

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

March 9, 2021

1. Call to order 8:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving February 23, 2021 and March 2, 2021 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Consider accepting Donald Allen's bequest of two lots located along and off Camp Street.
8. Consider awarding contract for lining a culvert under Windy Wood Road.
9. Consider acknowledging Rock of Ages' revised tax bill.
10. Consider decision about moving Town Engineer's office to the DPW Shop building.
11. Consider procedures for appointments to CVRPC, CVRPC's TAC, CVFiber, and current Planning Commission and Development Review Board vacancies.
12. Consider approving Rock of Ages' unregistered vehicle road crossing permits.
13. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for March 9, 2021.
14. Miscellaneous, permits and licenses, if any.
15. 'Round the table.
16. Executive session: (if needed).
17. Adjourn.

### BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

March 9, 2021

The duly warned meeting of March 9, 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 were Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham, Recreation Board Vice Chair Dave Rouleau, Alice Farrell, Jeff and Barbara Allen, Phil Cecchini, Robert Pope, R. Lee Walther, Tom Koch, William Sugarman, Diane Solomon, Times Argus reporter Eric Blaisdell, and others identified only by their computers as: Lovejoys, Sue, Carey, Matt, and Martin.

**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) *Item 16, Executive Session, add real estate, personnel, and contracts with no action expected.*

#### MINUTES

*On a motion by Norma Malone, and duly seconded, the minutes of February 23, 2021 and March 2, 2021 were approved with minor grammatical and spelling changes.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ You are invited to virtually attend the Barre Town Budget Committee meetings, held Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:55 p.m. through March. The Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup> agenda will continue review of various General Fund departments. For the video or telephone conference information, go to [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) or call 802-479-9331.
- ✓ Barre Town seeks five outdoor summer helpers. Four are needed for the Department of Public Works, and one with the Cemetery and Recreation crews. Application review will begin March 26, 2021. See the job posting at [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org).
- ✓ The Annual Fire Department Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021 from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at the usual cost of \$15 per vaccination. The rabies clinic will be held in a new location because of the pandemic. Go to 79 Pitman Road, which is in the Wilson Industrial Park. This will

Selectboard Minutes of March 9, 2021 Continued:

be a “drive-by” clinic which means vehicles will be in a line and a Veterinarian Technician will bring pets into the building and back to you. For everyone’s safety, pet owners are to always remain in their vehicles. All dogs must be leashed and all cats must be crated. There is no residency requirement for this rabies clinic. Note that dog licensing will not be offered this year. Please fill out the intake form in advance. The intake form can be found at [www.barretown.org](http://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 available at [tax.vermont.gov](http://tax.vermont.gov).
- ✓ On Monday, March 15, 2021, 7:00 p.m. there will be a ZOOM Town of Barre Non-Partisan Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to ensure there are candidates for each elected office. This meeting holds no political weight. Petitions are not required due to COVID-19. However, a Consent of Candidate” form is required. The deadline to submit is Monday, March 29, 2021, 5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office.

**GUESTS - None**

**ALLEN LAND BEQUEST**

Background: The Donald Allen Estate bequeathed two lots off Camp Street to the Town of Barre with the caveat the parcels be “developed, used, and maintained as a neighborhood park.” As part of the Board conversation, it was noted that should the Town pass on accepting the lots the property would pass to the Barre Congregational Church and Aldrich Public Library. During public comment at the Selectboard meeting a couple of weeks ago the question arose if the Town had to accept both parcels and there was still some question regarding parcel easements.

The Town Attorney reported the Estate attorney said the Town could accept one or both parcels. He also confirmed the 3-rod strip of land connecting to Camp Street is part of parcel #105. When Donald Allen was the owner of lot 106, he received a right-of-way (easement) over the 3-rod strip from his father who owned lot #105. Jeff Allen (lot #107 abutting) is not involved in the easement over the 3-rod strip (lot #105).

Jeff and Barbara Allen were present and disputed they do not have an easement and noted some family history pertaining to the rights-of-way.

Board Member Norma Malone stated while she appreciates the Allen bequest, her main concern is no funding was included for the neighborhood park development and maintenance. Other concerns are for future issues as this land would become public land and subject to the rules/regulations of the Town which could include limited access, creating parking areas, need for fencing (boundary issues with neighbors), porta-lets, and signage. By not accepting the land, the lots would go back to the estate, be sold and housing developed, a win-win situation for the taxpayers and some lucky families.

Board Member Justin Bolduc stated he had spoken with the Zoning Administrator. Lot #105 (road frontage on Camp Street) is buildable with 1 dwelling, Lot #106 due to a variety of issues, could support 1 house. He agrees there would need to be some immediate work/expense. However, there is still the issue of resolving the Jeff Allen easement.

The Recreation Board would like the Town to accept the land and maintain as is. In meantime they could work with neighboring property owners to “come up with the best uses” for the land.

Board Member Bob Nelson stated the Allen easement must be resolved 100% if the Town were to accept the bequest. He disagrees there would be a need for fencing except for the parking area.

Board Member Jack Mitchell feels the Town should honor and accept the bequest. Minimal development would be needed. However, he does recognize the Recreation Board’s continued request for additional staffing to maintain what we have.

Other public comments included: this is a “gem of an area” for recreation and the Recreation Board survey results stated trespassing on private lots as a big concern.

*A motion was made by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, to accept as presented the bequest of Donald Allen for 5.13 acres located off Camp Street (known as Lot #105 and #106) and to let the Recreation Board decide how to proceed with meeting the bequest requirements. The motion failed with Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, and Paul White voting no and Bob Nelson and Jack Mitchell voting yes.*

*For clarification purposes: A motion was made by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to have the staff notify the Estate of Donald Allen the Town will not be accepting the bequest of property located off Camp Street. The motion passed with Bob Nelson voting no.*

### **WINDY WOOD RD CULVERT LINING CONTRACT**

Background: The Town sent bid request for the lining of the culvert under Windy Wood Road near the orchard pond. A State Structures grant for this improvement has been received. The grant was based on total replacement, but lining it, as in the bid specifications, is preferred. The low bid is well under the grant amount of \$48,780. The low bidder has done several culvert linings for the Town and we have had no issues.

DPW is also looking to make a headwall around the culvert outlet and improve the inlet wall. The outlet headwall will allow DPW to widen the road shoulder over the culvert. The \$20,000 difference between the grant and the low bidder contract will pay for the headwall work. This grant requires a 10% match.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the Windy Wood culvert lining contract (Grant # BC2049) to CHL and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$28,100 for a 36" culvert or \$26,625 for a 32" liner.*

### **ROCK OF AGES REVISED TAX BILL**

Background: In December, the Selectboard approved the Errors & Omissions list and the Certificate of No appeal or Suit Pending in February 2021 for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Grand List. However, in January the Assessor's Office that Rock of Ages (ROA) had enrolled more land in the Current Use Program which required the current fiscal year to be adjusted. The late notice of the change was due to the State of VT Current Use Department being behind in their processing. Upon contacting Property Valuation, and Review the Town was instructed to acknowledge and accept the late notice of Rock of Ages enrollment of their additional land and to send a revised tax bill. Bottom line is the bill will be decreasing by \$2,562.53.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to acknowledge and accept the late notice of Rock of Ages enrollment of additional land in the State of Vermont Current Use Program which requires a revised tax bill for Rock of Ages for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.*

### **TOWN ENGINEER'S NEW OFFICE AT DPW SHOP**

Background: In conjunction with the recent administrative changes at the Municipal Building, the Selectboard agreed to relocate the Town Engineer's office to the DPW Shop in the Wilson Industrial Park. Associated with that move comes the need for a faster internet service. Firstlight is offering to install that internet service free, provided the Town sign a 5-year agreement. The monthly access fee would be \$275 (or \$3,300) addition to the Equipment Fund budget.

Conversation focused on the costs to connect to the Shop (Town paying for laying of line versus Firstlight paying with a 5-year monthly fee contract which covers cost of laying line), the need to have inside electrical work, Charter/Spectrum is not available in the area, and ensuring the 5-year contract is for the Shop connection only.

By consensus, the Selectboard is okay with Firstlight service and the 5-year contract provided it is for the Shop only. The Manager will get the contract together and bring back for Board approval.

### **PROCEDURES FOR EXTERNAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Background: A question was raised regarding Selectboard appointments to external organizations such as, CVRPC, CVSWMD, CVRPC's TAC, CVFiber, etc. The Town Charter states the Town is to advertise for Board seats. Some of the external board seats have terms much different than the standard ones reappointed annually in May. Attorney Monte is of the opinion that yes, the Town should advertise for ALL Boards and Committees (internal or external).

Discussion focused on how quickly the positions can be advertised. Consensus is to abide by the Town Charter and advertise for all. The Manager noted he will adjust the calendar to ensure the "unusual term expiration" seats are advertised even if the incumbent wishes to be reappointed.

### **ROCK OF AGES UNREGISTERED VEHICLE PERMITS**

Background: Rock of Ages has some very large loaders and trucks that are too large to be registered for on-road use. These trucks/loaders do need to cross Town roads when used in the Rock of Age's quarry operations. State law requires owners of these vehicles to obtain an unregistered vehicle permit to cross a Town road. The fee is \$35 per vehicle, and Rock of Ages has 15 vehicles. The permit lists all the possible road crossing locations and conditions. The 7 road crossing locations are the same as last year.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Rock of Ages fifteen (15) Unregistered Vehicle Road Crossing permits.*

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The Selectboard needs to sign all 15 permits. However, the Manager will inquire, given COVID conditions to see if a “duly authorized agent” such as the Manager can sign.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants dated March 9, 2021.*

**MISCELLANEOUS - None**

**‘ROUND TABLE**

Jack Mitchell noted Charlie Thygesen has resigned from the Planning Commission. He wanted to take a minute to thank him for doing a great job representing the Town all these many, many years.

Paul White wanted the Manager to add a couple of items to future agendas: 1) representation to the Aldrich Library Board; and 2) legalizing cannabis sale in Barre Town – may need to be a ballot question to “opt out” of the program given a recently proposed legislative bill.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:41 p.m. for real estate, contracts, and personnel.*

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:19 p.m.*

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:19 p.m.*

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

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Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard