



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

July 5, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving June 28 Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Interview applicants for Community Forest Management Plan Committee
8. Department Head Visits: Engineer and Public Works
9. Discuss contracting for snowplowing
10. Consider setting FY '22-'23 property tax rates
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for July 5, 2022
12. Miscellaneous, including permits, if any
13. Round the table
14. Executive session, if needed
15. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of July 5, 2022 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

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

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Public Works Superintendent Richard Tetreault, Town Engineer Josh Martineau. Those attending virtually: Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

Others Present: Doug Farnham, Larry Rogacki, Shannon Blais, Patty Meriam, and Dean Preston. Those attending virtually: Lori Bernier and Times Argus Reporter David Delcore.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the June 28, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Recreation Board is offering a free outdoor movie on Saturday, July 9th, weather permitting. The movie Shrek 2 will be projected onto a large inflatable screen on the Rec Area softball field. The audience will spread out their blankets and chairs on the outfield grass. Bring your own snacks. The restroom building will be open.
- The State Primary Election is Tuesday, August 9. Voting is conducted in the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School gymnasium from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you requested an early ballot for the entire calendar year, you do not need to request one again.
- Tax and sewer bills will be in the mail very soon. If you send your tax bill to your mortgage company, be aware there is more than the tax bill in the envelope. Please open the envelope and keep the sewer bill and Mid-Summer news bulletin.

GUESTS:

Rec Board Chair Doug Farnham was present. Mr. Farnham recommended the below two topics for Round Table discussion:

1. Removal of the truck located a 44 Brook Street.
2. Request for the Town Manager and Selectboard to visit with Mr. Couture regarding the Rockfire event. Mr. Farnham stated, as of yesterday, there were still 21 fire pits with wood, ashes, and unburned wood in the Town Forest. He also mentioned concerns with glass containers in the disc golf area following the morning after the event.

INTERVIEW FOR THE TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE:

Background: The Selectboard will appoint six Barre Town residents and a Recreation Board member to a temporary Community Forest Management Plan Committee. The Committee will have temporary assignment to review the existing Community Forest Management Plan and make recommendations for revisions. The Town posted an ad for recruiting committee members and five applications have been received. Board members will interview the five applicants.

Applicant #1: Larry Rogacki

Mr. Rogacki and his wife moved to Barre Town in September. Mr. Rogacki has a degree in Forestry and taught Forestry at Missisquoi Valley Union High School, and also worked for the Forest Service for 4 years. He stated he and his wife are familiar with the Town Forest and feels this would be a good fit for him. Mr. Rogacki stated his scheduled is flexible and he is currently looking for opportunities to fill his time.

Applicant #2 Lori Bernier:

Ms. Bernier is a lifetime resident of Barre Town. Ms. Bernier has grown up near the property that has now become the Town Forest. She stated she realizes the benefits and value of the Town Forest and feels it is important for her involvement. Ms. Bernier is knowledgeable of the Town Forest Management Plan.

Applicant #3 Patty Meriam:

Ms. Meriam has been a Barre Town resident for 20 years. She is a frequent visitor of the Forest and has been involved with the Millstone Trails Association. Ms. Meriam has also served on boards of the Vermont Granite Museum and Barre Opera House. She is interested in learning more about the Forest Agreement and how she can help maintain the Forest.

Applicant #4 Shannon Blais:

Ms. Blais is a resident of Barre Town. She is a local bookkeeper and business owner who also enjoys the Town Forest. Ms. Blais shared she does not have any forestry experience but does have free time and thought it would be a good experience to volunteer and help on this committee.

Applicant #5 Dean Preston:

Mr. Preston is a long time Barre Town resident. The Millstone trails run along the back of his property. Mr. Preston has a plumbing business and has done work for the Town. He is looking to become more involved with the community and thought this committee would be a good opportunity for him.

The closing date for the ad is July 22. The Board will appoint Committee members on July 26.

DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present.

Mr. Martineau presented his monthly reports for April, May, and June. A summary of his presentation includes:

- TSAC:
 - Appointments of new members
- VTrans project updates:
 - Rt. 110 Bridge: all materials have been ordered and contract plans should be coming soon. The start dates is planned for July 2023.
 - Rt. 302 resurfacing project: culvert replacement will take place this year with paving next year
 - Quarry Hill Intersection: construction in 2024
 - Crack sealing Route 110: Fall of 2022
- Asphalt training
- Diver safety manual
- Paving: as of 7/1/22 Pike Industries asphalt pricing is \$96.38/ton for the month of July. This is \$170,000 over budget. Since January the average increase has been \$40.00 per ton of liquid asphalt.
- May 11th Vermont Equipment Show: 2 Town DPW staff came in third place

Public Works Superintendent Richard Tetreault was present. Mr. Tetreault presented his monthly reports for April, May, and June. A summary of his presentation includes:

- Continuation of walk arounds

Selectboard Minutes of July 5, 2022 Continued:

- Paving projects
- Minimal trees down
- Two minor sewer issues on South Barre Rd.

Mr. Nelson noted the excellent ditching work that was completed on Anderson and Phelps Roads. Board members echoed Mr. Nelsons comments.

2022-2023 PLOWING CONTRACTS:

Background: For approximately 13 years the Town has used two contracted snowplowing routes. The first one of these routes was labeled the Short Streets contract. The contract that came later was referred to as the Village Streets. The FY '22-'23 Highway Fund budget plans for hiring an additional Public Works employee and dropping a plowing contract. Both contracts expired with the end of this last winter. The Town needs to work on bidding the remaining work now. The Village Street route would not be contracted out again. The Short Street contract includes 4 parking lots, then is concentrated in South Barre. The contractor is supposed to plow in the order streets are listed.

Board member reviewed two lists: Village Streets and Short Streets. A few amendments were made to the final lists. Town Manager Carl Rogers suggested the Short Street list be re-ordered as it is best if the plow routes maximize right-hand turns. Town staff will review the re-ordering of the streets.

2022-2023 TAX RATES:

Background: The Selectboard will set 5 tax rates: 1) Education Homestead (set by the State), 2) Education Non-residential (set by the State), 3) Highway Fund, 4) General Fund, and 5) Local Agreement Rate

Tax Rate worksheets were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting detailing how the rates are calculated. Town Manager Carl Rogers gave a presentation on how the rates are calculated. Overall, the 2022-2023 tax rate is going up 5.27 cents or 7.4%.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Barre Town tax rates as follows:

<i>Education Homestead rate</i>	<i>\$1.1760</i>
<i>Education Non-Homestead rate</i>	<i>\$1.4123</i>
<i>Highway Fund rate</i>	<i>\$.3365</i>
<i>General Fund rate</i>	<i>\$.4283</i>
<i>Local Agreement rate</i>	<i>\$.0021</i>

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant for the week of July 5, 2022.

Mr. Nelson inquired about the mileage log for vaccine clinics. Discussion continued regarding the Covid expense reimbursement for Covid clinics, questioning if this information is tracked in anyway. Board members shared this information would be helpful during budget season if it could be a separate revenue item.

Selectboard Minutes of July 5, 2022 Continued:

Mr. Nelson inquired about the First Light bill. The Town is continuing to pay for long distance calls by the minute. This is something that the Town needs to revisit.

MISCELLANEOUS: None

ROUND TABLE:

The Board discussed Rec Board Chair Doug Farnham’s concerns.

RockFire:

Mr. Mitchell proposed the Town contact Mr. Couture to come in and have a discussion with Board members. He recommends Mr. Farnham be present as well. Board members shared this is not the first time that residents had approached them about concerns after the Rockfire event. Board consensus is the Town Manager will contact Mr. Couture to debrief regarding the Rockfire event.

Truck removal at 44 Brook Street:

Board members agreed to give authorization to the Rec Board to contact a scrap metal yard for removal of the truck. Town Manager Carl Rogers will also let Mr. Farnham know it is ok to remove the trailer.

Chair White shared that he received an email from a resident regarding the increase in fuel prices. The email suggested putting together a volunteer bureau for residents needing assistance. The resident was looking for guidance from the Board on how to spearhead the idea. Board members recommend the resident contact Capstone Community Action for volunteer opportunities regarding their home heating and utility assistance program.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:17 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.