



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
March 26, 2024**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.....5:00 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance
- 3. Consider approving the agenda.
- 4. Consider approving March 19, 2024, meeting minutes
- 5. Announcements
- 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
- 7. Discuss and consider adopting Fields Unfit to Play Policy
- 8. Discuss FHW Grant Opportunity for Websterville Road Culvert Replacement
- 9. Designate a volunteer organization for Spring Bulk Trash and adopt fees
- 10. Discuss appointing representatives to the Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee
- 11. Consider ratifying the Barre Town Police Union Lodge 004 Labor Contract
- 12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for March 26, 2024
- 13. Miscellaneous: **a)** Outside Consumer Permit, First Class Club License, and Third-Class Club License for the Canadian Club, Inc. **b)** Special Event Permit for Neddo Farm Vineyards, LLC **c)** other permits and licenses.
- 14. Round the Table
- 15. Executive Session: as needed
- 16. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of March 26, 2024, was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 5:00 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, and Mike Gilbar. Those present virtually: Bob Nelson.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell and David Rouleau. Those present virtually: Larry Rogacki.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. Item #15. Executive Session: add personnel with possible action

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the March 19, 2024, Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- This is your last reminder that dog license renewals are due before April 1st. If your dog has been licensed before in Barre Town, you should have received a renewal notification. If your dog hasn't been licensed before and is at least 6 months old, it must be licensed by the Town Clerk before April 1st. A valid rabies certificate must either be on file or provided with the renewal or new license. Contact the Town Clerk's Office for more information at (802) 479-9391.
- The annual egg hunt hosted by the Barre Town and Barre City Recreation Departments will be held Saturday, March 30th at Rotary Park in Barre City beginning at 10:00 a.m. SHARP. There will be three separate age group hunts, 3-4, 5-7, and 8-10. Arrive early so that you can park and walk to the designated location, before the start time. If you're late, you'll have some disappointed little ones.
- The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday April 13th at the Public Works Yard at 79 Pitman Road. Eligible items include paints or stains without identifiable labels, paint thinners, cleaners that contain bleach etc. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 per vehicle and is available to Barre Town residents and residents of any member town.
- We expect that the Budget Committee will wrap up its deliberations on the fiscal year '25 budget tonight, March 26th. Stay tuned for much more information about the proposed budget that residents will be asked to approve on May 14th.
- As a result of the Budget Committee's work being complete, next week, April 2nd, the Selectboard meetings will return to their regular start time of 6:00 p.m.

GUESTS: None.

UNFIT TO PLAY POLICY:

Background: The Recreation Board is in the process of reviewing many policies related to the use of Town recreation facilities. The first policy amendment to be approved by the Selectboard Board is the Field Unfit to Play Policy which was approved by the Recreation Board on January 8, 2024. This policy is intended to lay out a clear understanding for staff and users of the facilities when it is inappropriate to use the fields due to poor conditions that could lead to damage or injury.

Those present: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, Recreation Board Chair David Rouleau, and Recreation Board member Larry Rogacki (present virtually)

Mr. Crossley presented the Field Unfit to Play Policy to the Selectboard for approval. This Policy was reviewed by a sub-committee compromised by Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, Recreation Board

Chair David Rouleau and Recreation Board members Larry Rogacki and Laura Ireland. Mr. Crossley stated the most notable changes to the policy were language and verbiage items. Additionally, Mr. Crossley said the document now includes the Recreation Director's contact number and Town Office number, adding those that utilize the fields will receive a copy of the policy.

Chair White thanked the sub-committee for their review of the policy. Mr. Bolduc inquired about the current staffing hours. Mr. Rouleau shared that since Mr. Crossley has been on board there is a better process in place. He said Mr. Crossley has a good working relationship with the crews who are preparing the fields and those utilizing them. Overall, the process is much more efficient, and this has helped fix the gaps that have been experienced in the past.

Mrs. Malone shared a concern regarding the language in the policy regarding violations and penalties assessed. She notes the last sentence which references the Recreation Board imposing more penalties. She stated it does not seem appropriate to have a Board of appointees imposing penalties and recommended this reside with the Selectboard or the Manager. Chair White suggested the language could simply be changed to read "the Recreation Board may recommend penalties to the Manager."

In closing, Board consensus is to receive a clean draft of the policy next week for approval.

WEBSTERVILLE ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT:

Background: On several occasions, Town Engineer Josh Martineau and the Manager have briefed the Selectboard on road damage projects that arose out of the July flood event. One of the big projects is the area of Websterville Road just before the intersection with Washington Road and Waterman Street, immediately adjacent to the Post Office where a stream crosses under the road. The culverts under the road plugged (again) and sent water over the road and significantly eroded the northeasterly side, temporarily requiring it to be closed and impacting the Post Office property. Websterville Road is a Federal Aid Highway and as a result was eligible for Emergency Repair from the Federal Highway Administration. As a result, this site was added to the scope of work VHB Consulting was already doing, so that a hydraulic study could be done to determine whether the current method of taking water under the road is acceptable or whether it could be done better. VHB determined that, in fact, the current two culvert arrangement is not hydrologically sound and should have a box culvert. Currently, all work to date has been done under Emergency Repair through the Federal Highway Administration, however, now that the Town has the hydrologic study complete and a remediation recommendation, they can recommend a path forward. Replacing the existing culverts with a new box culvert will very likely be eligible for Federal Highway assistance as a Permanent Repair which would be a 90/10 grant. The estimate to install the new culvert is between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present. It is noted that the design through construction for this project will take 2-3 years to complete. Mr. Martineau stated this will help nearby property owners. Mr. Bolduc asked if there would be an opportunity to add another parking lot for the post office. Mr. Martineau said this is something that they would have to look into.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to move forward with seeking a Permanent Repair Grant via the Federal Highway Administration to replace the existing culverts under Websterville Road adjacent to the East Barre Post Office with a box culvert understanding that there would be a 10% match required.

SPRING BULK TRASH:

Background: For each Bulk Trash event, a community organization is picked to be the group that provides volunteer help and is the entity that receives donations from it. In the past, Spaulding High School's Project Graduation has been that organization but last year they opted not to even have a Project Grad event, so they did not participate and there is no indication they want to this year either. As had been done in the past, the Barre Town Fire Department's Auxiliary stepped up and provided personnel. Event coordinator, Mike Gilbar, has reached out to the auxiliary, and they are willing to do it again this year.

Additionally, Mr. Gilbar would like to take this opportunity to discuss the fee structure and see whether adjustments should be made.

The recommendation from the Manager and Mr. Gilbar is to add \$5.00 to the current set fees.

Conversation began as Board members reviewed the current fee schedule. The Town has not increased the bulk trash fees for several years. Board consensus is to raise the fees by \$5.00.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to designate the Barre Town Fire Department Auxiliary as the volunteer group for the May 11, 2024, Spring Bulk Trash .

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to set the fees for the May 11, 2024, Spring Bulk Trash at a \$5.00 increase over the previous fees.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Background: Upon consolidation of the Local Emergency Planning Commissions (LEPC) a few years ago, Regional Emergency Management Committee's (REMC) were formed. The committees are intended to be an all-hazard group formed to coordinate emergency planning and preparedness in each region. Barre Town is part of the Central Vermont REMC. Each town has two representatives, the Emergency Management Director (EMD) and somebody from the local emergency services. In Barre Town, the EMD is the Town Manager and Josh Martineau has previously been appointed as our other representative (fire department). This is an annual appointment.

Mr. Martineau reports the Regional Emergency Management Committee meets quarterly, noting the meetings are informational. Mr. Violette noted after the flood there were many discussions within the group. The Manager recently learned that one Emergency Operation Center was going to add Starlink internet as a secondary internet option in case of power outages. He noted this is something he has thought about and may propose to the Town in the future.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Chris Violette (EMD) and Josh Martineau (BTFD) to the Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee for a term beginning May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025.

LODGE 004 POLICE UNION LABOR AGREEMENT:

Background: For the last few months, staff have been working with local representatives of the Barre Town Police Association Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 004. The Selectboard has reviewed the proposed

contract several times. Members of the local Police Union have voted to ratify the contract and it has been signed by the union's lead negotiator.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Labor Agreement with the Barre Town Police Association Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 004.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of March 26, 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Chair White, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2024 First Class Club License, Third Class Club License, and Outside Consumption Permit for Canadian Club, Inc.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Clerk to approve a Special Event Permit application for Neddo Family Vineyards, LLC, 73 Neddo Road for an event on April 8, 2024 from 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

On a motion by Chair White, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the 2024 Second Class License for Hillside Market, LLC. Bob Nelson abstained.

Mr. Violette shared that the Town has received all 8 grants for the storm water permits that were applied for.

ROUND TABLE:

Mike Gilbar:

- Mr. Gilbar followed up from the most recent Board of Abatement meeting. He asked about the suggested Charter amendment to define the tax year. Mrs. Malone stated she does not believe a Charter change is necessary and has some information and a statement to share at a future meeting. Mrs. Malone said she has information collected from valuable resources and information the Town Clerk has received.
- Mr. Gilbar inquired about the Fall Bulk Trash event. He asked if it is necessary to have two events or if the Town could eliminate the fall event and notify residents. Board members thought it would be fine to have just the one event if this was advertised. Clerk Lunt said she would send Mr. Gilbar a spreadsheet that shows the statistics of the two events over the past several years. It was suggested that the Town check with the previous Manager Carl Rogers and Jack Mitchell for their input on this matter.

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.

Selectboard Minutes of March 26, 2024, Continued:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 5:53 p.m. for personnel with possible action.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 6:04 p.m.

ACTION:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to amend the non-union wages as discussed in executive session.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:05p.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 _____, 2024.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.