



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
September 26, 2023**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance
- 3. Consider approving the agenda
- 4. Consider approving September 19, 2023 meeting minutes
- 5. Announcements
- 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
- 7. Friends of Winooski Grant
- 8. Discuss private road name request
- 9. Discuss BYSA’s request for donation
- 10. Third and final reading of LePage Road yield sign
- 11. Award contract for flood related paving
- 12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for September 26, 2023
- 13. Miscellaneous: including permits and licenses if any
- 14. Round the Table
- 15. Executive Session: contracts (possible action)
- 16. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of September 26, 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, Bob Nelson, and Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

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

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Andrea Ball, Mike Hulbert, and Paul Hutchins. Those present virtually: Michele Braun and Jim Fecteau.

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 Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

- 1. Item #15 Executive Session: remove possible action and add legal.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the September 19, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

GUESTS: None.

FRIENDS OF WINOOSKI GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

Background: Michele Braun from Friends of the Winooski River will be presenting a potential grant opportunity to study the possible replacement of the Gunners Brooks culvert under Mitchell Road. As the landowner, Selectboard approval is required for grant application to be submitted which is due October 12th. This culvert was identified to be replaced because it is likely undersized and to improve fish habitat. If awarded, the grant would be for engineering only and at no cost to the Town. Funding for the actual replacement would be sought after.

Michelle Braun, Executive Director of Friends of the Winooski River was present virtually. Ms. Braun stated Friend of the Winooski River is working with the State Fish and Wildlife Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, along with other partners in the Winooski watershed to identify culverts that are currently barriers to fish passages. Gunner's Brook (Mitchell Road culvert) was identified as a good candidate for replacement. Additionally, it is a good trout stream.

The grant funding would be for engineering only. Ms. Braun stated additional funding will be available for the implementation of the project. It is not intended for the Town of Barre to designate funds for this project. Ms. Braun stated there is state and federal support for the completion of this work.

Ms. Braun confirmed with the Town Manager that the culvert is undersized. The existing culvert is only 60% of the existing stream width making it vulnerable to flood damage. Additionally, Ms. Braun confirmed with Mr. Violette there is no time limit for construction to be completed.

Chair White noted he was pleasantly surprised to hear about this project. He stated a town resident approached him a couple of years ago regarding this very idea, and at that time the Town was not in a position to help. He is happy to see this being pursued.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the grant application for Friends of the Winooski River.

PRIVATE ROAD NAME CHANGE:

Background: Fecteau Residential and JDJ Development are requesting approval of two private road names, one serving future townhouses off Rudd Farm Drive and the other in the Beckley Hill Meadows Development. The first private road name as part of the request is by JDJ Development for Nicholas Lane. Nicholas Lane will provide access from Rudd Farm Drive to seven 4-unit buildings that will be constructed over the next several years. Fecteau Residential's second request, is to use the name

Isla Drive for the private road that will serve as access to the yet to be constructed townhouses at the top of Blake Drive.

Those present: Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik and Jim Fecteau from Fecteau Residential/JDJ Development.

Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik has reviewed the names and consulted with VT E-911. Mr. Garbacik provided a memo with feedback. Mr. Garbacik and the Town Manager have little concern with Isla Drive.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Isla Lane as a private road.

Mr. Garbacik does have some concern with Nicholas Lane because of potential conflicts with Nichols Road in Barre Town and Nichols Street in Barre City. Board members and Mr. Garbacik agreed that ultimately Nichols Lane should not be an issue and agreed to approve this request.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Nicholas Lane as a private road.

BYSA DONATION:

Background: BYSA is seeking a donation of \$15,000 to purchase and install portable artificial turf that would allow indoor use of the BOR in Barre when the ice is out. BYSA representatives will give a brief presentation.

Those present: Andrea Ball, BYSA Soccer Director, Paul Hutchins, BYSA Treasurer, Mike Hulbert BYSA President

Mr. Hutchins stated that BYSA has been working on the turf project for several months. The total cost of the project is \$140,000. The turf would be installed in the BOR when the ice is out from April to the end of September. Mr. Hutchins noted that BYSA is prepared to put \$75,000 towards the project.

Mr. Hutchins highlighted the possible source of funds for this project:

- BYSA -Ron York Estate (\$75,000)
- Barre Town – (\$15,000)
- Barre City – CC Restricted Fund (\$50,000)
- Private Donations (if needed)

Mr. Hutchins noted the potential renters of the turf:

- BYSA (400 hours)
- Barre area schools, including Spaulding High School
- Community non-profit organizations (Senior Center, Adaptive Sports, etc.)
- Private parties (adult soccer and lacrosse leagues, family gatherings, camps, etc.)

BYSA is recommending a three-tier rate structure. The fees would be set by the Barre City Rec Board. Fees are suggested as follows:

- Tier 1: \$30/hour for BYSA
- Tier 2: \$50/hour for Barre area schools and local non-profits
- Tier 3: \$120/hour for private

Mr. Hutchins stated that a portion of all rental income will be held in reserve for turf replacement which would take place every 15-20 years.

BYSA President, Mike Hulbert stated between the City and Town Rec Departments the turf could be used for community activities. Soccer Director Andee Ball followed up by stating it would be available for opportunities like open gym time and community events.

Mr. Bolduc stated he thinks it is a wonderful idea, and a great opportunity for kids to have a place to hang out. Questions were raised regarding field usage, staffing, and the rate structure. Mrs. Malone stated conceptually it sounds like a nice idea, but she is curious to hear the City's consensus on the rate structure, ownership and long term of the turf, as they are facing many financial challenges. Mr. Hulbert noted Mrs. Malone's concerns are legitimate and BYSA is looking to have a written agreement to include these details. He stated it is looking like this project is going to be supported in the City, but BYSA is committed to stepping up and supporting this project if that changes. BYSA will meet with the Barre City Rec Board on October 11.

Town Manager Chris Violette thanked BYSA for coming in, acknowledging their fantastic program. Mr. Violette asked about events like the home show which typically use the BOR's concrete floor. Mrs. Ball explained sections of the panels can be removed for the heavy equipment. This type of turf is highly durable and cleanable.

Board consensus is they are in favor of the turf project, but the details must be worked out with the City.

On a motion by Chair White, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to allocate \$15,000 of ARPA funds to Barre Youth Sports Association to put towards the purchase of portable artificial turf for use at the BOR conditioned upon agreement with City Council. Norma Malone abstained.

LEPAGE ROAD YIELD SIGN – THIRD AND FINAL READING:

Background: This is the third and final reading of the proposed LePage Road yield sign ordinance amendment. The first reading was completed during the September 5th Selectboard meeting, followed by a public hearing and second reading on September 19th. Town Charter, Chapter 6, Section 37(d), states that this is final consideration and after reading the proposed ordinance, the Selectboard may vote to either adopt or reject the amendment.

Chair White read the proposed ordinance amendment.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance amendment to Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7-44 of the Town of Barre Code of Ordinances, "Stop & Yield Signs", which ordains a news yield sign to be placed on LePage Road at the intersection of Beckley Hill Road.

CONTRACT FOR FLOOD RELATED PAVING:

Background: After the flood in July, many roads had to be repaired, initially being repaired to the degree they were passable. Later, crews went back to begin more permanent repairs including paving when it was within their ability. Several roads, Plainfield Brook Road, Windy Wood Road, Waterman Street, Emerald Lane, Osborne Road, and Sierra Lavin Road are beyond the Towns means and need to be done by a paving contractor. To be eligible for FEMA reimbursement hiring a contractor to do the paving had to go out to bid. Bid specs were sent out on September 14th to 18 contractors and were due on September 21st. Two bids were received, Pike Industries and Johnson Paving. Johnson Paving provided the low bid at \$208.90 per ton. Pike Industries was \$275 per ton. Town Engineer Josh Martineau has reviewed both bids and recommends awarding the contract to Johnson Paving.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2023 flood related paving work to Johnson Paving for the price of \$208.90 per ton.

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 September 26, 2023 for FY '23 and FY '24. Mike Gilbar abstained.

Mr. Bolduc inquired about the Spectrum invoices. There was a brief discussion regarding balances and rates.

Mrs. Malone stated she would like to have a discussion at some point regarding the sewer treatment bill from the City. Mr. Violette will add this item to a future agenda and invite Town Engineer Josh Martineau to join the conversation.

MISCELLANEOUS:

For the record the Town Clerk is informing the Selectboard that on September 20, 2023 a Request to Cater Malt Vinous and/or Spirituous Liquors application was approved by the Town Clerk for JWD Corporation, dba as Gusto's for an event held at 59 Little John Road on September 23, 2023. This report is entered into the record as a requirement of the Barre Town Request to Cater, Malt, Vinous, and/or Spiritous Liquors Policy adopted by the Selectboard on June 19, 2018.

Mr. Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Mr. Violette noted the delivery of the baseball field poles may be delayed a couple days. Delivery may not take place on Wednesday or Thursday this week.

ROUND TABLE:

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the advertisement for the resignation of the Rec Board member. Additionally, she asked the Town Manager to put word out about the South Barre Working Group member they are looking for.

Selectboard Minutes of September 26, 2023 Continued:

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the Manager’s note regarding the Barre View neighborhood water leak. She asked how and when the Town can get a handle on this and what fees will be involved. Mr. Violette noted the Board will most likely see this in its budget for next year.
- Mrs. Malone reminded all that there will be no Selectboard meeting next week. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc shared he was happy to see the fence RFP went out.
- Mr. Bolduc said he was happy to hear the baseball field poles are on their way. It is unfortunate they will not be able to be installed with the fields being so wet.
- Mr. Bolduc noted the following guardrails that are in need of repair/replacement: Airport Road, Cobble Hill Road, and Quarry Hill Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session citing premature public general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:27 p.m. for contracts and legal.

On a motion by Bob Nelson seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:49 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 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.