



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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www.barretown.org

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Welcome Spring

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Recreation Insert
Solid Waste Insert

COVID-19 Notes

When early planning for this newsletter began in early, mid March COVID-19 was in the news but schools were open and Vermont was not under partial shut down. Soon after the early planning state orders were issued limiting size of gatherings. Anticipating Town services and events in May could be impacted a rough draft of this note was written. By the first weekend in April when newsletter articles were written, some of the draft was out-of-date. We know May events and services are postponed to very late May and June. The usual spring services and event articles are included in this newsletter. Information and plans known as of early April is provided. Please understand conditions and requirements could change again forcing

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Town Plan Update Nearing Adoption

For over two years the Barre Town Planning Commission has been meeting regularly to update the Barre Town Municipal Plan (Town Plan). Towns and cities are encouraged to plan for a variety of things like land use, economic development, energy, municipal facilities, along with many other important items. To motivate municipalities to adopt a Plan, the State has made a Town Plan a pre-requisite to adopt zoning regulations, to be eligible for Community Development Block Grants, and to receive downtown or village designations. A Town Plan is also the best way for a Town to have influence during Act 250 or Public Utility Commission proceedings.



Until 2014 a Town Plan was valid for 5 years. While an expired Town Plan may still have standing to some degree, it limits many of the functions listed above. Since 2014 a Town Plan is in effect for 8 years. Barre Town's last plan update was just prior to the 8-year timeframe but after this new plan is adopted it will be on an 8 year cycle.

This plan update adds a few important new components required by State law but to a large degree is an update of information that has changed since 2014. The Planning Commission enlisted the help of Town department heads, numerous outside entities that are represented in the plan, as well as the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. This joint effort culminated with a public hearing held by the Planning Commission on March 25, 2020. After the public hearing the commission voted to send the draft plan to the Selectboard for its review and at least 2 public hearings before final adoption sometime in late spring or early summer.

Important new additions to the Town Plan include a better representation of current and future land use in Barre Town, the addition of a forest integrity section

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Charter Amendments on Ballot

On the June 2 Annual Election ballot four articles (ballot questions) will ask voters if four Town Charter amendments will be approved. Each article is about a different and distinct amendment. Voters may vote yes for all or none of the articles, or vote in favor of some and opposed to some. Each article stands on its own.

To read the Charter and proposed amendments go to the Town website. On the home page click on the Charter, Ordinances and Policies tab, then select Proposed Charter Amendments and Ordinances. You are looking for the 2020 Proposed Town Charter Amendments. The ballot questions are included in the Annual Election Warning which is included in the budget booklet that will be available about two weeks before the election.

The four articles and subjects are:

Article 27 - Election Presiding Officer. This article would amend Section 4b. The Town Clerk is the designated presiding official at elections; that is not changing. Charter Section 4b currently states the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) may designate one of its members to perform the Clerk's duties, if he/she is not available. The proposed changes make an Assistant Town Clerk who is a registered town voter the first option for a back-up presiding officer. The second option is a BCA designated registered Town voter.

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ALL TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON:

- May 25 —Memorial Day Holiday
- July 3rd - 4th of July Holiday

DATES & EVENTS:

(All dates tentative due to Covid-19)

- May 1 - Cemeteries Open
- May 15 - Property Taxes Due
- May 30 - Green Up Day
- June 2 - Annual Election
- June 13 - Spring Bulk Trash
- Aug. 1 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- TBD - Barre Heritage Festival

(Cont'd - COVID-19)

changes in dates or procedures for conducting services and events.

As of early April, municipal activities are not normal - locked doors, no public meeting room, 2-person public works crews— but all Town departments are working. Precautions are being followed to keep Town staff healthy so services will not be interrupted. All forms of communication with Town departments are open and in use. Please feel free to phone, email or mail Town departments with reports or questions. Applications, payments and other items can be deposited in the drop box at the front of the Municipal Building. Meeting agendas (still posted at Hanaford, Trow Hill, Graniteville General and Town website) list public participation call-in information.

Visit www.barretown.org for links to information to help individuals and businesses and for the latest information about Town services and events.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Permits

Working in the Town Right-of-Way: Are you working near the road? You may need a working in the right-of-way permit. Working in the right-of-way permits are issued by the Town Engineer in an effort to ensure that the Town's infrastructure remains in working order. It is important to know that the right-of-way extends beyond the traveled portion of a road. How far beyond depends on several factors, but if you are close to the road, contact the Town Engineer at 479-2595 to ask for help.

Driveway Permits: Driveway permits are issued by the Town Engineer. A driveway permit protects the Town's interest in the road it connects to. It is also intended to ensure that the driveway location is safely located for visibility. It is important to note driveway permits are required for almost anything you may do to your driveway in the vicinity of the town road. This includes paving a gravel driveway or existing paved driveway. If you are having your driveway paved, you need a driveway permit and should contact the Zoning Office at 479-2595 to obtain a permit application.

Fireworks: Cost \$15.00. Required at least 15 days prior

to event. Obtain application on the website (www.barretown.org/PermitsandForms) or call the Town Clerk's office 802-479-9391.

Outdoor Burning: No fee. Burning legal material such as brush, larger than a normal campfire? A permit is required from the Fire Warden. Call 802-498-8694. The burning of illegal material such as treated wood, furniture, and garbage is NEVER allowed.

Home Improvement/New Construction: Cost varies. Most anything outside if more than 64sf in size likely requires a building permit. Exceptions include new roofing or siding, the replacement of windows (if the same size) or the replacement of anything that already exists and is under 500sf. Contact Planning and Zoning (802-479-2595) for more information.

By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer; Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer; and Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning

Help Wanted - Police

Have you always wanted to help your community? Are you a motivated individual who wants to work in a team-oriented atmosphere? If so, the Barre Town PD wants to talk with you! Our police department has 8 full-time officers, 1 full-time clerk-dispatcher, and a compliment of per diem officers. Full-time officers currently work 4, 10 hour days followed by 3 days off. They rotate every few months between day, evening and midnight shifts, and have Friday through Sunday off every other month. Active per diem officers



average a shift or two per week. Outside of scheduled patrol shifts, officers might work outside details such as Thunder Road, and special patrols in partnership with the Governor's Highway Safety Program. In addition, we have a contract with Barre Town Middle & Elementary School for school resource officer services. If you have an interest in law enforcement, please call us at 479-0509 for an application.

By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police

Pedestrian / Cyclist Safety

In light of current events, we have seen an increase in pedestrian and cyclist traffic. While there has been a noticeable decrease in vehicle traffic, there still are vehicles on the roadways. In 2018 across the U.S. there were 857 cyclist accidents that resulted in fatalities. During that same year, there were 6,283 pedestrian fatalities. To keep everyone safe, walk only on the roadway when absolutely necessary. Use



sidewalks when available, and if walking for exercise as opposed to trying to reach a destination, consider using a town bike path or trails in the town forest. In addition, wear bright colors, yield to traffic, and make sure your bike is outfitted with lights. When walking, carry a flashlight. When biking wear a bike helmet and clothing that can help prevent injury should you fall. Be aware of your surroundings whether you are the cyclist/pedestrian or operating a vehicle. For more information visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety> or <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety>.

By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police

Summer Construction Schedule

This year pavement milling and paving will be one contract. This limits the amount of time between the two operations, minimizing the disturbance to the road and residents. The contract will require a road be paved within 14 calendar days of the road being milled.



Pavement Milling and Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving in the Town will take place from July 20 to Sept. 18. Below are the lists of roads to be done this summer.

Pavement Milling: Bridge St., Graniteville Rd., Quarry Hill Rd., Holden Rd., Cassie St., Hill St., Camp St.

Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving: Bridge St., *Middle Rd., *Grantville Rd., *Quarry Hill Rd., Holden Rd., Christie St., Cassie St., Hill St., Sierra Lavin Rd., Lisa Dr., *East Cobble Hill Rd., Camp St., Allen St.

* Roads to be completed by August 25, 2020

Bonded Wearing Course (July 6 - Sept. 11): Don Camp Dr., Meadow Wood Dr., Beede Cir., Leo Ave., Jackson St., Colonial Dr., North Colonial Dr., Ellenwood Dr., Hutchins Cir., Parker Rd., Smokehouse Ln.

The DPW will be replacing culverts on some of these roads. Major reconstruction will be done on the steep hill in Cassie Street just above Plainfield Brook Road. The road base in a short section of one lane in Bridge Street also will be re-built.

If you have any questions regarding work to be done on the road near your property, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 479-2595.

By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer

What's That Green Stuff by the Roads?

You know what grass is, and you know that bright green stuff isn't grass! You're right – it's hydroseeding material. If you aren't familiar, hydroseeding is a technology that allows fast revegetation of disturbed soils. Many public works crews, including ours, now hydroseed after ditch or culvert work. The quicker the grass grows, the less soil is lost, which also protects waterways. The 'green stuff' includes paper mulch dyed green (so the person applying it knows where it's been applied, and how thickly), grass seed, fertilizer, and water. This is all sprayed out together by a special-purpose hydroseeding machine. If you see the Town hydroseeder in action post a picture to the Barre Town DPW Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BarreTownDPW.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Participate in the Census

Please respond to your invitation to complete the 2020 Census that should have arrived in your mailbox in March. You may complete the Census either online, by phone, or by mail. The count is for your household information as it was on April 1, 2020.



If you no longer have the invitation postcard and have not yet responded to the Census, or don't remember whether you have already responded, you may use your street address where you resided on April 1, 2020 to respond. If you have access to the internet, respond at my2020census.gov. It should take about 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire online. Or, you can

respond by phone by calling 844-330-2020. Be aware that wait times might be long because the Census has reduced staffing at call centers to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Responding to the Census helps make sure that lawmakers and others have correct data when deciding how to distribute resources. Responding now helps reduce the need for Census workers to make door-to-door visits to complete the Census count, protecting everyone that much more from COVID-19. If you have already responded, thank you!

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Grieving Property Assessed Value

Property tax bills are the result of multiplying the property assessed value by the property tax rate. The assessed value of a property is determined by the assessor through a process intended to be fair and equitable, but is an inexact science.

Once per year every property owner has an opportunity to grieve the assessed value of his/her property. If the assessor changed the assessed value since the 2019 Grand List the owner will receive a Notice of Change in Appraisal and instructions on how to grieve the new assessed value. The once per year period to grieve assessments comes in early June when the assessor publishes and posts a notice known as the lodging of the abstract Grand List.

To grieve the assessed value set by the assessor the owner must file, in writing, a grievance with the assessor within 14 days of the lodging of the Grand List. The Assessor's Office will schedule a grievance hearing with the owner. At this hearing the burden of proof and persuasion is on the owner. Documentation and facts are recommended. After hearings the assessor will notify all grievants, in writing, of his decision about their grievance.

If the owner is not satisfied with the outcome of the grievance, he/she may appeal to the Town's Board of Civil Authority. The appeal is requested by writing to the Town Clerk within 14 days of the date the assessor mailed his decision. The BCA will judge whether the property was assessed fairly when compared to similar properties in town. The burden of proof and persuasion again is on the owner. New relevant information and evidence, not used during the grievance hearing, may be presented. After presentation and cross examination, BCA will appoint an inspection committee to inspect the property and submit written findings to the BCA. Within 15 days of receiving the report, BCA shall render its decision. The Town Clerk notifies the owner in writing.

After the BCA decision if the owner is not satisfied, he/she may appeal to the State Division of Property Valuation and Review or to the county superior court.

Watch for the lodging of the Grand List notice in early June. Questions about the grievance process may be directed to the Assessor's Office (479-2595).

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Reminder: Property Taxes are due

May 15th

(Cont'd - Charter Amendments on Ballot)

Article 28 - Listers. This article would amend Sections 10, 34, 38 and 39. Section 10 currently reads the Office of Lister may be abolished and replaced by an assessor provided the voters authorize such action at any annual town meeting. The voters did authorize that on June 1, 1976. Barre Town has used an assessor since shortly after that election. Article 28 removes reference to Office of Lister and adds assessor, in Sections 34, 38 and 39. The proposed amendment represents no change in how the Town has done business since 1976.

Article 29 - Personnel Policy. This article would amend Charter Sections 11 and 25. Section 25 currently states a complete personnel policy shall be in the Code of Ordinances. The proposed amendment would repeal that requirement but add to Section 11 (Selectboard's duties) that the Selectboard shall adopt a comprehensive personnel policy for all town employees. There is little change from the current practice. The Town will have a personnel policy as a policy not as an ordinance.

Article 30 - Elected Town Clerk-Treasurer. This article would split the existing elected Town Clerk-Treasurer position. Under the proposal the Town Clerk would be elected and the Treasurer would be appointed. Seven Charter sections have to be amended to complete this change. The Clerk would continue to appoint one member of the Budget Committee and serve as clerk to the Board of Civil Authority. The Treasurer would be added to the membership of the Board of Abatement.

This proposed amendment is intended to coincide with the Clerk-Treasurer's retirement in May 2021. The duties of a Clerk are different than the duties of a Treasurer; they require different knowledge and skill sets. The proposal authorizes the Selectboard to appoint a qualified Treasurer. It also is possible and has been discussed the Town would hire a finance director or chief financial officer for day-to-day financial work. The part-time Treasurer would be an overseer and sign checks.

Current Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty supports this organizational change. During the February 11, 2020 Selectboard meeting, when asked about the proposed amendment, she said, "it is long overdue." She continued, "the position of treasurer requires somebody with some credentials. In order to do justice to the residents it (the position) needs to be separated."

Any of these articles approved by voters will be forwarded to the Vermont Secretary of State's Office for writing a bill (proposed legislation) for the legislature's approval. The amendments would be in effect after the legislature's approval and the Governor signing the bill.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

State Primary Election - August 11

The State's primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11. The primary election decides what candidates will appear on the general election ballot in November.



This primary election might be held by mail vote only. If it is, or if an early ballot is requested, please take note the voter will receive three political party ballots. Only one ballot can be used. The unused ballots will be placed in an envelope labeled "unused" and sealed. The voted ballot

will be placed in the envelope which the voter must sign and seal. Both envelopes will be placed in the return envelope (red & white). The "unused" envelope and the voted ballot envelope must be returned.

If in-person voting is used, the election will be held in Barre Town's usual polling place - the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School gym. Voting hours are 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

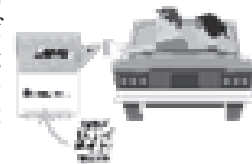
There is no voter registration deadline - same day voter registration is allowed. Registering to vote before an election is encouraged. The registration process can be started with a phone call (479-9391) or email (wmoore@barretown.org) to the Town Clerk's Office.

As before all elections, a sample ballot will be posted on the website, at stores around town and at the Municipal Building.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Election Changes - June 2

Due to COVID-19 the annual Town Meeting originally scheduled for May 6 and postponed to May 27 has been cancelled. Four of the Articles on the Town Meeting Warning have been moved to the Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot Warning. H681, adopted by the legislature and signed by the Governor, allows the Town Meeting to be canceled.



The June 2 Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot will be a vote by mail only election. All voters will receive a postcard with instructions on the vote by mail. Voters must contact the Town Clerk's Office (479-9391 or email wmoore@barretown.org) and request a ballot. The ballot must be returned by the close of polls, 7:00 pm on June 2, 2020. The ballot may be mailed back to the Town Clerk's Office, placed in the drop box at the front of the Municipal Building, or dropped off at the drive-through polling place (the DPW Yard at 129 Websterville Road) between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm on June 2.

The drive-through polling place will handle same-day voter registration, accommodate voters with disabilities and offer social-distanced voting (vote in your car).

The Warning and sample ballot will be posted on the Town website, at Lawson's Store, Hannaford, Graniteville General Store, Trow Hill Grocery, and at the front door of the Municipal Building.

Article 1, election of officers, includes election of two Selectboard members, moderator, constable and auditor. The Town General Fund and Highway Fund budgets are on the ballot for approval. Twenty-one social service agencies are seeking voter approval for a donation. Barre Area Development is seeking funding for its Barre Rock Solid Marketing campaign. Four Town Charter amendments are listed on the ballot. (See article on page 1.) Four procedural questions usually on the Open Town Meeting Warning are on the paper ballot this year. The questions are about: 1) tax payment due dates; 2) pro-rating property tax payments due based upon homestead payments received from the state; 3) sewer payment due dates; and 4) authorizing the Selectboard to sell real estate per Town Charter Section 41.

New information about the election will be posted on the website. Watch for the postcard. Voters always may call the Town Clerk's Office with questions about voting.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Budget and Other Ballot Articles

The Town Budget Committee started meeting on January 28 and finished its work on March 26. The Committee was the five Selectboard members and residents Justin Bolduc, Alan Garceau, Mike Gilbar, Debra Pierce and Cedric Sanborn. They reviewed and set all nine Town fund budgets for fiscal year 2020-2021. Their work included finalizing proposed General Fund and Highway Fund budgets for voter approval at the June 2 Election. Before the Election, a budget booklet will be available at the following stores: Hannaford, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Graniteville General, Lawson's, Trow Hill Grocery, Gunner Brook Store and Deli and on the Town website. That booklet will provide more details of the proposed General Fund (GF) and Highway (HF) budgets. It also provides a summary of the other seven fund budgets. Voters have the final say of the GF and HF budgets because of the property taxes levied to support those two budgets.

The proposed GF and HF budgets total \$7,228,196, which is an increase of \$259,445 or 3.72%. Comparing current budgets to proposed budgets the tax rate would increase 3.18¢.

The proposed GF budget is \$4,047,821. This amount is \$179,880 greater than the current budget; that amount represents a 4.65% increase. The projected tax rate increase (comparing budget to budget) is 1.78¢. The proposed G.F. budget is balanced (revenues equal expenses). No permanent staff changes are planned. Due to succession planning a salary for an extra person is in the budget for 4 ½ months.

The five largest department increases (in dollars) are: **1)** Data Processing - \$64,840; **2)** Police - \$51,720; **3)** Town Clerk's Office - \$36,810; **4)** Employee Benefits - \$23,300; and **5)** Assessor's Office - \$10,005. By percent of increase the largest increases are: **1)** Data Processing - 148%; **2)** Emergency Management - 99.2%; **3)** BCA/Elections - 69.0%; **4)** Town Clerk's Office - 17.98%; and **5)** Assessor's Office - 13.98%.

Data Processing tops both lists. Two factors account for \$59,595 of the \$64,840 increase. The larger of the two is the new computer system network support contract. The new contract will be with the company providing service now, but the contract will be restructured and will cost \$34,020 more than the current year. This new higher annual fee will continue year after year. The new service and budget expense were proposed after evaluating prices and services from other companies and learning it is less expensive with better service. The second factor is associated with the new accounting and financial software from a new vendor. The Town used the old vendor's software from July 2000 to present. To fully utilize the twenty years of information in the former system a "forever" license fee of \$25,575 must be paid. This is a one-time fee. The remainder of the department increase is due to support of the new accounting software system, which also is an on-going expense.

The Police Department has the largest budget in the GF. The \$51,720 increase is 5.80%. Two police budget items make the top ten increases list for 2020. Police straight time wages are increasing \$32,775 but overtime wages are decreasing \$9,500 for a net increase of \$23,275 for full-timers' wages. The other noticeable police budget increase is \$15,325 for the first annual payment for five car cameras and a digital fingerprint machine. These items will be fi-

nanced over a 3-year term. All pieces of equipment are replacing existing equipment.

The Town Clerk's Office (TCO) has the third highest department increase (\$36,810) and fourth highest percentage increase (17.98%). Two items are responsible for \$36,115 of the increase. Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty plans to retire when her current term expires in May 2021. The Town is preparing for having an elected town clerk and appointed treasurer. (See article about Town Charter amendments on page 1.) Thoughts are, the Town will hire a full-time professional chief financial officer or finance director. The treasurer may be an appointed part-time officer of the Town. The proposed budget includes \$27,400 to hire a finance professional in mid-February to work with Ms. Kelty before her retirement. This expense is a one-time addition to the budget. The second big increase is for existing staff's wages.

Two departments on the top five percent increase list have not been mentioned. The Emergency Management budget is proposed to climb 99.2%. That budget is \$5,530 this year. The \$5,450 increase is for plans to install an emergency power generator at the Barre Town School, which is the Town's large shelter in the event families lose their housing. The BCA/Election budget goes up every other year due to the fall elections. This year the increase in the BCA/Election department is \$8,825 or 69.0%.

Seven of the ten largest single item or account increases were covered in the discussion above. The single largest new item in the GF budget is purchase of new softball field lights at \$56,060. This purchase is in the Recreation department budget, which overall is \$3,280 less than the current year. Every year the Recreation budget includes money for capital improvements. In '20-'21 the capital improvements money is channeled to this one costly purchase. The existing lights were installed when the field was built in the early to mid-1980s. The new lights will be more energy efficient. The type of lights and lighting plan will improve lighting on the field. The softball leagues are contributing to this purchase.

Highway Fund - The proposed HF budget totals \$3,180,375, which is an increase of \$79,565 or 2.56%. This budget is balanced. The tax rate to support the HF budget would increase 1.4¢. No full-time staff changes are planned but funding is proposed for extra summer help - both labor and a supervisor/inspector. The usual amount of paved road work is planned.

The four departments with the largest increases are: **1)** Employee Benefits - \$28,435/7.58%; **2)** Winter Maintenance - \$24,510/3%; **3)** Local Match for Projects - \$11,700; and **4)** Signing and Lighting - \$6,430/6.08%.

With a \$21,685 increase, health insurance is the primary reason for the growth in Employee Benefits. Premiums and employee turnover cause the increase. Last year the HF had a \$33,450 decrease in health insurance. Fewer employees opting for the buy-out and the 10% premium increase add up to a significant increase.

There is no single or couple reasons for the Winter Maintenance uptick. Town equipment charges are projected to be \$6,910 higher. The new sidewalk maintenance contract will cost \$5,540 more due to more sidewalk in East Barre and cost escalation. The contract was secured after bidding.

Last year there were no local share payments to make for a VTrans or grant project. That department had a \$0 budget. This year the Committee decided to set aside \$11,700 for the Town's share of the Quarry Street/Quarry Hill Road VTrans project.

(Continued on Page 7)

Project Updates

Rt. 110/Mill Street Intersection: VTrans has halted all of its contract work until the stay-at-home order is lifted. Work on the intersection project is on hold until VTrans thaws work on its contracts. When J.P. Sicard, the contractor, may resume work, all new pavement will be milled and the streets re-paved, then road lines and other marking will be put down. Restoration work such as adding top soil, seeding, mulching is yet to be done.

Reappraisal: As expected, not much reappraisal work was done during the winter. In early April post cards were re-mailed to Area 1 and Area 2 owners whose property has not been inspected yet. Resumption of work - outdoor inspections only - began shortly afterwards. Because of COVID-19 inspectors are performing only the outside inspections and taking photos. The inspectors were told not to do indoor inspections even if the owner invites them in. Inspectors were directed to maintain social distance and to ask the owner to keep a safe distance, if the owner decides to go outside and walk with the inspector.

Owners who receive a post card may object to the inspection by calling the Assessor's Office, or owners may object when the inspector knocks on the door. The Interim Town Assessor, Russ Beaudoin, and the two inspectors should be carrying a Town photo ID and have a Barre Town Assessor sign on the side of their car.

Owners in Area 3, from Camp Street and Higuera Road clock-wise, to Cutler Corner and Ladd Roads, plus Phelps Road down to Anderson Road, will receive a notification post card about May 1. The Interim Assessor plans to have the reappraisal completed April, 2021.

Ash Tree Removal: On February 11 the Selectboard held a public hearing for the ash tree removal plan. On February 19 the county forester trained 2 DPW employees on ash tree (white, green and black) identification. On February 25 the Selectboard approved the ash tree removal plan. DPW has completed ash tree removal on Curtis Road, Barclay Road, and upper Sunset. Neddo is partially done; DPW has not started work on upper Phelps. DPW is working on tree removal as other duties (i.e. snow plowing) allow. There probably will



not be much tree removal work during the COVID-19 threat. During this time DPW will have no more than 2 employees work together. A two person crew is not ideal for taking down trees along a road.

The roads in the next area of work will be Cummings Road, Ladd Road and Cutler Corner Road. Letters will be mailed to all owners whose property abuts one of these roads.

Green Mountain Power hired a contractor to remove ash trees that posed a risk to GMP's wires. The contractor has worked in many areas of Town and cut down many trees.

Vermont Food Bank Expansion: The Foodbank has completed Phase 1, a 5,700 s.f. addition, while Phase 2 interior renovation will be done next year. The increased capacity, new cooler and freezer and improved functionality will greatly improve the capacity of the Foodbank to distribute food to Vermonters.

The cost of this project was in excess of 5 million dollars. Barre Town assisted by securing a grant via the Vermont Community Development Program run by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. While not fully

executed, Barre Town will subgrant \$150,000 to the Foodbank.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager and Chris Violette, Planning and Zoning Director

Don't Flush

Pesticides and Fertilizers

In its third brochure in the Don't Flush It series, the Green Mountain Water Environment Association (GMWEA) presents information about the hazards posed by lawn and garden poisons and offers resources for environmentally safer alternatives. Information provided herein is taken from the brochure.



Pesticides and chemical fertilizers can run off your property into natural waters and wells, endangering human health and poisoning the environment. Pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodent poisons are hazardous materials that kill helpful plants and cause death and deformities in birds, fish, frogs, bees and bats. In humans, they (pesticides, etc.) can cause birth defects, cancer, male infertility, Parkinson's disease, and other illnesses.

"Commercial fertilizers feed toxic blue-green algae in Vermont lakes. Those soupy blooms are not just ugly but dangerous! They wipe out fish and can cause liver and brain damage in humans and pets. When these chemicals run off your property into streams, groundwater, public stormwater systems, and wells - they wreck havoc."

Septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants can't eliminate these toxic chemicals. They pass the chemicals on to the soil and water.

The GMWEA brochure offers the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tips on controlling pests. The U.S. EPA and U.S. Department of Agriculture support these options. If a chemical shouldn't be disposed of with regular household trash (called municipal solid waste or MSW), don't flush it down the toilet or put it in a sink, storm drain or driveway. The C.V. Solid Waste Management District offers household hazardous waste collections for disposal of these chemicals. See article on the Solid Waste insert - or visit the District's website, www.cvswmd.org.

Manage conditions the best you can so pests aren't drawn to or thrive on your property. Encourage pests' natural, biological enemies. For example, spread milky spore on your lawn to get rid of Japanese beetles. Physically or mechanically discourage plant and animal pests such as weeding by hand and using mouse traps rather than poison. Use natural alternatives or products with less impact on the environment. Use compost to build the soil in your garden and your lawn. If buying fertilizer look for products formulated to soak in not run off. Keep pesticides and fertilizers off of driveways and sidewalks where they might be washed into a catch basin or ditch leading to a natural water course.

"The National Pesticide Information Center provides fact sheets on all pesticides and lists natural and minimal-risk alternatives." NPIC's website is www.npic.orst.edu. "There are many easy and safe soil-care options - and they're often cheaper and more effective than toxic chemicals." Check out: www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution; or www.gardners.com/how-to; or www.planetnatural.com/organic-gardening-guru.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Board, Commission and Committee Appointments

The last Tuesday of May the Selectboard appoints volunteer citizen members to the half dozen boards, commissions and committees (BCCs) that help the Town operate. As required by the Town Charter, every year a notice that applications are requested is published. Notice is given for all seats up for re-appointment even if the current member wants to be re-appointed. The terms that are expiring in 2020 are shown below.



In addition to these 13 positions there are 3 open positions. A Cemetery Commission seat is vacant. The term of this vacant position expires 2024. The alternate director position on the CVFiber Board of Directors is open. CVFiber is a communications union district intending to bring high-speed broadband internet access to Central Vermont. The CVFiber Board meets monthly on a Tuesday night in Berlin. A Housing Advisory Committee seat is also open. The term for the open seat expires in May, 2021. The 2 DRB alternate member seats listed below are vacant now; there are no current alternates to be re-appointed. The quick application form shown below may be used to apply for the open Cemetery and Housing Advisory Committee seats. For the CVFiber post submit a letter of interest.

BCCs meet in the evenings in the Municipal Building. A staff member is assigned to each. Meeting material is sent to the members before the meeting. Except for the Cemetery Commission, staff prepares the agenda and writes the minutes. Occasionally training opportunities are available. The Town will pay registration fees. BCC members learn much about their area of responsibility and have an impact on town services or life in Barre Town. Learn more about the BCCs by visiting the town website and clicking on Boards and Commissions. A description of each BCC, past agendas and minutes are available. Another option is calling the Town Manager’s Office at 479-9331.

To be considered for one of the BCC seats listed below cut out the quick application form and mail to the Town Manager’s Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or drop it off at the Municipal Building. Another way to apply is to submit a letter of interest. A sample letter of interest (LOI) is available on the website at www.barretown.org/Pages/boards/interest.pdf. The LOI would be mailed to the same address listed above. **Applications are due by noon on Thursday, May 21, 2020.**
By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Application for Board, Commission or Committee

Please print:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____

I am interested in being a member of:

<u>Board, Commission</u>	<u>Meeting Night</u>	<u>Members Total</u>	<u>#Positions Due</u>	<u>Term</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Commission	4th Wednesday	5	1	5 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Review Board	2nd Wednesday	7	3	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> DRB Alternate members	2nd Wednesday	2	2	1 yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing Advisory Committee	as needed	5	1	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission	3rd Wednesday	7	3	4 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Board	1st Monday	7	2	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety Advisory Comm.	3rd Wednesday	5	1	3 yrs.

(Cont’d - Town Plan Update Nearing Adoption)

(2.11) to encourage protection of forest blocks and habitat connectors, and a flood resiliency element (chapter 11) with a goal of creating a flood resilient community. Forest integrity and flood resiliency are new requirements since the last plan adoption.

The most prominent addition to the Town Plan is the Energy Plan which is added as an addendum. The Energy Plan is a cooperative effort between the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and the Barre Town Planning Commission. Act 174 of the 2016 Vermont Legislature, allows a Town to have an Energy Plan and if compliant with the policies and goals of the State Energy Plan and the requirements of the Act, the plan will be given “substantial deference” (significant and meaningful weight) during Public Utility Commission Section 248 hearings related to the siting of renewable energy projects. This, in theory, will allow a Town more control and input with regard to siting.

As mentioned, look for Selectboard public hearings in the coming weeks. The plan can be viewed by going to [barretown.org/departments/planning and zoning](http://barretown.org/departments/planning%20and%20zoning).

By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director

(Cont’d - Budget and Other Ballot Articles)

Another \$10,000 will be needed in ’21-’22.

The ballot this year lists an article asking if voters will authorize \$40,000 for implementation of Barre Area Development’s Barre Rock Solid marketing plan. For more information about Barre Rock Solid visit www.barrerocksolid.com and www.badc.com. Three new agencies petitioned to be on the ballot raising the total to twenty-one agencies. Two agencies petitioned for more money. The sum of the twenty-one requests is \$72,700.

For more ballot information read the booklet and call the Town Manager’s Office at 479-9331 or email croggers@barretown.org.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager



Board and Commission Reports

Development Review Board – *By Cindy Spaulding; Members: M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Neddo, J. Valsangiacomo, A. Valentinetti, and J. Fecteau.*
AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit; SD=Subdivision; BLA=Boundary Line Adjustment

February 2020: No meeting.
March 2020: Approved Variance, Trevor Abare at Cummings Road.

Planning Commission – *By Cindy Spaulding; Members: C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Pierce, B. Atwood, G. Clain, M. Gilbar.*
AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit

February 2020: Finalize Draft Town Plan for Public Hearing.
March 2020: Conducted Public Hearing on Town Plan, App. Forward to Selectboard.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - *By Carl Rogers; Members: S. Corbett, J. Blow, W. Kirby, Dave Freeman, and Bret Meyer.*

February 2020: No meeting; no business.
March 2020: Welcomed new town engineer Josh Martineau; tabled request for 2 Hidden Driveway signs for 31 Camire Hill Road until traffic and speed information is available; recommended Selectboard approve removing 6 bus stop ahead signs no longer serving a bus stop; recommended new bus stop ahead sign on East Cobble Hill Road (for #410) and relocating existing bus stop ahead sign near Partridge Road on East Cobble Hill Road.

Look for the next edition of the Barre Town Newsletter in August!