



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING February 22, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....8:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving February 8 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Public hearing for proposed sale of Tax Map 30, Lot 8, located off of Stevens Lane.
8. Consider approving sale of Tax Map 30, Lot 8.
9. Discuss elected constable position and a Charter amendment regarding the position.
10. Discuss plan for considering Cemetery Commission applicant.
11. Consider approving options for three rights-of-way AOT requests for the Rt. 110 bridge replacement.
12. Consider approving an Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the recreation area stormwater practice.
13. Consider authorizing the Town Engineer sign MRGP Annual Report
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for February 22, 2022.
15. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
16. 'Round table.
17. Executive session: legal.
18. Adjourn.

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of February 22, 2022 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8:05 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, and Bob Nelson.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, and Town Clerk Tina Lunt. Those in attendance virtually: Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaidell and Town Constable David Freeman

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting 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 Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. Add to #17 Executive Session: personnel

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the February 15, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The public is welcome to attend the Barre Town Budget Committee meetings, which are every Tuesday through March at 6:00 p.m. More info on the meetings, and the available budget summaries, are at barretown.org.
- The school elections are March 1st. You have three options for voting:
 - a. The mail in option if you already have your early ballot. But be aware the Town must receive your completed ballot back by election day for your vote to count. If you are not sure if mailing it will do the trick, you can use either drop box at the Town Offices at 149 Websterville Road.
 - b. Before February 28th you can vote in person at the Town Clerk's office at 149 Websterville Road Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
 - c. Or vote at the polls at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School on March 1st between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Barre Town needs both a representative and an alternate to the CVFiber Board. CVFiber is a Communications Union District municipal organization made up of twenty-one Central Vermont communities. Their goal is to get fast, dependable, and affordable internet to every Vermonter within its member towns. If you are interested in representing Barre Town on the CVFiber Board, please call the Town Manager's office at 479-9331 or send an email to offices@barretown.org.
- Assistance for homeowners behind on housing-related bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic is available through the Vermont Housing Finance Agency's Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program. For more, visit vermonthap.vhfa.org.
- Free tax help is available to eligible Vermonters, including those with lower income, disabilities, the elderly, or those with limited English. Visit barretown.org for the flyer from the Vermont Department of Taxes.
- Anyone of any political party, or not of any political party, is welcome to participate in Barre Town's Non-Partisan Town Caucus, which will be held on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the municipal office. To receive the meeting information, contact Melissa Battah at 595-9912 or Jeff Blow at 839-0486.

GUESTS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Selectboard Minutes of February 22, 2022 Continued:

Background: As required by Town Charter Section 41, the Barre Town Selectboard is holding a Public Hearing about the proposed sale of Tax Map 30, Lot 8, a .8 acre parcel off Stevens Lane and along the Stevens Branch. The Town acquired this land when they thought it would be needed for the new Bridge Street bridge and it has been on the books as Town property since. A hearing notice was published in the paper on Tuesday, February 15. The notice was posted at 5 public places.

Randy Walker, a Barre Town resident who owns an abutting lot is interested in purchasing the lot.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

Chairman White provided an overview of the proposed sale. There was no further public comment.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

SALE OF TAX MAP 30, LOT 8:

Background: The Town Charter allows for action on selling property or changing the use of property immediately after the required public hearing.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard unanimously voted to approve the sale of Tax Map 30, Lot 8, to Randall and Susan Walker for the price of \$3,000 plus legal and recording fees, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the deed.

CONSTABLE POSITION:

Background: The Town's current elected Constable Dave Freeman has announced that he will not seek re-election in May 2022. State law grants elected Constables law enforcement authority unless the municipality prohibits the Constable from exercising law enforcement authority. During a previous Selectboard meeting a discussion took place regarding a Charter amendment. Town Attorney Mike Monte suggests a 2-step process that starts with a Town Charter amendment by vote in May.

Constable David Freeman was present. Mr. Freeman shared the Constable position does not entail a lot. He shared it is a redundant job since Barre Town does have a Police Department. Mr. Freeman recommends keeping the position, as it's an asset to the Town. He noted the Constable position has been a long-time tradition. Mr. Freeman suggested looking at the option of changing the Constable role to an appointed position as opposed to an elected official. He recommends the position retain law enforcement authority.

The Board recommends seeking advice from Town Attorney Mike Monte. Further information is needed regarding the Constable being an appointed position, including language around the Selectboard choosing to appoint with or without law enforcement authority.

The Board thanked Mr. Freeman for his years of service.

CEMETERY COMMISSION APPLICANT:

Background: The fifth seat on the Cemetery Commission has been vacant since the previous member resigned last summer. Notice of vacancy has been given in the newspaper (November and February) and announced during Selectboard meetings.

A letter has been received from Kent Barcomb. Board consensus is to interview Mr. Barcomb for the Cemetery Commission seat.

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared the Town received an application for the Deputy Health Officer position. The Board recommends interviewing the applicant, Michael Milo.

RIGHT-OF-WAY OPTIONS:

The Agency of Transportation (AOT) is preparing for construction in the spring of 2023 and are beginning the right of way acquisition. Their process has a step of acquiring signed options and the actual easements will come at a later time. The AOT has identified an amount of money for these right-of-ways.

Board members received a cover letter, one option for each parcel and drawings showing the location of each parcel.

Parcel No. 1: This parcel is within the Old Route 302 right-of-way. The temporary and permanent easements are needed for sidewalk and guardrail work. It is 562 square feet in area.

Parcel No. 2: This parcel is the small lot the telephone equipment building is on plus the small area in the corner of the Old 302/Rt. 110 intersection. The total is 907 square feet. The area is needed for guardrail work, temporary construction activities and a permanent easement to maintain bridge footings.

Parcel No. 5: This parcel is by the entrance to the parking area on the northeast side of the bridge. This area is 681 square feet. This easement involves both temporary construction and a permanent easement to maintain bridge footings.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau has reviewed the documents.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the right-of-way Options for Parcels 1, 2, and 5, as shown on AOT's right-of-way detail sheet 1 and right-of-way layout sheet 1 of the plans of the Transportation Project, Barre Town BF 0169 (12), the Rt. 110 bridge replacement project and the Selectboard will sign the options.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PLAN:

Background: The Friend of the Winooski River secured a State grant for the recreation area stormwater project. A condition of that grant is a 10-year agreement to maintain the project according to the plan. Details of the plan were provided by Watershed Consulting Associates.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Manager to sign an Operation and Maintenance Agreement with the VT

Selectboard Minutes of February 22, 2022 Continued:

Department of Environmental Conservation; said agreement is for the Recreation Fields Swale and Basin Implementation Project, agreement number 2019-ERP-IMP-01.

2022 MRGP ANNUAL REPORT:

Background: This is an annual municipal road permit. The MRGP report is required by the VT Stormwater regulations. Town Engineer Josh Martineau prepared the report.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize Town Engineer Josh Martineau to sign and submit the 2022 MRGP Annual Report.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of February 22, 2022.

A brief discussion focused on the sewer bill the Town receives from the City.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Wang shared an update on Fuzzbuzz Technologies. She noted more programming is scheduled to take place with the AV system next week. Ms. Wang added that Chris Violette will staff the AV system for the Budget and Selectboard meetings on March 1, 2022 as she will not be in attendance.

'ROUND TABLE:

Ms. Malone read a statement to address allegations made against the Selectboard pertaining to the BUUSD budget presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, 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 Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m. for legal and personnel.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:22 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:22 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Norma Malone, Vice Chair

Justin Bolduc

Jack Mitchell

Bob Nelson

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk's Office on this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.