of 8:30 arrives.*

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of February 9, 2021 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections as presented to the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ To get an understanding of the Barre Town budget proposal for July 2021 through June 2022, virtually attend the Budget Committee meetings every Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. through the end of March. Tuesday, March 2nd agenda will cover the Ambulance Fund and begin the Administrative budgets of the General Fund. For video or telephone conference information go to www.barretown.org or call

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802-479-9331. A summary of the proposed 2021-2022 budget for the Town Funds are available online now.

- ✓ On March 2, 2021, the Special Barre Town election on the water line bond will be held. If you missed the public information session by the Selectboard last week, you can find a link to the recording at www.barretown.org. There is still time to request your early ballot by calling the Town Clerk's office at 802-479-9391.
- ✓ Barre Town seeks to fill 6 summer help positions. Four will work with the Department of Public Works, one with the Town Engineer, and one with the Cemetery/Recreation crews. Pay starts at \$12.75/hour with the opportunity to earn attendance bonuses. Application review will begin March 26, 2021. See the job postings at www.barretown.org.
- ✓ If you own and live in your Barre Town home, remember to file your Homestead Declaration Form by April 15, 2021. If you do not file, you will be assessed a higher education tax rate than you actually owe. The 2021 Homestead Declaration form is now available at tax.vermont.gov.
- ✓ You should be getting your February Barre Town Newsletter in the mail soon, it is chock full of more information on all these items and more. If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email call 802-479-9331.
- ✓ Chair Paul White informed the viewing audience that after the Selectboard's last executive session on February 16, 2021, the Selectboard authorized the expenditure of up to \$260 for the request as discussed in executive session.

GUESTS - None

NOVUS ALLEN SOLAR LLC PREFERRED SITE STATUS

Background: Following the Planning Commission lead the Selectboard deferred action on this site until plan changes. The solar array layout now accommodates the visual screening and takes into consideration the existing wetlands. The Barre Town Planning Commission, during their recent meeting, voted (5 to 1) in favor of designating "preferred site" status to Novus Allen Solar LLC.

All present at this meeting concurred this site layout is much better. Discussion noted there have been no complaints for the neighbors.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to grant the Novus Allen Solar LLC preferred site status and to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign a joint letter with the Barre Town Planning Commission regarding the preferred site status.

CONTRACT FOR TESTING, REMOVAL, DISPOSAL OF GARNET SAND

Background: In the budget for this year is the Websterville water treatment plant replacement of the 20+ year old filter media, which is garnet sand. The media is in four tanks. The has provided the funding with a portion in the FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 Water Fund budgets. In all the two fiscal year budgets provide \$16,000 for removal and \$24,000 to replace it.

Our Town Engineer has been working with Otter Creek Engineering. A quote was obtained to test the sand (for contaminants), remove it, package (in drums) and dispose of it as non-hazardous waste – that estimate is \$6,617 to \$9,713. If the sand testing shows it is hazardous there would be an additional charge. That charge would not be known until the level and type of hazardous substance is detected. The Town Engineer did note that given how clean the raw water is a hazardous result is unlikely. The company, US Ecology, can do the testing work right away. The new sand is being ordered.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorizing hiring US Ecology to test, remove, and dispose of the garnet sand as non-hazardous material at a price not to exceed \$9,713 and if the sand is determined to be hazardous a new price will be presented to this Board for approval; payment for said work is to come from the Water Fund, Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 money designated for this work and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 approved budget.

DONALD ALLEN BEQUEST

Background: Donald Allen, a Camp Street resident, bequeathed two lots to the Town, "so long as that property is developed, used, and maintained as a neighborhood park..." The lots total 5.13 acres and access to the land is from Camp Street and Lague Lane.

The Selectboard asked the Recreation Board to look into how/if the Town could use this land. The public (nearby homeowners and public in general) were provided surveys (mail/online). The results were provided for Board review prior to the meeting. The Recreation Board held a special meeting on February

Selectboard Minutes of February 23, 2021 Continued:

15th and voted to recommend the Selectboard accept the bequest and leave (the land) undeveloped at this time. Undeveloped was in the motion because of the number of neighbor concerns about negative impacts (litter, noise, easement questions, and improper use of the parking area).

Those present voiced additional concerns for privacy (an abutter has a backyard that abuts the “cleared” area, there is a bank of large windows and a pool), security, and a vernal pool located on the land.

During discussion it was noted that if the Town did not accept the lots they would go to the Library and a Church. They could, if they chose to, sell the lots. Manager Rogers stated they are developable building lots. Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham stated his Board was not aware of the lots being able to be sold and the Library/Church receiving the proceeds. It was noted the land value is \$93,010.

Consensus of the Board is to postpone a decision until the Town receives an answer on whether or not the Town has to accept both lots?

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT REVIEW

Background: The State informed the Town the Wilson Industrial Park waterline project for \$300,000 is ranked within the fundable range. There are several things that have to be done including a National Environmental Protection Act review. Otter Creek Engineering provided an estimate not to exceed \$1,000 to perform the review. In the Manager’s notes to the Board they were advised of upcoming things to do associated with the project. The Town is trying to meet all the requirements in hopes of receiving an additional subsidy.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize Otter Creek Engineering to conduct the National Environmental Protection Act review of the Wilson Industrial Park waterline project at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants dated February 23, 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2021 Second Class Liquor License for Global Montello Group, d/b/a Jiffy Mart #450.

‘ROUND TABLE

Norma Malone inquired on the status of the March 2nd early voting. Kelty stated over 1500 ballots had been mailed and they were beginning to “roll-in.” The Board of Abatement will meet tomorrow night.

Jack Mitchell stated he signed up for his COVID vaccination and it was a very pleasant experience. He also congratulated former Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett who recently took a position as the Graton County Administrator on February 16, 2021. Mitchell noted all our former interns and the first Asst. Town Manager have done well.

Chair Paul White noted the Selectboard will be holding a regular meeting, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURN

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:19 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard