



BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
November 28, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda
4. Consider approving November 21, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Discuss and consider authorizing a Village Center Designation for East Barre, South Barre, Lower Graniteville, and Upper Websterville
8. Consider authorizing installation of a curve ahead sign and chevrons near 101 Lower Usle Road
9. Consider approving Barre City’s full-time use of the Lawn Waste Site in 2024
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for November 28, 2023
11. Miscellaneous: **a)** Tobacco endorsement for R.L. Vallee, Inc. **b)** other permits and licenses
12. Round the Table
13. Executive Session: contracts and personnel
14. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of November 28, 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, Justin Bolduc, and Bob Nelson. Those attending virtually: Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, and Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik. Those present virtually: Town Engineer Josh Martineau.

Others Present: Cedric Sanborn, Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: 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 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 November 21, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We are seeking registered Town voters who would like to serve on the 2025 Budget Committee. The Committee will meet from the end of January to the end of March and review every Town fund budget. Participation on the Budget Committee is the most efficient means to learn about Town operations. Letters or emails will be accepted until December 22nd.
- We are also seeking Town resident volunteers to serve on the recently formed Energy Committee. This is an exciting opportunity to be the first to join this new Committee that will serve an advisory role concerning Town Energy Policy, as well as develop and implement community outreach and education opportunities for residents, among other things. We are seeking individuals with backgrounds in the fields of energy, finance and banking, grant writing, transportation, and building infrastructure and engineering. The Energy Committee will meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month (hopefully starting in February) for a term of at least 18 months but could be longer.
- We are also still seeking a Town resident to serve on the Recreation Board. The 7-member Recreation Board meets the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.
- We would like to remind anybody that lives in or visits Barre Town that on-street parking is now prohibited from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. This regulation is in effect even when there is no snow. Please plan to park vehicles off the street overnight or risk being ticketed and or towed.
- There is a sand pile outside the Public Works Yard gate at 129 Websterville Road. The sand is free for Town residents to use at their home. It is not intended for commercial use. Residents may take a reasonable amount. We encourage residents to stay safe during the winter. It is best to get your sand before the storm arrives.
- If interested in joining one of the committees mentioned, or if you would like more information, please send an email to offices@barretown.org or call the Town Manager's Office at 802-479-9331.

GUESTS: None.

VILLAGE CENTER DESIGNATION:

Background: The Planning Commission has been exploring the idea of getting several of our villages officially designated by the State of Vermont as Village Centers. Numerous meetings with the State and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, including a site visit with Richard Amore from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development has culminated with a recommendation from the Planning Commission that the Town seek this designation for four of our villages. Planning Commission Chair Cedric Sanborn has written a letter on behalf of the Planning Commission, seeking authorization from

Selectboard Minutes of November 28, 2023 Continued:

the Selectboard to apply for Village Center Designation for East Barre, South Barre, Lower Graniteville, and Upper Websterville.

Those present: Planning Commission Chair Cedric Sanborn and Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik.

Mr. Sanborn stated the Planning Commission started researching the possibility of the Town of Barre applying for Village Center Designation status through the Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD) last January. The Planning Commission has had numerous discussions, including a recent site visit to each village center and is formally recommending that Barre Town applies for Village Center Designation status for East Barre, South Barre, Lower Graniteville, and Upper Websterville. This status will allow for property owners of civic, commercial, and multi-family residential buildings within these village centers, who apply, to receive benefits of tax credits and be eligible for grants. Mr. Sanborn noted this is for new construction and to fix what already exists. Additionally, Mr. Sanborn stated an added benefit to the approved status is a neighborhood development area opportunity. This is specifically for housing within a ¼ mile from the village center, including exemption from Act 250 regulations and reduced permitting.

Discussion continued as Mr. Sanborn went over the boundaries of the proposed historic village centers. He noted that Mr. Garbacik will be drafting a map of these boundaries. The CVRPC will develop the map of the Village Center Designation free of charge for the Town of Barre.

Mrs. Malone asked Mr. Sanborn if there was any downside to the Village Center Designation status. Additionally, she asked if the Planning Commission had received any feedback from individuals who may fall into one of these areas. Mr. Sanborn stated he does not see any downside and has not heard from any individuals.

Mr. Violette noted the Village Center Designation is in the Town Plan. He said this step would be taking something from the Town Plan and acting upon it.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the application for a Village Center Designation for the villages noted in the application (East Barre, South Barre, Lower Graniteville, and Upper Websterville).

Board members and staff suggest notifying property owners if the application is approved.

BARRE CITY'S USE OF HOLDEN ROAD LAWN WASTE SITE:

Background: Historically the City of Barre has asked and received permission for their residents to use the Holden Road Lawn Waste site two times a year (spring and fall). Barre City reimburses the Town half of any expenses the Town incurs on the dates shared, which typically means labor and equipment costs. The City has made a request, asking that City residents be able to use the site year-round, during the same hours the site is open for Town residents and propose to use the same cost sharing arrangement.

Chair White inquired about the cost sharing arrangement. Mr. Violette noted it would be half of what the Town pays, including chipping. Mr. Violette said the Town currently staffs the site with a volunteer. Board members suggested asking the City to also help staff the site with a City volunteer.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to enter into agreement with the City of Barre for their residents to use the Holden Road Lawn Waste Site for 2024 during regular operating hours and to authorize the Town Manager to open and close the site as staffing allows, with the caveat that the Town invites the City to try to find a volunteer to help staff the site. Additionally, the City will split the cost (50/50) associated with operating the site.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATION:

Background: At the November Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) meeting, a request was made from a resident of Lower Usle Road for guardrails to be installed on a section of Lower Usle Road. If not guardrails, the resident asked for some other solution to be considered after a couple of recent accidents impacted their property. After reviewing the request, TSAC decided to try signage first and noted that the two accidents appeared to be anomalies, determining that there isn't significant accident history at this location. TSAC is recommending the installation of a "curve ahead sign" and "chevrons" to delineate the curve in question.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present virtually. Mr. Martineau noted the signs will be in both directions.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the installation of a "curve ahead" sign and "chevrons" near 101 Lower Usle Road.

Mr. Bolduc asked Mr. Martineau about the intersection of Rudd Farm Drive and Daniels Drive. He said this location does not have stop signs, asking if the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) can consider looking at this location. Mr. Martineau agreed to have TSAC look into this.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of November 28, 2023. Bob Nelson abstained.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Tobacco Endorsement for R.L. Vallee, Inc. d/b/a/ Maplefields #71.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the fireworks permit for Damartin Quadros, 408 Beckley Hill Road on December 13, 2023 with a rain date of December 25, 2023 at dusk.

Town Manager Chris Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Mr. Violette noted that he put out a Front Porch Forum post regarding the Recreation Board vacancy and the Energy Committee. He has received 2 potential candidates for the Rec Committee and 1 for the Energy Committee.

ROUND TABLE:

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the Board packet note regarding the critical care ventilators. He asked if this was the same item that EMS Interim Director David Danforth talked about last week. Mr. Violette said he believes so.

Mike Gilbar:

- Mr. Gilbar inquired about plowing on Camp Street. He asked about the condition of the street with the recent snow we received, and if this increased the damage. Mr. Violette said he was not aware of any more damage, but it is also difficult to see with the snow. Mr. Violette noted Sanborn Heads subcontractor will be drilling at this location in another week or two to do core sampling.
- Mr. Gilbar inquired about the latest storm, and if there was any lasting damage from the trees that were down. Mr. Violette said he was not aware of any significant damage to public infrastructure.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson inquired about the copy of the EMS Billing invoice that was received in the Board packet. He said the invoice was blurry and difficult to read. He asked that this item be added to a future agenda as he would like to have a conversation about this. Mrs. Malone asked if the Town has received any feedback regarding the new bills. Mr. Violette and Mrs. Lunt stated they have not.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, 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 Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:58 p.m. for contracts and personnel.

On a motion by Norma Malone seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:06 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Justin Bolduc, Vice Chair

Norma Malone

Mike Gilbar

Selectboard Minutes of November 28, 2023 Continued:

 Bob Nelson

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

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.