

**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA**  
**December 13, 2016**

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving December 6, 2016 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items)
7. Presentation of recommended Town Plan amendments
8. Report on proposed conservation on private property on Littlejohn Road.
9. Consider approving a letter supporting CVSWMD's grant proposal regarding composting.
10. Consider approval of 5 Year Plans: a) Building; b) Equipment purchases
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
12. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
13. Executive session: personnel and labor relations (action possible)
14. Adjourn.

**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES**  
**December 13, 2016**

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard was scheduled and held on December 13, 2016 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Paul White, Rolland Tessier, Robert LaClair, and Tom White.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Zoning & Planning Administrator Christopher Violette, Cedric Sanborn, John Hameline, Fred Thumm, Cassandra Hemenway, and Town Attorney Michael Monte (arrived at 7:30 p.m.).

**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited by those present.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

*On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the amended agenda; item 12 add an item to approve of a payment plan for the vactor.*

**MINUTES**

*On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from December 6, 2016 with the various grammatical corrections as noted prior to the meeting.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The Town Selectboard is seeking registered voters to serve on the Barre Town Budget Committee from the last Tuesday of January through the last Tuesday of March. The Budget Committee reviews the entire budget for Barre Town, including the General Fund, Ambulance Fund, and Highway Fund. Serving on the Budget Committee gives you a say in all fiscal year 2017-2018 town budgets, and is a great way to learn about town operations and budgets. If interested please send your letter or email of interest by 4:00pm, Friday December 30<sup>th</sup>, to the

**Selectboard Minutes of December 13, 2016 continued:**

Town Manager's office. More information about the responsibilities of the Budget Committee is in the Barre Town newsletter that just went out. If you have questions please contact the Town Manager at 479-9331 or one of the Selectboard members.

2. As we look forward to the holidays, please be fire safe. A little caution can ensure your celebration do not include firefighters unless you have invited them:
  - Place Christmas trees and other holiday decorations at least three feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, candles, portable heaters or radiators. Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.
  - If you are using a real tree, give it plenty of water to keep it from drying out and becoming kindling.
  - Make sure holiday lights are in good condition. Never use anything with a frayed electrical cord. Always unplug holiday lights and extinguish candles before leaving the room.
  - Before using your fireplace for the first time this winter, do an inspection of the inside and look for any foreign objects, damage, or moisture inside the firebox which could mean a faulty cap.
  - Place menorahs with real candles on aluminum foil, on study surfaces, out of reach from pets and small children, and away from curtains, plants, and decorations.
3. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 during their meetings starting at 6:30 p.m., the Selectboard will hold public hearings on the proposed amendments to the Town Plan. The hearings will be held in the Municipal Building, 149 Websterville Road, Selectboard meeting room. The amendments relate mostly to energy, either to the conservation of it, handling renewables, or siting of renewables. To receive a copy of the amendments, submit your request in writing to Planning & Zoning Director Chris Violette at [cviolette@barretown.org](mailto:cviolette@barretown.org) or PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. A copy of the amendments are available electronically on the Town website, [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org).
4. Chair White noted that action was taken after executive session at the last Selectboard meeting. The Board voted 3 to 1 to authorize the Town to pay an administrative penalty of \$4,500 to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources related to the town water system. After thorough consultation with the town attorney and town manager, the Board determined that paying the penalty, for paperwork violations from 2013, would be more cost-effective than litigating the case. White noted he voted no in order to record the Board's frustration that such a large fee would be assessed over minor violations that had no bearing on water quality, and furthermore were related to a system that this year was called "excellent" by the same agency assessing the penalty.

**GUESTS - None**

**TOWN PLAN AMENDMENTS PRESENTATION**

Background: In order for the Town to adopt amendments to the Town Plan, Officials must complete a series of steps defined in statute, including two (2) warned, public hearings. The presentation tonight is to give the Selectboard the opportunity to understand the amendment effort in advance of those hearings.

The Planning Commission has been discussing some version of these amendments for over a year, spurred by a boom in solar farm development in Barre Town in recent years combined with the concern that the Town has virtually no say in where they sited, a result of the Department of Public Service (DPS) public good certification process. Accordingly,

**Selectboard Minutes of December 13, 2016 continued:**

most of the amendments are related to energy, especially siting renewables and the preservation of the town's scenic vistas. Updates were also made to energy conservation. Taken as a whole, the amendments constitute the Commission's attempt to give the Town some say in the DPS solar permit process. New rules were recently released detailing requirements of town plans in order for them to be given "substantial deference" on siting of renewables, which are considered by the Planning Commission to be extremely arduous and would take likely many months of effort, which would not help the town influence siting that could be permitted in the interim.

Zoning Administrator Violette, and Planning Commission members Cedric Sanborn and John Hameline were present. Points of discussion were: decommissioning of sites, solar overlay districts, making clear that Barre Town should only be home to a proportionate amount of solar projects, Barre Town is being proactive with their writing of the language so as not to be exclusionary, the Selectboard recognizes the time and energy spent by members to draft language for the "one shoe fits all" concept.

**LITTLEJOHN ROAD PROPOSED CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

Background: The Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) are pursuing conservation and trail easements on portions of Pierre Couture's properties on Littlejohn Road. Board members were made aware of this action during the May 17, 2016 meeting. The project is to conserve 51 acres of primarily Ag land (currently in use as such); about 3.5 acres is forested. One parcel abuts the town forest, the other is near it. Trail easements are included in the project which VLT proposes to be jointly held by VHCB and the Town of Barre, with Millstone Trails Association serving as the designated trail manager. The project is 4 - 6 months from completion. Before proceeding further, VLT and VHCB are seeking input from the Town and MTA about the trail easement, will clarify roles, and fine-tune the trail configuration. The Town Manager has already provided them with some input. Last Friday, he, VHCB, VLT, Mr. Couture, and MTA met for discussion.

Selectboard members were informed the easement is 25' wide with trails being up to 8' wide. Some of the trails are existing snowmobile routes. It was also noted that in the event Millstone Trails Association decides not to maintain the trail network the Town has the authority to find another party to do so or not maintain them at all. The Manager distributed an additional map showing the parcel proximity to the Town Forest.

Consensus of the Board is to support having the easement.

**CVSWMD'S GRANT PROPOSAL - LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Background: Town staff is working with Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) to provide one robust, free workshop in the spring to Barre Town residents on backyard composting. Participants will receive a free countertop food scrap collector, and can purchase, at cost, a ready-made backyard system. However, in order for most residents to be comfortable with the landfill ban on food scraps coming up July 1, 2017, the district recognizes - especially since the Hauler meeting - they need more support and options. Accordingly, CVSWMD is writing a grant to the USDA to support more workshops and the development of options for residential composting, like community composting. Proposals are due December 30, 2016. Proposed activities include more workshops on backyard composting, and development and support for a community composting site, if a town has a suitable location for this. An outline of the grant proposal will be available at the meeting. Having this item before the Board will give more opportunity to shape the proposal.

**Selectboard Minutes of December 13, 2016 continued:**

Fred Thumm and Casandra Hemenway were present. The CVSWMD is requesting the Board submit a letter of support for the most recent USDA grant application. Points of interest for the Town include the Zero Waste kits for larger events (Town BBQ chicken) and the possibility of do some type of compost display/demonstration during the spring bulk trash event. The CVSWMD will provide a template type letter of support to the Town by this Friday so the item can be included on the next meeting agenda.

**5 YEAR PLANS - BULDING AND EQUIPMENT**

The item was skipped over as the documents were not available. It was noted that once again the Selectboard will be reminding the Budget Committee of the complications which could result if during the budget review the plans are amended.

**WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant for the week December 13, 2016 and to include payment to the Sears Hometown Store in the amount of \$1,753.45 for the purchase of the EMS washer and dryer as there was a clerical error which prevented it from being included on the warrant.*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Rogers stated the vactor has 2 components (cab/chassis and the work unit) which are being purchased separately. The cab/chassis is estimated to cost \$105,000 - \$110,000, while the work unit (purchase was approved recently) would cost just over \$292,000. Currently there is \$100,000 which has been set aside over the past couple of years to be applied to the purchase price. The Manager would like the Selectboard approval to paying cash for the cab/chassis and to finance the work unit.

By consensus the Selectboard agreed with the Manager's vactor payment plan which would pay cash for the cab/chassis and to finance the work unit. Financing information will be brought to the Board when available.

**'ROUND THE TABLE**

Mitchell noted he will not be attending the Board meeting next week due to other obligations. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The Selectboard meeting for December 27<sup>th</sup> has been canceled. So he will see everyone next year!

LaClair stated that he had been contacted by a commercial entity stating that between the hours of midnight and 4:00 a.m. the Morrison Road section from Booth Road up gets a bit icy very quick. Since this section of road is heavily traveled with large trucks during the early morning a request has been made to have the DPW add this section of road to their daily road condition checklist of known trouble spots.

LaClair stated he will be submitting new bills this legislative session regarding bow hunters carrying hand guns; landlord/tenant communications; and making the local overweight truck permit process easier.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard found that premature general knowledge would put the Town at a disadvantage with regards to personnel and labor matters.*

**Selectboard Minutes of December 13, 2016 continued:**

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 7:58 p.m. for personnel and labor matters and invited the Town Attorney Michael Monte to attend.*

Attorney Monte left at 8:12 p.m.

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 8:45 p.m.*

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 8:45 pm.*

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*Donna J. Kelty - Town Clerk-Treasurer*

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*Selectboard Chair*

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*Barre Town Selectboard*

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