



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**September 6, 2022**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving August 30 Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Review draft zoning by-law amendment to address new cannabis market
8. Discuss review of application for solar farm off of Lowery Road
9. Discuss rain dates for permitted fireworks displays
10. Consider selecting firm for lease-financing of new excavator
11. Consider approving letter of support for Washington County Mental Health’s grant application
12. Consider approving Barre City residents use of lawn waste site during October and November
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for September 6, 2022
14. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any
15. Round the table
16. Executive session (personnel, real estate, labor negotiations)
17. Adjourn

**MINUTES**

The duly warned meeting of September 6, 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, and Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

**Others Present:** Cedric Sanborn, George Clain, Caroline Earle and Time Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: Jeff Blow.

**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 Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:*

1. Add item# 8a.: Discuss hiring of a facilitator for the Town Forest Committee.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the August 30, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Town's fall bulk trash collection will be held Saturday, September 17. Service hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is held at the Department of Public Works Yard located at 129 Websterville Road. The service is provided to give Barre Town residents an option for disposing of large items that would not be disposed of with regular household trash. Fees are charged. See the Town newsletter or visit the Town website, look under Solid Waste Services, for more information.
  - Mr. Mitchell added that the collection is for Town residents and those that utilize this service must show proof of residency. Please review the list of items that will be accepted. Items will be listed on the website and in the newsletter.
- We are accepting applications or letters of interest in serving on the Town Cemetery Commission. The Commission has five members. It meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Typically the Commission meets April through October. The Commission oversees the three cemeteries. It adjusts Cemetery Rules and Regulations as needed, plans cemetery improvements, approves monument designs and takes other actions as states in the Rules and Regulations. Monthly meetings typically are one to one and a half hours long. For more information contact the Town Manager's Office or read about the Commission and its agendas and minutes, available on the Town website.
- We also are accepting letter or emails of interest about the Deputy Health Officer position. The Deputy or Assistant Health Officer takes calls when the Health Officer is not available. There are perhaps a dozen Health Officer calls per year. Instruction about the Health Officer duties is available. To learn more, contact the Town Manager's Office.
- The Town is accepting employment applications for a full-time Police Officer. Applications also are being accepted for per-diem officers, commonly called part-time officers. Experience is not necessary to be considered for either the full-time position or for per-diem work. Field training, which is on-the-job training, and Police Academy training are provided. Part-time work is very flexible and there are many opportunities to work. Contact the Town Manager's Office for more information or for an application.

**GUESTS: None.**

**ZONING BY-LAW:**

Background: During last week's Board meeting a draft ordinance of the Zoning by-laws was provided. The Planning Commission focused on cannabis amendments with the market approaching soon. Attorney Jim

Selectboard Minutes of September 6, 2022 Continued:

Barlow has made recommendations and a second draft has been prepared and is being presented to the Board for review.

Those present: Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette, Planning Commission Chair Cedric Sanborn, and Planning Commission member George Clain.

Mr. Violette displayed the most recent version of the zoning by-law amendments. A summary of the amendments include:

- Allowed Use Determination
- Chart of uses (addition of cannabis) and deletions
- Agricultural Uses
- Accessory on Farm Business (AOFB)
- Cannabis Establishments
- Accessory Dwelling
- Salvage Yard
- Definitions
- Commencement of Land Development extension

Mr. Violette shared a color-coded zoning map. He explained how the cannabis chart of uses relate to the Town's zoning. Mr. Violette noted that Chief Dodge has reviewed this information and did not foresee any issues.

Mr. Violette explained that the Planning Commission has created more clarification around the definitions of the five categories of cannabis business. Town Attorney Jim Barlow has reviewed the Planning Commission amendments and recommended definitions from the State Cannabis Control Board Guidelines. Planning Commission member George Clain noted their intent was to make the language understandable.

Board consensus is to include the first reading of the zoning by-law regarding cannabis as a future agenda item. The Board will invite Attorney Jim Barlow to discuss his recommendations regarding the State Cannabis Control Board Guideline definitions versus the Planning Commission language amendments.

### **STRYKER SOLAR:**

Background: Several years ago, when Merry Meadows LLC applied for permits for two solar arrays, the Selectboard coordinated with the Planning Commission on review and comments. The pre-petition notice for Lowery Road Solar LLC (Strykers) was presented to the Board for discussing and coordinating review of the application.

Those present: Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette, Planning Commission Chair Cedric Sanborn, and Planning Commission member George Clain.

As required by State law, the interested parties must submit a pre-notice. This is an opportunity for the Selectboard and Planning Commission to review the project ahead of time. Mr. Violette stated this is the best time to address any concerns directly with the applicant before the application is submitted.

Mr. Violette proposed a joint Planning Commission and Selectboard meeting for MG Solar to present the project. Additionally, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Violette will coordinate a site visit. The Town of Orange Selectboard and Planning Commission will also be invited to attend this future meeting.

**COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FACILITATOR:**

Background: The Town has appointed a Community Forest Management Committee for reviewing the current Community Forest Plan and Conservation Easement. The Committee will be responsible for collecting public input, organizing, seeking information, and in return present the Board with rewrite recommendations. During previous discussion the Board had discussed the possibility of hiring a professional facilitator to help get the Committee up and running.

Caroline Earle was present. Ms. Earle is a Barre City resident who has been a practicing attorney in the State of Vermont for the past 28 years. She has been running her own law business for the past 11 years. Ms. Earle has assisted as legal counsel and served on numerous Boards. Board members shared that they believe the Committee would benefit from Ms. Earle's services for 2-4 meetings to help facilitate and get the Committee up and running efficiently.

Chair White noted if circumstances were different the Board would normally handle facilitating this Committee. Currently, the Board is focusing their work on multiple vacancies and the recruitment of a new Town Manager and found it best to look to outside services for this work.

Ms. Earle will submit a retainer letter to the Town Manager for her services.

**FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMIT – RAIN DATES:**

Background: During the August 23 Board meeting a question was asked about rain date(s) for firework displays. In accordance with State Statute there is no mention of rain date(s). This agenda item is for the Board to have a discussion regarding permitting rain dates for firework display and, if approved, how many rain dates will be approved.

Fire Chief Chris Violette was present. Mr. Violette shared that from his perspective he does not believe there should be more than one rain date because multiple rain dates complicate advising neighbors when the display is being held. Additionally, multiple rain dates open the possibility the permittee uses a rain date for convenience rather than actual weather related circumstances.

Chief Violette shared that there is no requirement that the Town send notification of upcoming firework displays. This is something that the Fire Chief put into place. The Town's current practice addresses the residents closest in proximity to the display. The upcoming displays are also announced on [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org), Facebook and Front Porch Forum.

Conversation continued as Board members reviewed the language within the Firework Display Application. Mrs. Malone inquired about the "Barre Town Policy" that is mentioned within the application. Town staff was not aware of an existing policy. Town staff will research when the application was originally adopted and if, in fact, a municipality firework policy exists.

Board consensus is to continue the approval of one rain date. The approved rain date should follow the original scheduled firework display. Amendments to the Fireworks Application will be revisited once Town staff has had a chance to research if a municipality firework policy exists.

**EXCAVATOR LEASE-FINANCING:**

**Background:** This financing is for the new excavator which was awarded to United Construction and Forestry. The Town is expecting delivery in early November. The Town budgeted 6 annual payments with the first payment made in advance and due upon closing. The FY '23 Equipment Fund budget for the excavator was based on an interest rate of 3.25% and a finance amount of \$278,200, producing an annual payment of \$50,130. The actual amount to be financed is \$297,772.

Bidding specifications were sent to four companies and two proposals were received. Municipal Leasing Consultants (MLC) of Grand Isle, VT proposed an interest rate of 3.427% and an annual payment of \$53,901. Tax-Exempt Leasing of Illinois proposed a rate of 4.18% and an annual payment of \$54,844.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to provide the lease-financing for the new excavator to Municipal Leasing Consultants based on their interest rate quote of 3.247%.***

**WASHINGTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH LETTER OF SUPPORT:**

**Background:** Washington County Mental Health (WCMH) is seeking a State Building Communities grant under the Education and Health category. The project is re-pointing brick work and other masonry repairs to WCMH's building on Beckley Hill Road. The estimated project cost is \$95,000 to \$117,000. A letter of support was shared with Board members.

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for Washington County Mental Health's Building Communities grant application to help pay for brick work on its Beckley Hill Road building.***

**BARRE CITY RESIDENTS USE OF LAWN WASTE SITE**

**Background:** Annually Barre City requests permission for its residents to use the Lawn Waste Site located at Holden Road. This year Barre City is requesting to use the Lawn Waste Site from October 1 to November 5 (and later if we can keep the site open) on days the site is open for Town residents. As in the past, the City is billed for 50% of the Town's labor and equipment costs.

***On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Barre City residents use of the lawn waste site from October 1 to November 5, 2022, and later if the Town keeps the site open, on days and during the hours the site is open for Town residents use, with the understanding the City will pay 50% of the Town's labor and equipment expenses for those hours.***

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of September 6, 2022 for FY '22 and '23.***

**MISCELLANEOUS: None.**

**ROUND TABLE:**

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about VLCT’s Annual Meetings and when the Board needs to vote for a meeting delegate. Town Manager Carl Rogers thanked Chair White for this reminder, and this will be added as a future agenda item.
- Chair White inquired about the Town newsletter bill. Mr. Rogers noted this bill was for the advancement on the newsletter.

**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 7:59 p.m. for personnel, real estate, and labor negotiations.*

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:14 p.m.*

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:14 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.