



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

June 13, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda
4. Consider approving May 30, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Interview four candidates for the Traffic Advisory Committee
8. Discuss CVCC’s use of a retired Town ambulance
9. Discuss the Town’s MOU with the Good Samaritan Haven regarding the use of 580 South Barre Road and potential changes to the use of the property
10. Consider request from Spaulding High School Foundation for use of ARPA funds
11. Consider Rockfire’s request for a Special Event Permit and road closure
12. Consider approving annual Unlicensed Dog Warrant
13. Consider appointing the Fire Warden
14. Consider awarding the baseball field light purchase
15. Consider appointing new member to Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
16. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for June 6 and June 13, 2023
17. Miscellaneous: including permits and licenses, if any
18. ‘Round the table
19. Executive session: personnel
20. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of June 13, 2023 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, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, and Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, and EMS Director Paul Ginther.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, John Mott, David Peterson, Brandon Kipp, Carl Matteson, Jody Emerson, Rick DeAngelis, Jamie Evans, Giuliano Cecchinelli, Lee Larson, and Pierre Couture. Those attending virtually: Donald Koch and Josh Howard.

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 Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. Add to item #19. Executive session: contracts and grievance

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the May 30, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We are still seeking volunteers to help operate the Barre Town Lawn Waste Site on weekdays. The Public Works Department staffs the site on Saturdays, but weekday openings depend on volunteer monitor(s). Volunteers are not required to help unload vehicles. One resident has volunteered to staff the site Tuesdays 10:00-3:00. More volunteer(s) could monitor the site additional weekday hours or serve as a substitute monitor. If you would like to learn more about helping to provide this popular public service, contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331.
- Father's Day is fast approaching, and you know what that means.....the annual Father's Day Chicken BBQ hosted by the Barre Town Fire Department. Join them on Sunday, June 18th at the East Barre Fire Station from noon to 2:00 p.m. for a great chicken and pasta meal. As always, meals are available for eat-in, or take-out. Tickets can be purchased at the door, no need for a reservation. Prices are: \$18 half chicken, \$15 quarter.
- Also, fast approaching is the 4th of July holiday weekend. Many people like to enjoy setting off fireworks during this time. It is very important to remember that a permit is required to set off fireworks. Permits take time to process and obtain so PLEASE plan ahead. Applications must be received by the Town Clerk at least 15 days in advance of the date. Applications to set off fireworks can be obtained on the Town website or in person at the Town Clerk's Office.
- Test your first responder knowledge by attending Trivia Night, Wednesday June 21st at the East Barre Fire Station. There will be seven thrilling rounds of EMS themed trivia beginning at 6:30pm. We understand that there may be free pizza as well!
- The Rt. 110 bridge replacement project in East Barre is about to ramp up. Some preliminary activity has already occurred. The bridge itself will be closed beginning June 26th and a detour will be in place. Please seek an alternate route, if possible, to avoid the area. All businesses will remain open.
- Chair announcement: Chair White thanked the firework applicant that got their applications in early. Additionally, he reminded residents that the deadline for submitting an application for a firework display on July 4th would be next Monday.

GUESTS: None.

INTERVIEWS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Background: There currently is a vacancy on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. The vacant position was advertised on Front Porch Forum, and four applications were received. The four applicants have provided bios for the Board to review and will be interviewed. The appointment will be filling a term that expires on May 31, 2024.

John Mott: Mr. Mott served 24 years in the Army. He worked for Norwich University as the ROTC Sargent Major and has law enforcement training and experience in multiple towns. Additionally, Mr. Mott served as the SRO for Spaulding High School until his retirement in 2016. Currently, Mr. Mott is working for Barre City providing parking enforcement and meter maintenance. Mr. Mott noted his interest in road safety, specifically around speeding.

Donald Koch: Mr. Koch was present virtually. Mr. Koch stated he was born and raised in Barre Town. He has spent the last 24 years in transportation. Currently, he is a truck driver under his own authority. Mr. Koch noted he feels he has ideas he can contribute to the TSAC Committee with his experiences from traveling around the country. Mr. Koch noted one specific concern he has is sign pollution.

Dave Peterson: Mr. Peterson grew up in Montpelier and has been living in Barre Town for the last 13 years. He graduated from UVM with a Civil Engineering degree. Mr. Peterson has worked for VTrans for the last 17 years, specifically in bridge design and traffic control. Additionally, he has his Professional Engineering License. Mr. Peterson noted he has no specific reasons or concerns for joining TSAC but would like to offer his skills to help the Barre Town community.

Brandon Kipp: Mr. Kipp grew up in Addison Country and received his Associates degree in Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering degree from Norwich University. Since then, he has spent his professional career with VTrans. His work has been focused on roadway reconstruction and pavement design. Mr. Kipp shared that his experience working with municipalities and skillset would benefit the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

The Board thanked all of the volunteers for coming in, noting that Barre Town was lucky to have multiple highly qualified individuals interested in serving on this Committee.

CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER (CVCC) USE OF RETIRED TOWN AMBULANCE:

Background: In December or 2022, Carl Matteson, the Emergency Service Instructor at the Central Vermont Career Center (CVCC), reached out to then EMS Director Chris LaMonda about acquiring one of the soon to be retired Town ambulances. The program is expanding and having an actual ambulance would provide an opportunity for students to practice their skills in a more realistic setting. Mr. Matteson has now reached out to current EMS Director Paul Ginther following up on the same question. Mr. Ginther is in favor of working out a direct sale of an ambulance to the Career Center, or a collaborative effort where the Town would maintain ownership of the ambulance and allow the Career Center to use it. In exchange for allowing the Career Center to use the ambulance, Town EMS providers would have access to the CVCC lab facilities for training. This is an initial discussion to see whether the Board would entertain either idea.

Selectboard Minutes of June 13, 2023 Continued:

Those present: CVCC Superintendent Jody Emerson, CVCC Emergency Service Instructor Carl Matteson, and EMS Director Paul Ginther.

The Town is expecting the delivery of 2 new ambulances from Medix in 2-3 weeks. With delivery of these two new ambulances, EMS will place the 2017 and 2018 units out of service. EMS Director Paul Ginther stated he is in favor of moving the 2017 unit over to the Central Vermont Career Center, in exchange for the use of their training lab. Mr. Ginther emphasized the benefits of the proposed arrangement. He stated this would increase CVCC's ability to train future EMS students. Additionally, it would expose students specifically to Barre Town EMS which would be used as a recruitment tool for the Town of Barre. Mr. Ginther noted this is an opportunity to strengthen recruitment in the region and state. The trade benefit for current providers is time and space at the CVCC training facility for laboratory and simulator training.

The Board had an opportunity to hear from CVCC Emergency Service Instructor Carl Matteson. Mr. Matteson stated this is his 4th year with the program. Mr. Matteson agreed with Mr. Ginther that this would be a great recruitment opportunity for Barre Town. Mr. Matteson explained the ambulance would be used for simulation purposes. Students would get to experience the full effect of working within the ambulance. Furthermore, the lab facility would benefit the Town by allowing the current providers to use the CVCC training equipment which includes interactive simulators.

Mr. Bolduc suggested the idea of donating the pair of ambulances to the Career Center, in exchange for the use of their training lab. Discussion continued as Board members stated they are in favor of the proposal but agree that a transfer in ownership seems to be the more desirable option.

Mr. Ginther and Mr. Matteson will continue discussion on this item.

GOOD SAMARITAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):

Background: In the Summer of 2021, the Good Samaritan Haven worked out a deal with Downstreet Housing and Community Development to utilize 580 South Barre Road (the former Phoenix House) for transitional housing. Similar to the arrangement with the Phoenix House, it was agreed that Good Samaritan and the Town of Barre would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that focused on program eligibility, program operations, property management, and community relations. The MOU was signed on August 6, 2021. Right around the same time, the Development Review Board (DRB) issued a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to Downstreet Housing for the operation of a shelter.

Covid had significant impacts on our communities. Homelessness for various reasons has risen, as has substance abuse. Good Samaritan provides support for both homeless and substance abusers trying to help them on the road to recovery. Rick DeAngelis is proposing a shift in the primary mission of 580 South Barre Road.

Those present: Co-Executive Director Rick DeAngelis.

In November of 2021, Good Samaritan Haven began operating the property at 580 South Barre Road as an emergency shelter for the homeless. The focus of the facility has been to house the most stable individuals, and those in recovery from a substance use disorder or those who seek to be in a substance free environment. Mr. DeAngelis is proposing a new plan to operate the facility. The new facility would target individuals who are in recovery. Mr. DeAngelis stated they are calling the new model a Recovery Based Emergency Shelter which would enhance the program and staffing options within the facility. Additionally, they are looking to be certified as a recovery residence.

Board members commented that the current structure of the facility has been working well. The Town of Barre Police Department has received very few complaints and the program has been successful. Concerns were raised if the shift in the program would change this.

Mr. DeAngelis stated he has reviewed the current MOU between the Town and Good Samaritan Haven and he feels the new program plans would remain in compliance. Mrs. Malone, who is the Selectboard Representative on the Good Sam Working Group stated she is a strong advocate for the program. She supports amending the MOU to provide enhanced services and is in favor of the idea. She does recommend receiving a legal opinion and review by the DRB and seek an opinion from DRB attorney, Jim Barlow.

In closing, Board consensus is they would like the Town Attorney to review the MOU. Additionally, they have asked Mr. DeAngelis to speak with Downstreet Housing regarding the CUP and the proposed facility use.

SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION – ARPA FUND REQUEST:

Background: The Spaulding High School Foundation is requesting that \$40,000 in Barre Town’s ARPA funds be earmarked for them to put toward upgrades to the athletic ballfields at Spaulding High School. The fields are nearly 60 years old, and they do not comply with regulations of the Vermont Principals Association (VPA) for high school sports. The Foundation is raising money for engineering to create a cost estimate and engineered drawings of the Plan. They are also seeking funding from the City of Barre.

Barre Unified Union School District Facility Director Jamie Evans and BUUSD Board Chair Giuliano Cecchinelli were present.

Mr. Evans stated the Spaulding High School ballfields are from 1964 and do not meet regulations. The Spaulding High School Foundation is requesting ARPA funds from the Town of Barre. The request for the ARPA funds would be used to solicit the professional services of an engineering firm to determine the cost of the project and to create engineered drawings. Mr. Cecchinelli shared once this information is available the Board would then have a list of the costs and be able to discuss how to move forward with the project. Additionally, this would allow them to have costs to propose to the donors. Mr. Evans noted that the Foundation has also requested \$40,000 in funding from Barre City, however, they have not committed to funding at this time.

Chair White noted the Board is unable to commit to a decision at this time, however, they are open to adding it to their list for discussion during next week’s retreat meeting. The Board will be reviewing their ARPA fund obligations and will get back to them with their decision.

ROCKFIRE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT:

Background: Rockfire has been an annual event for many years. Mr. Couture is seeking a Special Event Permit to conduct the Rockfire event on June 24th beginning at 6:00 p.m. based at the Millstone Lodge on Littlejohn Road. The event will be similar to past years, however, will only be held on Saturday this year.

Mr. Couture is requesting Littlejohn Road to be closed at Sabetto Street and at the Waterman Street intersection. Event organizers will provide staff at the Sabetto closure, but are requesting Town staff at the Waterman Street closure from 6:00 p.m. to midnight and the Violette Street/Church Hill Road crossing from 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. The Police Department and Fire Department will staff these closings. Additionally, Mr.

Selectboard Minutes of June 13, 2023 Continued:

Couture has applied for a fireworks permit. Both the Fire Chief and Police Chief have submitted Notice of Compliances as required. The Recreation Board authorized use of the Town Forest for the event during their May 1, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Couture was present. He confirmed that the plan for Rockfire is the same as in previous years. Mr. Couture has 10 volunteers who will help with the cleanup after the event. He expressed that he is committed to having all glass in the Town Forest picked up by Sunday afternoon, noting this will include removing the candles from the disc golf course. Mr. Couture asked the Board for a 72-hour timeframe to have the ashes and wood cleaned up.

Customarily, the funds from Rockfire are always invested in the Grand Lookout and preservation of the site. This year those funds will be used for repairs and to build a floor for the temple.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Clerk to issue a Special Event Permit for the Rockfire event to be held on June 24, 2023 with the following conditions:

- a) The organizers will immediately notify the affected residents of the Littlejohn Road closure about the event and the road closure and provide them with something that will allow them to pass any Littlejohn closure; b) Sky lanterns are not permitted; c) All luminaries are to be removed within 48-hours; d) All ashes, charred wood and unused firewood shall be removed from the campfire areas within 72-hours; e)The \$500 deposit is waived; f) A certificate of insurance, listing the Town of Barre as an additional insured be provided prior to the event; g) A fireworks permit is obtained.*

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close Littlejohn Road between Sabetto Street and Waterman Street on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to midnight per Title 23, Section 1010 of the Vermont State Statutes.

2023 UNLICENSED DOG WARRANT:

Background: As required by State Law, Town Clerks must annually produce a list of unlicensed dogs in their town and have an Unlicensed Dog Warrant signed by the Selectboard and sent to the Police Department. Town Clerk Tina Lunt has produced a list of unlicensed dogs in Barre Town and created an Unlicensed Dog Warrant for Selectboard consideration.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to issue the 2023 Unlicensed Dog Warrant to the Barre Town Police Department.

FIRE WARDEN APPOINTMENT:

Background: Towns in Vermont must agree to the appointment or reappointment of their Town's Forest Fire Warden. The recommendation comes from the State of Vermont, Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation. Chris Day has served as Barre Town's Forest Fire Warden for many years and is willing to serve again. Chloe Sardonis from the State is recommending that the Selectboard reappoint Chris Day as Barre Town's Forest Fire Warden for a term that begins July 1, 2023 and expires June 30, 2028. Chris Day is currently an Assistant Chief with the Barre Town Fire Department. Mr. Day is highly regarded in the Fire Warden circle and has been noted as one of the most active Wardens in the State of Vermont.

Selectboard Minutes of June 13, 2023 Continued:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to reappoint Chris Day as Barre Town’s Forest Fire Warden for a term of five years, beginning July 1, 2023.

BASEBALL FIELD LIGHT PURCHASE:

Background: Over the last several months the Town has been working on a project to replace the baseball field lights. Part of that project involves the purchase of 32 lights. Quotes were obtained from two reputable companies. Needham Electric provided a quote \$73,039 less than Musco. Needham provided the lights for the softball field and those have been widely praised. Recreation Director, Johnny Crossley has reviewed the quotes in detail and is recommending the purchase be awarded to Needham.

Mr. Bolduc gave a brief summary of the quotes. He noted that Musco’s quote provided additional higher-end lighting options that the Town simply does not need. The original Needham quote provided the engineering of the lighting plan. A second contract will be needed for the installation of the lights which will be provided by Benoit Electric. Mr. Bolduc stated the lights have an 8–10-week lead time. The goal is to install them in September or October, pending the delivery of the poles.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to purchase 32 Sentry LED Sports Flood lights from Needham Electric Supply of Berlin, VT per their quoted number S5936628 in the amount of \$78,861.16 of earmarked ARPA funds.

APPOINTMENT TO TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Background: Earlier, the Selectboard interviewed four candidates interested in serving on Barre Town’s Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC). The Board will take vote, traditionally, by paper ballot.

Votes were placed using paper ballots. Clerk Lunt tallied the votes. Board members shared they were very fortunate to have multiple qualified individuals interested in serving on the TSAC Committee.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Brandon Kipp to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee filling the remainder of a vacant position with the term ending May 31, 2024.

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 June 6, 2023.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of June 13, 2023. Bob Nelson abstained.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Pierre Couture (Rockfire, Inc.), 560 Graniteville Road on June 24, 2023 with a start time of 9:00 p.m.

Selectboard Minutes of June 13, 2023 Continued:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Brian Griffin, 30 Hutchins Circle on July 1, 2023 with a rain date of July 4, 2023 with a start time of dusk.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Thunder Road International Speedway, 80 Fisher Road on July 2, 2023 with a start time of dusk.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Marcia Hayford, 9 Snowbridge Road on July 2, 2023 with a rain date of July 4, 2023 with a start time of dusk.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Bradley Lawson, 40 Church Hill Road on July 2, 2023 with a rain date of July 3, 2023 with a start time of dusk

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Mike McGinley, 12 Rock Garden Lane on July 3, 2023 with a rain date of July 3, 2023 with a start time of 8:45-9:00 p.m.

Mr. Violette informed the Board that he was expecting the large transformer to be moved this coming weekend. He shared it was unlikely it would be moved this Sunday. Mr. Bolduc asked if the transformer is being stored on Baptist Street. Mr. Violette stated he does not believe so. Mr. Violette noted it is a 2-day process to move the transformer.

ROUND TABLE:

Mike Gilbar:

- Mr. Gilbar inquired about the EMS Billing invoice. He asked if the Town receives additional information regarding these invoices from EMS Billing. Board members provided Mr. Gilbar with a brief history regarding EMS Billing. This ultimately led them to their decision to go out to bid for a new billing company.

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the waterline project on 22 Buick Street. Mr. Violette confirmed this project has been completed. Mrs. Malone stated the Town authorized the use of ARPA funds for water and sewer connections which would allow this property to be suitable for affordable housing. Mr. Violette confirmed the sewer is serviced by the Town, but work will need to be completed to find the pump station. The Board recommended hiring a contractor for this work to be completed with the use of the allocated funds.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson said he was excited to hear that the Town has received the EMS RFP bids.
- Mr. Nelson noted he is looking forward to hearing from the Rec Director on how the Walk with the Dinosaur event went as he has heard wonderful things.
- Mr. Nelson shared he was dismayed to hear about the stolen street signs.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc gave an update on the baseball poles. The vendor is willing to refund the deposit as they are unsure if they are going to be able to source the poles. They currently have a request out to the loggers. They did reach out to another company in Danville, VT but the 80-foot poles were not available.

Paul White:

- Chair White noted he has received some emails from Board members regarding retreat agenda items. Town Manager Chris Violette noted that Katelyn Kran will be joining the meeting with an updated ARPA allocation list. There was a brief discussion regarding dinner for the retreat.
- Chair White announced that the Selectboard will have a public meeting next week on June 20th, however, there will be no broadcasting or recording. There will be a minimal agenda as it is their Board retreat.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, 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 Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:05 p.m. for personnel, contracts, and grievance.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 9:59 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Justin Bolduc, Vice Chair

Norma Malone

Mike Gilbar

Bob Nelson

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk’s Office on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.