



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 2
April 2019
www.barretown.org

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Inside This Issue:

Dates & Events	2
Kindergarten Screening.....	2
Do I Need A Permit.....	2
Employee Changes.....	2
Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption	3
Sign Up For VT Alert.....	3
2018 Charter Amendment Update	4
Summer Road Work Schedule	5
Call Public Works First.....	6
W.I.P. Activity	6
Bike Safety.....	6
Board, Commission, Committee Reports	6
Application For Board, Commission, Committees	7
EMS & DPW Week	7
Drug Collection Box	7
Vote - Elections at a Glance	8

Inserts:

Recreation News
Solid Waste & Recycling Services

Projects to Affect Traffic

Exit 6 Ledge Removal: This AOT project at the top of the South Barre Access Road (Rt. 63) has received much publicity thanks to AOT's outreach efforts. In case you haven't heard here is some background and update.

In July 2012 ledge broke loose and fell into the travel portion of the I-89 Exit 6 northbound exit ramp. Fortunately this happened during the day so drivers could see the stone in the road. AOT reports it considered alternatives to mitigating the hazard and decided to undertake this extensive ledge removal project. AOT estimates 40,000 cubic yards of ledge will be blasted and hauled away.

As part of its outreach program AOT has met with about 30 businesses. AOT also met with municipal officials from Berlin, Williamstown, Barre City and Barre Town in November. A public information meeting was held during the December 18 Selectboard meeting.

After public bidding, AOT awarded the ledge removal contract to B.U.R. Construction of Claremont, NH. A pre-construction meeting was held April 5. B.U.R. has begun to mobilize (set up a job trailer). A public information meeting will be held in early June. A 2-month blasting and hauling period is expected from mid-June to mid-August. Site and road preparation and restoration work will precede and follow the blasting and hauling phase.

The northbound ramp will be closed 24 hours per day 7 days per week (except the July 4 holiday) during the blasting phase. When a blast will occur rolling road blocks (slow moving traffic) will be used for northbound and southbound traffic on I-89. The official detour will be through Exit 7. All trucks must go to Exit 7. Cars may use Exit 5.



(Continued on Page 4)

Budget and Other Ballot Articles

April 2 the Budget Committee concluded its review and set the amount of nine fund budgets for fiscal year 2019-2020. From January 29 to April 2 the Committee met every Tuesday night, including two double sessions. They visited four town facilities and talked with three department heads one Saturday morning. On the last night, the Committee trimmed \$55,305 from the manager's proposed General Fund (GF) and Highway Fund (HF) budgets.

When residents vote on May 14 they will be handed a ballot listing 23 articles. Two of the articles ask if voters will approve the GF and HF budgets. Combined those two budgets equal \$6,968,751, which represents a 3.32% increase above the current budgets. A 2-3 cent tax rate increase would be needed to fund the two balanced budgets.

The proposed GF budget is \$3,867,941, a 3.43% or \$128,385 increase. The GF payment to the town's Ambulance Fund (AF) is going up \$102,790. If not for that one item the GF increase would be \$25,595 or .68%. The per capita fee paid to Barre Town's AF is increasing 22.3% to balance that budget. The AF budget needs an unusually large increase from Barre Town because the number of billable calls (patient services) performed is essentially unchanged. Billable rates for half the calls are set by the federal (Medicare) and state (Medicaid) governments. The amount these programs will pay increases very little year to year. The AF is payroll heavy (to be sure a crew always is ready to answer the next call) and those costs increase.

The second largest increase at \$29,575 is in the health insurance premium account. A 7% premium increase is estimated for

(Continued on Page 4)



**ALL TOWN OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON:**

- May 27—Memorial Day
- July 4th - Independence Day

DATES & EVENTS:

- May 1 - Cemeteries Open
- May 4 - Green Up Day
- May 4 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- May 8 - Annual Town Meeting
- May 11 - Spring Bulk Trash
- May 14 - Election
- May 15 - Property Taxes Due
- June 1 - Recreation Summer Festival
- July 25 - 28 - Barre Heritage Festival

Kindergarten Screening

Barre Town Middle & Elementary School will have Registration and Screening on April 29 & April 30 for children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2019. This is needed if your child did not attend preschool at BTMES. Registration is for children born on or before August 31st. Please call Betsy Pierce at 476-6617, ext. 6306 to schedule an appointment and or request a registration packet no later than Monday, April 23.



Employee Changes

Part-time Accounts Payable Clerk Charlene Flinn retired on January 31. She shepherded invoices from the town's 200 plus regular vendors for three and a third years.

Officer Kyle Laughlin left our Police Department on March 14 to follow his fiancée to her home state of California. He was with the department for two and a half years.

Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant Julie Kimball resigned effective April 5 to pursue other opportunities.

We wish them all the best in their new ventures.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Do I Need a Permit?

Fireworks Permit - Required at least 15 days prior to event. A fee of \$25 is charged. Obtain application on the website (www.barretown.org/PermitandForms) or call the Town Clerks office (802) 479-9391.

Outdoor Burning - Burning legal material such as grass, brush, etc that is larger than a



normal campfire? A permit is required from the Fire Warden. Call (802) 498-8694. The burning of illegal material such as furniture, treated wood of any kind and garbage is NEVER allowed.

Driveway Work - Driveways are in the Town right-of-way. Repairs, general maintenance, and repaving likely require a permit. Contact the Town Engineer or Zoning Office (802) 479-2595 for more information.

Home Improvement(s) or New Construction - Most anything outside if more than 64 s.f. 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 500 s.f. Contact Planning and Zoning (802) 479-2595 for more information.

By Chris Violette, Planning and Zoning Director

Property Assessment Appeals

Barre Town raises the vast majority of the funds needed to maintain public infrastructure and services from property taxes. Property taxes are based on the value of property as determined – or as assessed, or appraised – by the town's assessor, who is appointed by the Selectboard. Property assessment is designed to be a fair, equitable process, but assessing is an imprecise science. Therefore, taxpayers may appeal the appraisal of their property. The 2019 grand list of all property values will be available at the Town Office in the first week of June. When it is, notices that it is available will be posted on the town website, in the Times Argus, at grocery stores, and post offices around town. This notice is officially called "the lodging of the abstract grand list." If the Assessor for Barre Town, Russ Beaudin, has *changed* the appraisal of your property since the 2018 grand list, you will be mailed a notice the same day the abstract grand list is lodged.

Any taxpayer, whether their property appraisal has changed or not, may dispute their property appraisal through the tax grievance process. This process is set by state law. A summary of the process to be followed should you wish to dispute the appraisal of your property is below:

Step 1: File a grievance with the Assessor in writing by 14 days from the lodging of the abstract grand list, which, as stated above, will be the same date any notices of changes in appraisal are mailed. When the Assessor receives your grievance, he will schedule a grievance hearing with you. The purpose of the Assessor's grievance hearing is to discover any possible errors or omissions in determining the value of a property. The burden of proof and persuasion is on the taxpayer. Upon completing the hearings, the Assessor will mail the taxpayer notification of his decision.

If the taxpayer does not agree with the Assessor's decision...

Step 2: Appeal to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) by writing to the Town Clerk within 14 days from the date that the Assessor mailed the notice of his decision from the grievance hearing (Step 1 above). The purpose of the BCA tax grievance hearing is for the BCA to judge whether the property being appealed was assessed fairly when compared to other, similar, properties in town. Again, the burden of

proof and persuasion in on the taxpayer. All parties may introduce any relevant material and evidence (including oral presentation of fact presented under oath) during this hearing, whether or not the evidence was submitted previously to the Assessor. After the presentation of evidence and cross-examination, the BCA will appoint an inspection committee of three members to inspect the property and submit written findings to the full BCA within 30 days of the date of the BCA hearing. During the property inspection, property owners shall not engage in conversation pertaining to the appeal unless questions are asked by the inspection committee. Within 15 days of the BCA receiving the inspection committee report, the board will report and list reasons for their decision. The Town Clerk certifies the decision, records it in the grand list book, and notifies the property owner in writing of the decision by certified mail.

If the taxpayer does not agree with the BCA's decision...

Step 3: Appeal to either the state appraiser or superior court within 30 days of the town clerk mailing the notice of the BCA decision (Step 2 above). More information about this step will be provided by the Town Clerk when mailing notice of the BCA decision.

If the taxpayer does not agree with the state appraiser or superior court decision...

Step 4: Appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court. These appeals are governed by the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure.

For additional information on the Tax Grievance process contact the Town Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 479-9391 or email dkelty@barretown.org.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption

Some disabled veterans and families are eligible for \$40,000 off the assessed value of their Barre Town primary residence. That is, for example, if an eligible veteran lives in a home valued at \$200,000, then that veteran's home will be taxed at \$160,000.



The following people are eligible for the exemption:

- Veterans receiving Disability Compensation at a rating of 50% or higher;
- Veterans receiving Non-Service Connected Pension (also called Improved Pension);
- Veterans receiving military retirement pay for a permanent medical military retirement; or
- Surviving spouses of veterans who had received the exemption.

Note that the exemption only applies to homes that are owned by the veteran or eligible survivor; and is the primary residence.

To receive the exemption, the veteran must provide proof of eligibility to the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs. **Most veterans will have to provide proof of eligibil-**

ity every year before May 1st. Veterans who are determined to be totally and permanently disabled only have to provide proof of eligibility the first year they use the benefit for a home (if they move to a new home in a different town, they will have to provide proof of eligibility again). They also must provide proof of eligibility by May 1st.

Proof of eligibility is provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, (800) 827-1000. The proof of eligibility may also be obtained through www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits.

State law mandates a minimum \$10,000 exemption, which is completely exempt from taxes. The law also gives towns the option to increase the exemption to \$40,000, with remaining town taxpayers sharing the cost of the additional \$30,000 in value per residence. In recognition of veterans who have contributed so much, in 2007 Barre Town voted to increase this town's exemption to \$40,000 (prior to that it was \$20,000 in Barre Town). This share appears as the "local agreement rate" on our tax bills.

Editor's note: The content for this article was largely borrowed from veterans.vermont.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-benefits/tax-exemptions-veterans

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Sign up for VT Alert

Did you know that you can sign up for ONE service that will notify you of:

- Spring flooding,
- Water system outages/boil water notices,
- Public safety emergencies,
- Road closures,
- Public health alerts,
- Missing person alerts,
- Scam alerts



and others, whether they relate to Barre Town, another town you work in or often visit, or statewide? Known as VT-Alert, this is the public safety notification system used by the state and many Vermont towns, including Barre Town. The system uses the platform Everbridge.

We recommend that everyone who lives, works, or frequently visits Barre Town sign up for VT-Alert.

To sign up for text, phone call and/or email alerts: Go to www.vtalert.gov and click on "Register for VT-ALERT." Note that for phone calls, you have the option to set quiet hours so you don't get woken up by non-emergency alerts.

To receive alerts on your smartphone via app: Download "Everbridge" from your app store. This also allows you to receive or see alerts for the many cities and states outside of Vermont that use the Everbridge platform.

If you think you signed up for VT-ALERT some time ago but haven't received an alert in a while, the system underwent a significant upgrade in the last several months, requiring users to re-register. Just follow the steps above. You may need to create a new username.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

2018 Charter Amendments Update

In May 2018 Barre Town voters approved a set of Charter amendments which included:

Section 10 – Elected Officers (f) – adding language that the office of *elected auditor* may be abolished with certain provisions in place (outside audit annually), the Town voters must vote to approve the abolishment of the office, and upon elimination of said office the expiration date for anyone currently holding this office.



Section 12 - Auditors – Amends the language to state if the position of Auditor is not abolished as in Section 10 then the duties will be as outlined in the remainder of the section.

As of April 1, 2019 the charter amendments, known as House Bill H.58, have been voted out of the House of Representatives and are currently with the Senate. Once approved by the full Legislative body and signed by the governor the charter amendments will become effective immediately. House Bill (H.58) is currently scheduled for Senate Action on April 2, 2019.

The Town Charter is accessible via the town website - www.barretown.org and click on Charter, Ordinances and Policies. It also can be found in the Vermont State Statutes, Title 24, Chapter 101.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

(Continued - Project Updates)

Rt. 110/Mill Street Intersection: This VT Agency of Transportation project will shift Mill Street at the Rt. 110 intersection. When done the intersection will be a more traditional T-intersection. AOT will open bids on April 19. Construction is expected to start early August. The contract completion deadline is November 15, 2019.

One way traffic on Mill Street from the fire station apron (overhead doors) to Rt. 110 is planned. Traffic will be allowed up the hill, in other words, from Rt. 110 toward Websterville Road. The one-way traffic pattern is expected to be in place during much of the project. More details will be presented at a public information meeting during a Selectboard meeting in mid-June to July.

The first construction activity near the intersection will be replacing an older water line. The town public works department will lay a new 8" pipe from the mouth of Old Rt. 302 into Bianchi Street. The town hopes to install that new pipe in mid-May.

AOT will pay 100% of the intersection project expense using federal highway safety money.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

East Barre Sidewalk: The last details of this sidewalk project, along Mill St and around the corner of Websterville Rd. to the post office, will be completed this spring. The lines and island need to be re-painted because the first application peeled off soon after being put down. The town will also stripe the York Branch library's parking spaces and install parking signs. Library trustees previously agreed to donate the easements - valued by the state at \$2,000 - needed from

them for the project. Finally, the Selectboard voted to install two pedestrian activity signs on Websterville Road on either side of the intersection with Mill Street. This was done on the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and at the request of the Barre Housing Authority to enhance the safety of Avery Apartment, residents who walk in the area.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Foodbank VCDP Grant: The Vermont Foodbank's Vermont Community Development Block grant application was submitted in February as anticipated. The grant request totals \$500,000 (not \$1,000,000 reported in the last newsletter) that would be used with other funds to add approximately 5,700 s.f. of space and upgrade the freezer and cooler. Overall the Foodbank is looking to improve storage efficiencies and warehouse traffic flow. Town and Foodbank officials met with the Vermont Community Development Board on April 4 to discuss the application with a grant award decision expected sometime mid to late April.

By Chris Violette, Planning and Zoning Director

Ash Tree Inventory: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) has been actively mapping roadside ash trees in Barre Town. We have completed the inventory on over 50% (50 miles) of roadways located mostly in the northern section of town. On a typical day CVRPC staff will map about 150 ash trees or about 25 ash trees per mile of road. CVRPC expects the inventory to wrap up in late April at which time we will use the data to create a response plan for the management of these trees.

By Dan Currier, CVRPC

(Continued - Budget Information)

January 1, 2020, but that isn't the main reason for the \$29,575 increase. Health insurance is very expensive. Just a few employees changing their health care coverage level (from buy-out to single, or two-person, or family) can make a big difference in total premiums. Based on changes since the 2018-2019 budget was assembled and on anticipated employee changes, it was estimated Barre Town will be paying for more higher levels of coverage.

Those two changes are enough to account for all of the GF increase. All other account increases are offset by account decreases.

On a percent change basis, the Ambulance department had the largest department increase. Recreation was second with a 20.7% or \$36,715 increase. The wage account is increased \$7,110. This wage account factors in rain outs, days it is too wet to work. The current crew is more likely to work in rain or wet conditions and to work on Saturdays to catch up on mowing. Recent year's actual wages paid have risen

The recreation capital improvement account is \$6,900 higher than the current budget. Money is budgeted for softball field lights (\$6,000) and completion of the Lower Graniteville Playground (\$23,000). The contracted services account is \$15,970 more than the current budget. Three work details are responsible: 1) \$7,000 for improving the softball field fence; 2) \$3,500 to remove invasive plants from the town forest, and 3) \$4,200 to seal the skatepark surface.

The Employees Benefits department has the third largest increase (9.2%) because of health insurance and pension. The Municipal Building department is fourth. This is not a large department budget, so the \$5,255 increase is 9%. A \$2,600 line-item for painting the outside trim work is the leading item. The budget also includes \$1,900 for emergency buzzers in the administration offices and alarms in the police department. Finally, a new maintenance contract for the telephone system is in the budget for \$1,355.

Eleven of the 25 GF departments show a decrease or no change in spending. The Fire Department budget is less (\$31,590) because the 2018-2019 budget included \$56,000 for purchase of firefighters protective coats and pants. That purchase is on a 7-year cycle. The Assessor's Office budget is reduced \$27,655 or 27.8%. Turn over in the administrative assistant position and a new assessing services contract permit the savings. The Police Department budget is reduced because of wages. A year ago an estimate was made for what police wages would be after a new labor contract went in effect. The police union opted for an enhanced pension plan in lieu of a typical wage raise. The new pension plan cost more contributing to the increase in Employee Benefits. Finally, the town's insurances are budgeted \$7,800 or 11.1% less than the current year.

The proposed HF budget is \$3,100,810, an increase of \$95,620 or 3.18%. No staffing level changes are planned. No changes in services or level of road maintenance effort are planned.

There are no grant funded projects requiring a local match on the horizon. Consequently, the Grants Projects department is zeroed out allowing for a \$21,860 savings. Employee Benefits show a \$31,320 reduction thanks to health insurance. Since the FY '18-'19 budget was prepared the last 2 public works employees hired elected the health insurance buy-out paving the way for a decrease of \$33,450 in the health insurance premium account. The Summer Maintenance department is reduced \$30,495. Wages and town equipment charges are \$48,400 less than the current year. Increases in the drainage supplies and contracted services account bring the overall decrease down to \$30,495. The contracted services account includes \$4,000 extra for tree removal (ash trees) and \$18,950 for a guardrail project along Plainfield Brook Road.

Winter maintenance and road paving projects are causing the budget increase. Winter maintenance is going up \$96,235 or 13.7%. Accounts for straight-time wages (\$17,518), town equipment charges (\$50,000) and purchase of salt (\$22,400) are higher than current. The increase for winter maintenance wages and equipment are offset by smaller figures for the corresponding summer maintenance accounts. The Budget Committee considered the price of salt, not buying more salt, when setting the salt purchase account.

The two road paving departments (Summer Construction and Retreatment) are going up 6% or \$52,120. The level of road paving is in the town's range to maintain its paved roads in decent shape. The number of feet to be paved changes yearly, though. The budgeted price per ton of asphalt is \$3 higher. More roads than usual need to be milled

increasing that account \$14,775. DPW trucks the millings. The extra truck time is one reason town equipment charges are higher.

On the road paving list there are four roads that will need extra work for drainage, or road base improvements (Church Hill Road, Websterville Road, East Cobble Hill Road and Camp Street). In these two departments the following accounts are increased: wages \$14,320; town equipment charges \$10,860; outside equipment rentals \$10,200, and asphalt for patching work areas \$4,070.

Other than these road projects, winter maintenance and the Plainfield Brook Road guardrail work, the only other notable initiative is a \$12,000 road erosion inventory contract. The inventory is a requirement of new stormwater regulations.

The Budget Committee is the 5 selectboard members and 5 citizens. The citizen members this year were Cedric Sanborn, Andrew McAvoy, Alan Garceau, Phil Cechinelli and Justin Bolduc.

The ballot lists 18 voter approved donation requests. The 18 agencies and the sum of their requests is the same as last year, \$59,450.

Before election day a budget booklet will be available on the town website (under Publications) and at these locations: Municipal Building, Hannaford, Lawson's Store, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Graniteville General Store, and Trow Hill Grocery. The booklet provides more budget details including information about all 9 budgets. A presentation with visuals is taped and played on CVTV, Charter Channel 194. Look for it the week before the election, especially on Friday and Saturday about the same time as the Selectboard meetings are played.

Budget questions always are welcomed at the Town Manager's Office. Call 479-9331 or stop in.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Summer Road Work Schedule

- I. Pavement milling (cold planing) July 22 – Aug. 2**
- Hill Street – city/town line to Windywood Road
 - Windywood Road – Hill Street to point near orchard pond - - -
 - Websterville Road – Church Hill Road to muni. building
 - Church Hill Road – top of hill to Graniteville Road
 - East Cobble Hill Road – W. Cobble Hill Road – to house #131
 - Cherrywood Drive – entire
 - Barre View Street – entire
 - Orchard Terrace – entire
 - Richardson Road – city/town line to Ledge Drive
 - Ledge Drive – entire
- II. Hot-mix asphalt paving - Phase I Aug. 12 - Aug. 23**
- Miller Road – Perry Road to Birchwood Park
 - East Cobble Hill Road – W. Cobble Hill Road to house #131
 - Hill Street – city/town line to Windywood Road
 - Windywood Road – Hill Street to orchard pond
 - Cherrywood Drive – entire
 - Barre View Street – entire
 - Old Quarry Hill Road – entire
 - Pelouin Road – entire
 - Orchard Terrace – entire
 - Highland Crofts – entire

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued - Summer Road Work Schedule)

- McLeod Road – entire
- III. Hot-mix asphalt paving - Phase 2 Sept. 3 - Sept. 13**
- Camp Street – Sunset Road to GMP pole #25
- Websterville Road – Church Hill Road to municipal bldg.
- Kelley Road – entire
- Church Hill Road – top of hill to Graniteville Road
- Richardson Road – city/town line to Ledge Drive
- Ledge Drive – entire
- Daniels Drive – entire
- Rudd Farm Drive - entire

Call Public Works First.....

...if there might be a sewer problem. Roughly two-thirds of properties in town are connected to the town sewer system. Owners or caretakers of these properties should call the Barre Town Department of Public Works (DPW) first if sewage is backing up or wastewater suddenly is draining very slowly.

DPW will respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to reports of a sewer back up. There is no charge for DPW responding or cleaning the line. The DPW crew will open manholes below (down stream) and above the point where the property's sewer service pipe (lateral) connects to the town's main sewer line. DPW will determine if wastewater is flowing normally through the manholes or if there is evidence of a back up. If the later, DPW will use the flusher-vacuum truck to clean the line. Expect the DPW workers to talk with the owner. They will inform the owner if the sewer main is flowing normally.

Owners or caretakers should call DPW first to avoid a nasty mess and a service charge. If the sewer main is plugged and water is backing up the sewer lateral and if someone removes a clean out cap, the backed up sewer water could gush out the open cap. If a sewer line service company is called it probably will bill the owner even if the problem is in the town's main line.



If a sewer line problem is suspected call the DPW first, 24 hours/365 days. The phone number M - F, 7:00am—3:30pm (except holidays) is 476-3522. Nights, weekends and holidays call 476-3147 (the EMS station number). The EMS phone line is backed up by dispatch; someone always will answer the phone.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

W.I. P. Activity

The November 2018 newsletter reported Vermont Creamery filed state and town applications for three additions totaling 8,113 square feet (s.f.) for production efficiency. Vermont Creamery received site plan approval from the town Development Review Board (DRB) on March 13, 2019. State permits also have been issued for that work, now known as Phase 1.

The Creamery has filed another site plan application, Phase 2. The site plan application for a 5,450 s.f. addition and several site changes is on the DRB's April 10 meeting agenda.

Hillside Solid Surfaces occupied a building on Parker Road in the Wilson Industrial Park. The business closed and the building was purchased by Malone Properties Parker Road, LLC. Malone Properties' construction division is working out of the building.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Bike Safety

With the warm weather coming there will be more bikers and pedestrians on the roads. Drive carefully and watch for cyclists. If you're on your bike, wear a helmet and make sure your bike is equipped with lights. If you're walking or running, wear high visibility clothing.



By William Dodge, Chief of Police

Look for the next issue of the Town newsletter in August, 2019!

Board, Commission Reports

Development Review Board – *By Julie Kimball, Planning & Zoning Admin. Asst., Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Admin. (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Neddo, J. Valsangiacomo, A. Valentinetti, J. Fecteau, B. Wolfe)*

AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit; SD=Subdivision; BLA=Boundary Line Adjustment

February 2019: VT Creamery, LLC requesting major site plan approval (first hearing of two); CUP request for temp. motor home housing until permanent structure established at 500 Upper Prospect St. Board voted not to approve w/o prejudice.

March 2019: VT Creamery, LLC appr. major site plan. Approved with conditions.

Planning Commission – *By Julie Kimball, Planning & Zoning Admin. Asst., Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Admin. (C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Pierce, C. Duke, B. Atwood, G. Clain)*

AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit

February 2019: No Meeting.

March 6, 2019: (Special Meeting) Review/Revise Enhanced Energy Plan.

March 20, 2019: Review/Revise Enhanced Energy Plan; discuss Town Plan amend; Public Util. Comm. Petition discussion.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - *By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer and Tina Thurston, Executive Secretary (C. Liese, S. Corbett, J. Blow, W. Kirby, V. Vallerand)* - No Meetings.

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	2	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> DRB Alternate members	2nd Wednesday	2	2	1 yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing Advisory Committee	as needed	5	2	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission	3rd Wednesday	7	1	4 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Board	1st Monday	7	2	3 yrs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety Advisory Comm.	3rd Wednesday	5	2	3 yrs.

May is transition month for Barre Town government. The annual election of officers, including Selectboard members, (see article on page 8) is held the second Tuesday. The last Tuesday of May the board appoints volunteer, citizen members to the various boards, commissions and committees (BCCs).

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 above 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 Friday, May 24, 2019**

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

EMS & National Public Works Week:

May 19th - 25th

This year is the 45th annual National EMS week. This week celebrates the work that Paramedics, Advanced EMTs, EMTs, and Emergency First Responders do. Day in and day out these providers respond to your emergencies. Each provider spends many hours of time preparing and training to react to any emergency that arises. Please join me in showing your support and thanks to the work they do.

Every year **National Public Works Week** gets bigger and better. The number of participating municipalities continues to grow, which means the number of citizens who are exposed to the value of public works grows. At APWA one of our main goals is to educate the general public about the value and necessities of public works projects throughout North America.

Since 1960, APWA has sponsored National Public Works Week. Across North America, our more than 30,000 members in the U.S. and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life.



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From American Public Works Assoc.

Drug Collection Box

Since obtaining our drug collection box, we have safely disposed of just shy of 90 pounds of unused medication. Once collected here the medication makes its way to the DEA where it is disposed of. If you have unused medication, please feel free to dispose of it here at the police department. The secure disposal box is located in our lobby. Due to current staffing levels, there may not be anyone in our office, even during business hours. If you have medication you wish to dispose of, please call our office at 479-0509. We would also be happy to have the on duty officer pick up your unused medication if you can't get to the police department. Acceptable items that can be dropped off are prescriptions, prescription patches, prescription ointments, over the counter medications, vitamins and pet medications. Please do not place syringes in this box. It is also not necessary to remove pills from their original bottles, nor is it necessary to remove labels from the bottles.



By William Dodge, Chief of Police



VOTE—ELECTIONS AT A GLANCE



**Every
Vote
Counts**

Annual Town Meeting

Wed., 5/8/19, 7:30 pm
B.T. Municipal Building

Annual Town Election

Tues., 5/14/19, 7am -7 pm
Barre Town School Gym

Barre Unified Union School Dist. (BUUSD) Spec. Election

Tues., 5/14/19, 7am -7 pm
B. T. School Gym

- Both locations are handicap accessible
- No deadline for voter registration; register at the polls
- Early voting ballots (no reason needed to vote early) available now; Town Annual Election and special school election
- Last day to request Justice of Peace ballot delivery Monday, May 13
- Sample ballots at: Hannaford, Trow Hill Grocery, Lawson's, Municipal Building, Graniteville General, and town website

Are We Voting Again - Yes!

The Barre Town Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, at 7:30pm in the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room. This election is conducted in the traditional from the floor manner. Moderator Tom Koch will be presiding. The Annual Election of Officers and Voting By Australian Ballot will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at the Barre Town School Gymnasium. Polling hours are 7:00am to 7:00 pm.

Articles appearing on the Australian ballot include: election of Town Officers (Selectboard members, Auditor, Moderator, and Town Constable); voting on budgets (General Fund/Highway Fund); a Cemetery appropriation; some of the elected officers' wages; and numerous not-for-profit agency requests. (See budget article on page 1.)

Also, a Special Vote By Australian Ballot for the newly formed Barre Unified Union School District is tentatively scheduled for May 14. The voters will be asked to approve the budget to operate this new school district for the period of July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

By Donna Keltly, Town Clerk-Treasurer and Carl Rogers, Town Manager

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Spring Bulk Trash Collection

The spring bulk trash collection is on Saturday, May 11 from 8:00am to 2:00pm. The collection point is the public works yard at 129 Websterville Road. The service is for town residents to clean up around their home and house lot. The service is not intended for clean up of rental property or of businesses. Residents must bring a tax or utility bill or this newsletter with mailing label and drivers license to verify residency. The service is for disposal of large items, things that won't fit in a garbage bag.

Examples of Accepted Items:

Mattresses, box springs,* furniture
 Large plastic toys, porcelain fixtures
 Carpets, pool liners and covers
 Building demolition materials such as siding, windows, doors, lumber*
 Roofing shingles*
 Concrete, asphalt, bricks and large stones*

Price List

Car.....	\$10
Pickup truck.....	\$15
Unloaded car or truck w/loaded trailer.....	\$15
Loaded car and trailer.....	\$20
Loaded pickup and trailer.....	\$25
Truck larger than pickup (1-ton max).....	\$20
Loaded large truck and trailer.....	\$25
Van, box truck, (10' max).....	\$20

Cash only; Town can't accept credit or debit cards at this service.

Roofing shingles charged double

- **Mattresses, box springs** - The Town and Solid Waste District are testing a recycling program. The Town is absorbing the cost for recycling. There is no additional cost to the customer. Please keep mattresses and box springs clean and dry. Wet and dirty items cannot be recycled; they will be placed in the trash roll-offs.
- **Concrete, asphalt, bricks, blocks, large stones** - These items are set aside for recycling. Don't mix in with other materials. Concrete must be free of wire and rebar.
- **Building demo** - Small pieces (sheetrock, plaster, wood scraps, etc.) must be in buckets, boxes, barrels or other containers for quick off-loading. Loose loads will be directed to wait for a break in the line. Larger pieces (lumber, vinyl and wood siding) must be cut to easily handled lengths and bundled.
- **Roofing shingles** - Must be in containers. Loose loads will be directed to wait for a break in the line.

Items Not Accepted:

Lawn waste
 Hazardous materials
 Tires
 Large metal, metal furniture, appliances, lawn mowers, gas grills, bicycles, exercise machines, aluminum siding
 Electronics, tvs, computers, monitors, stereos
 Household trash and common recyclables

Can Be Taken To:

Holden Road site
 CVSWMD HHW collections
 Wilson Depot; District ARCC
 Wilson Depot
 District ARCC
 Wilson Depot, other licensed collectors.

For more information call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331. Volunteers always are welcome. Call the Manager's Office. Salvaging is permitted. Be careful outside the front gate when checking out free items. Spaulding High School Project Graduation will help with the collection. Please donate generously to Project Graduation in support of SHS seniors' safe graduation night.

Green Up Day

As the snow disappears, the trash dropped or blown onto our roadsides reappears. Fortunately, each year more than 100 Barre Town residents snap on gloves and shake open those iconic Green Up trash bags to clean up that roadside waste and allow spring to shine in Barre Town.

If you haven't Greened Up before, any level of effort counts and is appreciated. Green Up as an individual or consider rallying up a family member - many parents start their children young and it's become a good habit for them too. Or get a friend, club or workplace signed up and share the satisfaction of a job done where you can see the results.

Vermont Green Up Day is Saturday May 4th, but here in town you can clean up the week before May 4 and for several days after. Pick up Green Up VT bags and gloves from the Town Manager's Office at 149 Websterville Rd, (M-F, 8am-4:30pm). If you want to sign up now for your preferred stretch of road, say near your home, work, or favorite walk, call the office at 479-9331. Thus you may avoid that unique let-down feeling that comes from getting oneself gussied up to wrangle you some trash then arriving at your preferred spot only to find those green bags already dotting your road ahead. You wouldn't think it would be disappointing but it is. Call or drop in so you know your planned effort will not be in vain!

Once you've filled a bag, tie it shut and leave it by the roadside. Large items can be left or brought closer to the roadside also. The town DPW will collect the bags and large items for disposal.

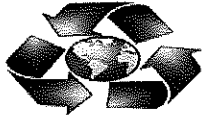
Long-time Barre Town Green Up Coordinator Brenda Lafirira has passed the baton. This year, Bonnie Palmer will be organizing the volunteer thank you activities. Stay tuned to barretown.org for details.

Any questions, call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331, and thank you for helping make Barre Town beautiful!



Wilson Depot

The trash and recycling transfer station at the Wilson Depot in the Wilson Industrial Park is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays 8:00am to 4:00pm. Separated recyclables and food scraps are accepted at no fee. Trash is \$3 - \$6 per bag depending on the size. Numerous other items such as carpeting, mattresses, metal, tires, and construction and demolition material also are accepted for an extra fee. For more information call Earth Waste Systems at (802) 775-7722 or visit earthwastesystems.com/contact/barre-vt.



By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Lawn Waste Site

State law prohibits disposal of grass, leaves, tree branches, flower stalks and vegetable plants at a landfill. Barre Town offers a place for residents to drop off this unwanted lawn waste. In fact the town would prefer you not toss grass, leaves, tree branches and other vegetative material in ditches, drainageways or on stream banks. The place to unload lawn waste is the Holden Road Lawn Waste Site located just below the intersection with Graniteville Road (and across from Rock of Ages' driveway).



The site is for town residents' use for cleaning up their home lawn. Residents may bring: **a)** tree limbs, branches (up to 5"), twigs; **b)** grass clippings; **c)** leaves; **d)** hedge clippings; **e)** and garden plants. Tree limbs and trunks larger than 5" also are okay. Drop-off in the firewood area.

Residents may take wood mulch, composted material (a sifter is available on Saturdays), firewood and any plants or vegetative matter that may be useful.

The site will be open Saturday mornings 8:00 am - noon, starting April 27. Generous volunteers have monitored the site for 2 or 3 hour stints during the week. If and when volunteers hours are confirmed the additional hours will be posted on the town website (www.barretown.org). Volunteers always could be added. A lawn waste site volunteer opens and closes the site, keeps a count of number of users, directs residents to the right section for dropping off material and discourages improper use (littering, dropping off junk, trash and lumber). Call the Manager's Office at 479-9331 to learn more.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Clean Wood Program

Clean wood can now be dropped off at Casella Waste Systems at the CV Transfer Station on US-2 in East Montpelier. Clean wood is logs, pallets, dimensional lumber and brush and branches over 1" in diameter. Wood must be untreated and unpainted. Staples and nails are okay, but straps are not okay. Let's reuse our timber!



By Casandra Hemenway, CVSWMD

CVSWMD Household Hazardous Waste Collection

CVSWMD's annual household hazardous waste collection will take place at the Barre Town Garage, 129 Websterville Road on May 4 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. For Barre Town (and all district) residents, the cost is \$20. The cost for



out-of-district customers is \$100. Hazardous waste is expensive to dispose of and the fee collected represents a small fraction of the average per-car expense. Friends, family and neighbors may combine their waste into one carload to save money and time waiting. Hazardous waste includes automotive fluids, pesticides, adhesives, old/unused cleaning products, and old mercury-containing devices. Look for the words "Danger" or "Poison", or "Caution/Warning" on the label. If you see any of these words, consider it hazardous waste. Bring materials with original labels if possible. Small businesses and schools must call ahead to pre-register. For more information call 229-9383, x105 or go to www.cvswmd.org.

Workshop Series: CVSWMD is offering a wider array of free workshops this year. There is no cost to attend, but you must sign up ahead of time at <http://www.cvswmd.org/program-registration.html>.

Compost Basics: Learn how to start composting, or get your old system back in shape at one of our free compost workshops. Participants can purchase discounted compost equipment (Soil Saver Compost Bins are 30% off, or \$35 each, to workshop participants; Green Cones are 28% off, or \$90 each). Limit one item per participant while supplies last.

Upcoming Compost Workshops: April 17, North Branch Nature Ctr., 10am - 12pm, May 8, Berlin Elementary School, 5:45pm - 7:15pm, May 22, Rumney Elem. School, 6:00pm - 7:15pm, June 1, Montpelier Area Senior Ctr., 10am - 12pm, July 13, Bradford Academy, 10am - 12pm.

Advanced Composting: on October 19 at North Branch Nature Center, 10am - 12pm. Review of winter composting, troubleshooting tips, vermicomposting and bokashi composting. You should attend a basic Composting workshop to get the most out of this workshop.

Recycle Right: On May 8, Washington Apartments, Barre Housing, 10:30am. Take your recycling to the next level; learn what goes in, and more importantly, what stays out of your blue bin. ARCC recycling, paint, brushes, batteries, bulbs, and e-waste, and more. FREE.

Bin Loan and Zero Waste Kits: If you are having an event with up to 250 people in attendance, consider using our Bin Loan and Zero Waste Event kits to help you manage waste, or eliminate it altogether. We offer reusable dishes, glasses, cups, flatware, linens and more at low rental rates so that anyone holding an event can do it without waste. Rental fees are on a sliding scale, from \$15 - \$75 per event (you decide what you can pay). Sign up to use an event kit at <http://www.cvswmd.org/zero-waste-event-kit.html>.

Bin Loan: Borrow recycling, compost, trash bins, bus bins, and signs to make recycling and composting at your event easy. No cost, but a \$25 deposit is required. Sign up with your dates at <http://www.cvswmd.org/bin-loan-program.html>.

Additional Recyclables Collection Center

Did you know that you can recycle your *fluorescent bulbs, tires, electronics, small plastic lids, packing material, used (non-electric) toothbrushes, shoes, and MORE* at the Additional Recyclables Collection Center? The ARCC is located at 540 N. Main St, Barre. They are open Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays 12pm—6pm and every 3rd Saturday of the month 9am – 1pm. There is a fee of \$5 per visit plus \$3.00 per tire/\$4.00 on the rim. Check out the full list of what the ARCC accepts from www.cvswmd.org and make the most out of your trip there. For more information call 802-476-1900.

By Casandra Hemenway, CVSWMD

RECREATION NEWS



Open Gym

Barre Town School Gym, April 30, 5:30pm-7:30pm. With support from the school, Head Start and the Recreation Board are joining forces to offer an Open Gym night where parents can play with their young children. A whole grab bag of active fun from balance beams to bowling.



Ice Cream Socials

Mark your calendars for the Recreation Board's popular, free, *summer ice cream socials* at the playgrounds! All socials start at 6:30pm on/at:

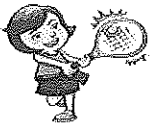
- Tue Jul 9: Trow Hill, Hill St.
- Tue Jul 16: Upper Websterville, Brook St.
- Tue Jul 23: South Barre, Wilson St.
- Tue Jul 30: East Barre, Pleasant St.
- Tue Aug 6: Upper Graniteville, Park St.
- Tue Aug 13: Lower Graniteville, Baptist St.

Child not required for admission! ©



Tennis Lessons

Barre Town Recreation plans to offer summer tennis lessons in July or August for beginners and intermediate players, for youth (ages 7-12) & adults (ages 12 and up). Stay tuned to barretown.org for dates and times.



Swim Lesson Reimbursements

There's no public pool in Barre Town but we want to help our youngsters learn to swim. So the town provides swim lesson reimbursements of up to \$25 with proof of residency. Call the town at 479-9331 or visit www.barretown.org for the form and instructions. Remember that swimming in the quarries is prohibited for everyone's safety!



5K Runs

Granite City Fitness - Saturday, April 27. New Life Assembly Church, Hill St. Registration at 9am; race at 10am. Pre-registration fees \$25/adults, \$15/child; \$30 and \$20 on race day. Out and back course on Hill St. and Windywood Rd. FMI: www.granitecitygroupfitness.com Benefits Courtney's Allies.



Barre Town Spring Run - Saturday, May 18, Picnic Shelter in Town recreation area. Registration starts at 7:45am; race starts at 9am. Registration fees \$10/adult, \$5/9th - 12th graders, free for students K - 8th. Course is mostly on bike path. Benefit for BT Recreation. FMI: www.cvrrunners.org.

Barre Heritage Festival 5K Trail Run - Saturday, July 27. Town Forest Parking Lot at 44 Brook St. Check www.cvrrunners.org for details closer to race day, or call the co-sponsor, RehabGym in Barre City.

Rockfire

June 28-29: This event's many fans will be happy to hear that they'll once again be able to enjoy Rockfire's many fire- and quarry-themed performances and after dark forest walk! Visit www.rockfirevt.com for the schedule of events. Park across from Millstone Lodge on Littlejohn Road. Fees are charged for the Firewalk through forest trails. This year's proceeds will go to preserving the Grand Lookout trail.



Youth Soccer Camps

Capital Soccer Camp, June 24-June 28: 9am-12pm. Tuition is \$160. 9:1 player to coach ratio. For beginner, intermediate, and advanced players. Visit www.capitalsoccer.net/inc-Articles/barre-camp for more information and to register.



BASA Soccer Camp, Aug 12-16: 8am-4pm on the lower soccer field. 3-5 year-olds 8-9am for \$95, 5-16 year-olds 9-12pm or 1-4pm for \$180, and 7-16 year-olds 9-4pm for \$250. Fees increase by \$10 after Aug 2. Register at challengersports.com.

Disc Golf Course Events

Sat May 25, 8am-6pm: The Annual Quarries Throwdown Disc Golf Tournament; point series for members only. The course will be closed to the public. For membership and tournament information email events@discgolfvermont.com.



Tue June 18, 5-8pm: The Barre Lions' Annual Community Disc Golf Challenge, open to the public. Parking at 44 Brook St. in Websterville.

Vernal Pool Workshop



Have you wondered what happens to the water that dries up in your backyard? Alex Wells, from the VT Vernal Pool Monitoring Project, will give a presentation on these temporary wetlands and how you can play a part in their conservation in Vermont. The presentation will begin at 10am on May 25 at 149 Websterville Road. Afterwards Alex will lead a guided exploration of a vernal pool in the Barre Town Forest at 11am. We'll investigate what animals can be found there and learn about what "monitoring" a vernal pool looks like. For more information visit the VP Mon. Website at <https://vtcostudies.org/projects/forests/vernal-pool-conservation/vermont-vernal-pool-monitoring-project> or contact Alex at awells@vtcostudies.org.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



All ages and abilities welcome!

RECREATION NEWS Continued:

Town Forest



The 350-acre Barre Town forest boasts some unique and beautiful features due to the area's quarrying history. Walk, photograph, run, mountain bike, or horseback ride its 20 miles of trail. Parking areas are at 44

Brook St and at the top of Barclay Quarry Rd. Check out the kiosks at these parking areas for safety tips and seasonal forest trivia. The Quarries Disc Golf course is accessed from the Brook St. parking area.

The volunteer-run Millstone Trails Association (MTA) maintains the trails and trail maps. You can pick up a hard copy map from the town offices or Lawson's Store, view the map on the MTA website at www.millstonetrails.org, or access the map on the Trailhub app by following "Millstone Trails." Mountain bikers are asked to buy a MTA membership or a day pass to help keep the trails maintained. Passes and memberships are available at Lawson's.

June 4 through September 24, Barre Town Forest Friends will once again lead easy to moderate nature walks in the Town Forest. Meet at the 44 Brook St. parking area on Tuesdays at 9am. Other days and times can be arranged by appointment. All ages welcome, and dogs on leashes too. If rain is heavy enough to require an umbrella the walk will be canceled. For more info, rain checks, and to make appointments, contact Marianne at 802-476-4185 or mkotch731@gmail.com.

A few rules: Camping and fires are not allowed in the town forest. Carry out what you carry in, and leave no trace, so that this resource can be enjoyed by all into the future. Horses are not allowed on the Rauli's Run trail. Mountain bikers, please abide by trail closures. No swimming or jumping into quarry holes for everyone's safety.

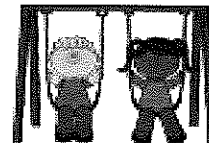
Spring Into Summer Festival

Saturday, June 1, 10am-2pm - This popular free family-friendly festival hosted by the Rec Board is back! Activities will include crafts, bounce house, face painting, hands on big rigs, the B-Recs Challenge, and more! No registration required. Follow "Town of Barre - Recreation" on Facebook for more details in the weeks before the Festival.



Town Playground Guide

All six town playgrounds have swings, slides, and climbing structures. Some have pieces unique in the region, like the net climber at Upper Websterville and the Cruise Line at Trow Hill. All are open dawn to dusk.



Playground, Street	Shelter	Basketball	Equipment	Field
E. Barre Park, Pleasant St.	Y	Y	Y	Y
Upp.Websterville, Brook St.	Y	Y	Y	Y
Upp.Graniteville, Park St.		Y	Y	
Lwr. Graniteville, Baptist St.	Y	Y	Y	
Trow Hill, Hill Street	Y	Y	Y	
S. Barre Park, Wilson St.	Y		Y	Y

If you see a maintenance problem at a playground, report it to the town office at 479-9331.

Reserving the Picnic Shelter

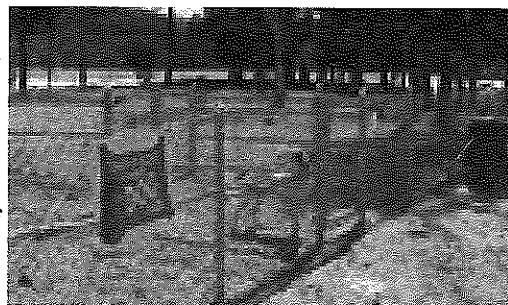
The large picnic shelter in the Recreation Area (behind the school) can be reserved for reunions, parties, showers and club, group or business picnics. Call 479-9331 to request a time and/or reservation. The fee is \$50 for up to 50 people, plus \$1 per person over 50. Summer weekends fill up fast so don't wait!



Dog Park

The Town of Barre Community Dog Park is at the main Rec Area at 70 Websterville Road. Please keep your dog leashed from the Rec Area gate until the outer gate of the dog park is latched behind you and your dog. Pick up after your dog whether in the dog park or not.

Those looking for doggy playmates and ways to help out can join the group's Facebook page. Find them by searching for "Town of Barre Community Dog Park" on Facebook. If you'd like to see the Dog Park continue to improve and add features for dogs and their two-legged friends, consider joining the committee or donating. Checks can be made out to the Town of Barre with "Dog Park" in the subject line.



This photographer's dog waits in the airlock of the new volunteer-developed dog park. The shy/small dog area is at the left, the confident /large dog area is to the right.