



# BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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www.barretown.org

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## COVID-19

Affects of COVID-19 are being felt throughout society, so all Town departments have been impacted in some way. From a department perspective the Town Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Recreation Department and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department have been impacted the most. In terms of operations the conduct of meetings, conduct of elections and public access to the municipal building have had the most noticeable changes.

**Personnel, Staffing** - To date there have been no reported cases of COVID-19 among Town employees. No employees were laid-off or placed on furlough. Although the municipal building was closed to public entry in April and employees split their time working from home and in the office, every office was covered every day. Public service was maintained via email, telephone or at the municipal building front door. A doorbell was installed to help the public contact staff inside. All departments instituted precautions for disinfecting, wearing masks, and maintaining social distance. All municipal building employees returned to full-time in-office work on June 8.

**Elections** - COVID-19 forced cancellation of Barre Town's annual Open Town Meeting. The Town's Annual Election of Officers was postponed a month. A drive through election was set-up at the DPW Yard for the June 2 election. 989 residents voted by mail. 152 voted in-person at the drive through polling place. Tabulating (counting votes) was performed in the municipal building and was live streamed on CVTV and the Town website. The election utilized the normal number of election workers. There were extra costs for a tent and some personal protective equipment (PPE).

The August 11 State Primary Election was different due to the State mailing to every voter a post card *(Continued on Page 2)*



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## 2020-2021 Tax and Utility Rates

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the State of Vermont extended the deadline to lodge the Grand List. The state advised the education tax rates might not be available until August 1. The Selectboard planned to and did set the property tax rates on August 4.

For property tax purposes there are two categories of property: Homestead and Non-homestead. For each category of properties there are four tax rates: **1)** the Town Highway Fund rate; **2)** the Town General Fund rate; **3)** the Town Local Agreement rate and **4)** the appropriate state education rate (homestead or non-homestead).

The state sets the education rates. For 2020-2021 the homestead tax rate rose \$.1455 from \$1.4926 to \$1.6381. The non-homestead rate increased \$.0819 from \$1.8683 to \$1.9502. The town's General Fund rate went up \$.0320. The Highway Fund rate increased \$.0034. The Local Agreement rate moved from \$.0036 to \$.0039.

In all (all four rates) the homestead tax rate went up \$.1812 or 7.42%. The non-homestead rate rose \$.1176 or 4.17%. The owner of a homestead valued at \$100,000 will see a \$181.20 annual increase in their tax bill. The annual bill for a \$150,000 homestead will go up \$271.80, and for a \$225,000 homestead the tax bill will be \$407.70 greater than in '19-'20. Tax bills were mailed August 14. The first payment is due September 15. The other quarterly payments will be due during the usual months-November, February and May.

If a tax bill (especially for a single-family home) appears to have increased much more than these percentages contact the Town offices right away. Sometimes homeowners forget or overlook filing the Homestead Declaration form with the state. If that form is not received, the state Department of Taxes labels the property non-homestead, which is charged a higher tax rate. Time is running out to correct the rate. Contact the Town offices (479-2595) right away.

The changes in the municipal tax rates are consistent with estimates given with budget information last spring. *(Continued on Page 3)*



### All Town Offices Will Be Closed:

Monday, September 7th - Labor Day

### Dates & Events:

- September 8 - First Day of School at BTMES
- September 15 - Property Taxes Due
- September 19 - Fall Bulk Trash
- October 31 - Cemeteries Close
- November 1 - Last day for Town Rights-of-Way work
- November 1 - Winter Parking Ban Begins
- November 16 - Property Taxes Due

### (Cont'd - COVID-19)

about voting by mail. 1,662 (73.4%) of 2,263 total voters used the mail-in ballot option. In 2016 and 2018 State primaries 20.9% and 18.5% residents voted by mail. (See the Election article on page 3 for information about the November General Election.)

**Meetings** - Very early in the pandemic Town staff established a teleconference account and a call-in number. A Zoom account was opened and implemented for all board's and commission's use. In June the Selectboard resumed in-person meetings with some visitors calling or Zooming. All other boards and commission members have the options of attending in-person or by phone or Zoom. The teleconference number (861-2663) and participant code (489078) continue to be listed on every meeting agenda.

**Recreation** - The bike path, track and town forest have remained open during the pandemic. Basketball courts for shooting hoops and ball fields for individual batting or fielding practice were open when weather and field conditions allowed. The Rec Area picnic shelter, restrooms, tennis and pickleball courts, volleyball court, athletic fields (for team practices and competition) and playgrounds were closed at first. As the Governor turned the spigot relaxing regulations the Recreation Board and Recreation Department made adjustments to open these facilities for use in accordance with the State guidelines.

**Finances** - As of this writing the Town has incurred \$14,995 of direct COVID-19 expenses. Expenses were for items such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant, face masks, election postage and port-a-lets. The Town will apply for a Vermont Local Government Expense Reimbursement Grant for these expenses.

Reduction in revenue has been a bigger factor than expenses. The EMS generates about \$1.5 million in patient billing revenue per year. The first 6-8 weeks of the pandemic EMS call volume was low reducing revenue by about \$110,000. A CARES grant of \$55,000 offset some of that lost revenue. Some fees for service will be underbudget; but these are minor revenues in the General Fund. The collection rate of taxes in May was higher than the 3 previous years. The fourth quarter delinquent tax amount for the past 4 years were: 2017-\$80,302; 2018-\$89,945; 2019-\$82,081 and 2020-\$60,199.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### Free Cloth Masks

August 6, Barre Town officially submitted its order for 1,930 cloth face masks to Vermont Emergency Management (VEM). The State of Vermont, through VEM, was offering free cloth face masks to municipalities, which are expected to distribute the masks to residents at no charge. VEM was giving each participating municipality masks up to 25% of the town's or city's population.



The masks were delivered on August 11. Masks were dropped off at the election later that day. Distribution locations and times were advertised. While supply lasts more specific distribution points and times will be announced. Masks are available at the Barre Town Police Department M-F, 8am 4:00pm, while supplies last.

For more information contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 or email [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org).

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

### BTEMS COVID Testing

Barre Town EMS (BTEMS) has been working in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) since early April on local pop-up COVID-19 testing. BTEMS has a team of 11 providers that are specially trained to do all forms of the COVID-19 testing. We have worked over 200 hours at 17 events throughout Central Vermont. The Town is paid to cover its costs.

Presently, VDH is conducting weekly COVID-19 testing at the Barre City Auditorium on Thursdays from 9am to 3pm. Anyone can get tested but must schedule an appointment with VDA. There is no charge for testing at these VDH test sites.

For up to date information on COVID-19 and testing visit the Vermont Department of health webpage <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19> or call 2-1-1.

*By Chris LaMonda, EMS Director*

### Reappraisal Update

The town-wide, complete reappraisal of properties in Barre Town continues. Three inspectors and the Interim Town Assessor are conducting exterior inspections. The town has been divided into twelve areas. The exterior inspections for half of these areas have been completed. Property inspectors should have a Barre Town Assessor magnet sign on the side of their car and be wearing a Town photo ID card. If you have questions about the reappraisal process, call 802-479-2595 or send an email to the Assessor's Office Administrative Assistant, Jocelyn Pinaridi, at [jpinaridi@barretown.org](mailto:jpinaridi@barretown.org).

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### NOTICE of Kindergarten Screening

**It's time to Register!** This screening is only for children who did not attend the Barre Town Pre-Kindergarten program.

**Screening Dates:** Friday, September 4, 2020 and Wednesday, September 9, 2020

\*\*Please call Betsy Pearce at (802) 476-6617 x6306 by Thursday, September 3rd at the latest\*\*

**(Cont'd - 2020-2021 Tax and Utility Rates)**

The amount of the three municipal tax rates for the two previous years and the current year are shown below.

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>FY '18-'19</u>	<u>FY '19-'20</u>	<u>FY '20-'21</u>
General Fund	\$.4926	\$.5082	\$.5402
Highway Fund	\$.4164	\$.4356	\$.4390
Local Agrmt.	\$.0033	\$.0036	\$.0039

Setting the municipal tax rates starts with the budgets recommended by the Budget Committee and approved by the voters. The non-tax revenue in each budget is subtracted from the approved budget amounts to calculate gross amount of property taxes needed. Use of fund balance is subtracted to determine the final amount of tax revenue needed. The amount of tax revenue needed is divided by the expected amount of revenue per 1¢ of tax rate to arrive at the tax rate. The amount of revenue per 1¢ of tax rate is derived from a form provided by the Assessor's Office. The form lists the value of the Town's Grand List. The lower the final amount of tax revenue needed and the greater the Grand List, the lower the municipal tax rates will be.

For FY '20-'21 the estimated amount of revenue per 1¢ increased from \$65,200 in 2019 to \$66,610. The Selectboard subtracted \$52,395, on account of three (3) one-time expenses, from the gross amount of taxes needed for the H.F. That amount saved about 3/4 a cent on the H.F. tax rate. The board used \$75,000 of cash balance for the G.F. They also used \$160,420 for sixteen (16) one-time expenses. These amounts are \$77,230 less than the total used in 2019.

**Utility Rates:** The Budget Committee establishes the amount of the Water Fund and Sewer Fund budgets. The Committee may make recommendations regarding fees. The FY '20-'21 Sewer Fund budget is based on the same user fee charged in 2019. The Committee had no recommendation about the sewer fee. On June 23 the Selectboard voted to set the '20-'21 sewer fee at \$316 per typical household. The Budget Committee approved the Water Fund budget and recommended the Selectboard consider raising the water consumption rate. On June 23 the Selectboard voted to increase the quarterly base charge from \$60 to \$62 and to raise the water consumption fee from \$6.90 to \$7.10 per unit (100 cubic feet or 748 gallons). The first sewer payment was due, as usual, on August 15. The second semi-annual payment will be due February 16, 2021.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

**Election News, Voter Registration**

We are in the midst of election season. The state primary election was just completed. Very soon activity associated with the November 3 national and state elections will commence. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic there will be two noticeable changes in conducting the November general election.

The first noteworthy change is the Vermont Secretary of State's Office will mail an early voting ballot to every active voter (voted at least once in the past 4 years) in the state. The early voting ballots will be mailed in mid to late September. Voters have two options for the early voting ballot. They may



ignore the early voting ballot and go to the polls to vote (see below). Voters may use the early voting ballot. The Voted Ballot envelope must be signed by the voter. A witness signature is not required. A legible signature from the voter is needed so the voter's name can be checked on the voter checklist. Early voting ballots must be received by 7:00 pm Election Day. Ballots may be dropped off at the Municipal Building. There is a drop box at the front of the building. Ballots may be delivered to the polls on Election Day, or be mailed, but the ballot must be received at the Town Clerk's Office no later than Election Day.

In addition to the U.S. president and Vermont governor, voters may cast their vote for: representative to the U.S. House of Representatives; state representatives and senators, various state officers and Barre Town justices of the peace.

Here are few more things to know about elections:

**Are there any COVID regulations or restrictions about voting in person?** Yes there are. The second noticeable change is caused by State guidelines which limit the number of people who can be in the polling place at one time. Voters may have to wait their turn outside. Also, voters must wear a mask.

**Where is the polling place in Barre Town?** All elections for Barre Town are held at the Barre Town Elementary & Middle School gymnasium (unless advertised differently). An area of the school parking lot is reserved for voter parking only when school is in session. For individuals who have difficulty walking and need assistance to enter the polling place on election day contact the Town Clerk's Office at your earliest convenience so other parking arrangements can be made.

**What are the polling hours?** The Board of Civil Authority set the polling place hours for ALL elections at 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**When is the deadline to register to vote?** As of January 1, 2017 there is no deadline to register to vote. If you want to register in advance of an election, contact the Town Clerk's office (802-479-9391) for a paper application or go online to the Secretary of State's My Voter Page (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>). The option is to register at the polls on the day of the election. Be sure to give yourself a few extra minutes to complete the application.

**Can I see a sample ballot before I vote?** Yes. A sample ballot, along with a copy of the checklist, are posted at the following Barre Town places: Hannaford's Store, Trow Hill Grocery, Lawson's Store, and the Town's website (<http://www.barretown.org>). Ballots usually arrive from the printer approximately 30 to 45 days prior to each election.

**When and where can I get the election results?** Election results are reported to local radio and newspapers, as well as being posted on the Town website the night of the election.

**Where can I get more information on elections?** Visit the "Elections in Vermont," Secretary of State's website ([www.SOS.vermont.gov](http://www.SOS.vermont.gov)) or contact the Town Clerk's Office.

VOTE and let your voice count!

*By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

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***First installment of property taxes will be due  
September 15!***

***Look for the next newsletter in November!***

## 2020 Town Charter Amendment Update

Barre Town's Charter is a voter approved document establishing the Town government structure and basic operations; it is the local equivalent of the State constitution. The process to make changes (amendments) to a Charter has two parts – have the Barre Town voters approve the amendments and then forward them to the State Legislature whereby they are enacted as law.

On June 2, 2020, Barre Town voters, during a very unusual Annual Town Meeting election, approved four Charter amendments. Those amendments are: **1)** Removing the Justice of the Peace as backup Presiding Officer at Elections and to have the Assistant Town Clerk (if a registered voter) as backup, but if not qualified then the BCA will appoint a registered voter; **2)** Eliminate a Lister reference as on June 1, 1976 the voters eliminated the Listers and allowed the appointment of an Assessor; **3)** Remove the Personnel Policy from the Code of Ordinances to make it a stand-alone policy for easier amendments; and **4)** Divide the position of Clerk-Treasurer to elected Clerk and appointed Treasurer.

The voter approved amendments have been forwarded to the State Legislature and will be reviewed/enacted during the Winter/Spring session.

*By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

## Construction Work Remaining

Summer construction is coming to an end, but there is still work to be done this fall.

**Paving:** Paving will be wrapping up, finishing on Cassie Street in late August to early September. After Cassie Street has been paved, we will have paved almost 7 miles of roadway.



Other construction going on will be US302/VT110 roundabout and the Littlejohn Road water line project. The roundabout will have the current plants and weeds removed. Then new plantings will be installed within the center island in mid to late September.

**Littlejohn Road:** The Town will be installing 500 feet of new watermain on Littlejohn Road this September. This is a section of about 3,000 feet of Upper Websterville water lines that are planned to be upgraded over the next few years. The project will upgrade the line from 4" to 8", giving the water system more capacity for houses and fire hydrants.

**Gravel Road Work:** Also, there is much gravel road reconstruction and programmed maintenance work to complete. The DPW may be reconstructing sections of Breer Road, Swift Road, Sunset Road, Partridge Road and Mitchell Road. Gravel road maintenance (adding new gravel to the road surface) may be done to roads in the Richardson Road and Beckley Hill area.

**Last Day to work in Road Right-of-Way:** All work in a town road right-of-way (r.o.w.) requires a permit from the town engineer. The r.o.w. usually is 3 rods or about 49 1/2 feet wide. Per town ordinance the last day to do work in a town road r.o.w. is November 1. For more information about permits to work in the road r.o.w. contact the town engineer at 479-2595

If you have any questions regarding the work being done, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 479-2595.

*By Josh Martineau, Town Engineer*

## Cemeteries Close

Barre Town owns the Wilson, West Hill and Maplewood cemeteries. Lots are for sale and interments (burials) are made in the Maplewood and Wilson cemeteries. At the Wilson Cemetery columbaria niches are available for holding cremains. At the Maplewood Cemetery some lots are laid out for family columbaria - smaller granite structures designed to hold cremains of several family members. The Wilson Cemetery is at the corner of Quarry Hill Road and Websterville Road. The West Hill Cemetery is on Perry Road. The Maplewood Cemetery is located at the corner of Farwell Street and Nichols Road.

Officially the cemeteries close October 31, but the operating policy is to accommodate interment needs into November while weather and ground conditions allow it. Officially the cemeteries open May 1, but late April interments may be possible.

During the winter the roads into the Wilson Cemetery are blocked to prevent damage to the roads or lawn during a thaw.

Until October 31, for more information call the cemetery Sexton at 479-0722. After November and until late April call the Town Manager's Office (479-9331).

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

## Winter Night Time On-Street Parking Ban

Per town ordinance, the parking of vehicles within the right-of-way of public roads between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited between November 1 and April 1 of each year. The public shall be notified of this section each year by news releases issued to the local news media by the town manager's office; said news releases to commence in October of each year. The town manager may, by executive order, prohibit parking at any other times of the year if emergency road conditions exist. Keeping your vehicle out of the right of way will help our highway workers keep our streets clean and safe. Vehicles found in violation may be ticketed, which carries a \$10.00 fine for each violation (each night is considered a separate violation). In addition, towing fees may exceed \$100.00 and are the vehicle owner's responsibility.



*By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police*

## 4 Departments - Facebook

Several town departments manage individual Facebook pages, including the recreation department (facebook.com/AreteVT), public works department (facebook.com/BarreTownDPW), EMS department (facebook.com/btmsvt), police department (facebook.com/Barre-Town-Police-Department), and fire department (facebook.com/BarreTownFire). These pages include department specific up to date information on activities taking place throughout the town. By "liking" one or more of these pages, any updates, videos or photos that the page publishes show up on your News feed.

For instance, you might see notices of paving or road construction/road closures on the public works page, while the fire department might post emergency road closures or firework permits. The police department may post pictures of people they are trying to identify or areas of town seeing increased

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### Fall Bulk Trash Collection - September 19

The fall bulk trash collection will be held on its regularly scheduled date: the third Saturday of September. The service hours are 8am to 2pm. The event will be held at the public works yard at 129 Websterville Road. The service is for Town residents to clean up around their home and house lot. It is not for cleaning up rental property or 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.

Users are asked to wear a face mask. At the unloading stations remain in the car or truck unless asked for help.

#### 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\*

- **Roofing Shingles:** Vans and box trailers with loose shingles will not be accepted. Shingles must be in containers - boxes, buckets, tubs, or bags. Loose loads (in cars, pickup trucks or open trailers) will be parked to the side and unloaded when no other user is waiting for service. The per vehicle prices shown here are doubled for all loads containing shingles.
- **Concrete, asphalt, bricks, blocks, large stones:** Concrete must be free of wire and rebar. These items are set aside for recycling. Don't mix in with other materials.
- **Building demolition material:** Small pieces of tile, plaster, sheetrock, wood scraps, etc must be in buckets, boxes, barrels, tubs or other container for quick unloading. Loose loads may be directed to wait until no other users is waiting to unload. Larger pieces of lumber, vinyl siding, wood siding, gutters and the like must be cut to easily handled lengths (8' max) and bundled.

For more information call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331. Volunteers always are welcome. Salvaging is permitted. Items volunteers think are of use are placed outside the DPW gate during the day. Don't interfere with traffic and be careful when checking out the free items.

#### 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

#### 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 pick up (1-ton max).....	\$20
Loaded large truck and trailer.....	\$25
Van. Box truck, (10' max).....	\$25

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

**ROOFING SHINGLES CHARGED DOUBLE**



By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

### Food Scrap Law in Effect July 1

State law bans food scraps from the trash as of July 1, 2020.



This applies to food scraps from businesses as well as homes, whether owned or rented. This means you'll need to keep food scraps out of your trash. Food scraps can be collected in kitchens and break rooms in any ordinary container. If you are sensitive to smells and have freezer space, you can store them in a plastic bag in the freezer. You also have options for disposing of the food scraps:

\*If you have a yard, compost in a pile or special-made composter bin, or digest it in a special-made digester container. These can be purchased from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) or a hardware store. You can also build one yourself, for example out of pallets. To avoid attracting bears, don't put meat or bones in your backyard pile, and cover all food scraps with plenty of "browns" to reduce odor. Browns are high-carbon materials like dried

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### Lawn Waste Site and Leaves

The Holden Road lawn waste site is located about 150 yards below the intersection with Graniteville Road. This year, due to COVID-19, the site is only open Saturdays 8am to noon. Residents may drop off tree branches, grass clippings, hedge clippings, vegetable and flower plants, excess fruit and vegetables. Wood for firewood, mulch and compost are free for the taking.

To help with leaf disposal there will be additional hours during October. Saturdays, October 10, 17 and 24 the site will be open 8am to 4pm. On Sundays, October 11, 18 and 25 the site will be open from noon to 4pm. On Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21 and 28 the site will be open from 3pm - 6pm. All proper uses are permitted during these extra hours.

Do not leave bags, boxes, plastic sheeting or totes at the site.

If leaves are chopped with a lawn mower more leaves can be fit into a bag or truck. If transporting leaves in an open pickup truck cover the leaves with a tarp or other covering. To speed up unloading, place a plastic sheet or tarp on the truck bed.

The site will close for the season after service on Saturday, November 7. Call 479-9331 for more information.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

### **(Cont'd - Food Scrap Law in Effect July 1)**

yard debris, wood chips, sawdust, or shredded paper. A good cover over the composter can help too. For more tips on how to compost at home, visit [www.cvswwmd.org/home-composting](http://www.cvswwmd.org/home-composting). CVSWMD is hosting a webinar on Compost Basics on Thursday, September 24 at 1pm; register at [www.cvswwmd.org/workshop-registration](http://www.cvswwmd.org/workshop-registration).

\*Bring to a transfer station. Call or visit your preferred transfer station to find out what fees they charge for handling food waste.

\*Pay for pick up service. Haulers currently on the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources list that serve Barre Town are Casella (commercial customers only), City Compost (residential, commercial, and event customers), Earthgirl Composting (residential and non-food based businesses), and Grow Compost (48 gallon totes only).

\*If you're adventurous and have a garden, you can try composting with worms (more info at [www.uvm.edu/newsstories/news/worm-composting](http://www.uvm.edu/newsstories/news/worm-composting)) or fermentation composting, which doesn't emit any greenhouse gas emissions (more info at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bokashi\\_\(horticulture\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bokashi_(horticulture))).

For more information visit [dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/materials-mgmt/organic-materials](http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/materials-mgmt/organic-materials).

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### **Town Plan Update**

As reported in the last issue, the Barre Town Town Plan was approved by the Planning Commission on March 25, 2020 and sent to the Selectboard. The Selectboard held public hearings on May 26, 2020 & June 16, 2020 with final adoption occurring by unanimous vote on June 23, 2020. While we now have an adopted plan the final part of the process is approval by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission towards the end of August.

*By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director*

### **Project Updates**

**Rt. 110 Bridge:** At a Local Concerns meeting on January 14, 2020, VT Agency of Transportation (AOT) presented three alternatives for constructing the new Rt. 110 bridge. One option was closing the bridge and establishing a detour. The detour would be over Websterville and Quarry Hill Roads. The advantage of this option is an approximate 60 day construction period. Another option is not viable because of the bridge's close proximity to Route 302. The third option involved building a temporary bridge, that would severely impact neighboring property. On January 28 the Selectboard voted to approve the bridge closing option, provided Old Rt. 302 remain open to 2-way traffic, signs be erected stating local businesses are open, the detour is coordinated with the Quarry Street/Rt. 14 project, and the state cooperate with the town on the water pipe crossing the Jail Branch.

At the January 14 meeting AOT staff announced the bridge will not carry the Town's 8" waterline and the sidewalk would stay on the upstream side of the bridge. The Town asked for reconsideration of those decisions. AOT did reconsider and upon further engineering decided the sidewalk could be placed on the downstream side and the waterline could be sus-

pending under the bridge. On the downstream side the sidewalk will match up with existing sidewalk on both ends. Attaching the water pipe to the bridge negates the need for the Town to build a pedestrian walkway with the waterline underneath it.

In late June AOT told the Town the project schedule still called for advertising for bids and construction in 2023. This is a state project on a state road. No local match is required.

**Rt. 110 Paving:** AOT notified the Town it plans to pave Rt. 110 from Mill Street to the town line (and beyond) during 2021. No other information has been provided.

**Rt. 110 - Mill Street:** This federal and state funded project is completed. AOT held a virtual final inspection during July. On July 14, 2020 the Selectboard authorized a letter to AOT stating the Town accepts the project.

**Foodbank:** The Vermont Foodbank, having completed Phase 1 expansion, a 5,700 s.f. addition, has received the \$150,000 awarded to the Town of Barre on their behalf. All that is left as part of the Community Development Block Grant is the closeout, which should occur in the next few months.

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

### **Employee Changes**

The Barre Town Police Department welcomed **Jamie Palmisano** to its full time ranks on April 9. Officer Palmisano had been a reliable per diem officer for eight months prior. He grew up in Barre Town and has a four-year degree in criminal justice. He has held law enforcement positions since 1994. We are pleased to add his team ethic to ours.

In the last quarter, Department of Public Works bade good-bye to six-plus year employee **Jim Corson**, two-and-a-half-year employee **MaCaden Lyford**, and **Michael Huston**. We are fortunate to have been found by **Brandon Guyette** and to welcome back **Ed LaPan** in time for a very busy construction season. Both have had strong municipal DPW experience.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### **Seeking Volunteers**

If you're interested in helping our community, please consider applying for an alternate seat to the Development Review Board, one of the two Barre Town seats on the regional Transportation Advisory Committee, or for Barre Town's alternate seat on the CVFiber Board.



The **Development Review Board (DRB)**, is a quasi-judicial body. The DRB helps ensure orderly development of the town with reference to our zoning bylaws and subdivision ordinance. It reviews subdivisions, variances, conditional use permits, site plans, and appeals of decisions by the Zoning Administrator. The DRB meets monthly as needed on the second Wednesday at 7pm.

The **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission addresses transportation issues of regional concern. The TAC meets

monthly as needed on the fourth Tuesday at 6:30pm. Both Barre Town seats are vacant, so the town currently has no representation on that committee.

**CVFiber** is a municipal organization made up of 20 Central Vermont communities with the goal of bringing fast, dependable and affordable internet to every Vermonter within its member towns. For information on their progress visit [cvfiber.net](http://cvfiber.net). The CVFiber Board meets at least once a month on the last Tuesday, and sometimes on the second Tuesday as needed, at 6pm.

For more information call the town at 479-9331. To express interest in serving, send an email to [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org).

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### Emergency Management

As we move into fall and the seasons change, the change in air mass or jet stream can cause some of our biggest windstorms during this period. At the same time, early heavy snow can occur too. Wind and snow can have a devastating effect on trees, bringing them down in roadways and on powerlines. While a tree in the road is dangerous enough, powerlines coming down with them makes it extremely dangerous.

Here are important safety tips if you see a downed power line:

- \*Report a down powerline immediately to 911!
- \*You cannot tell if a down powerline is energized or not by looking at it!
- \*Assume all powerlines are live!
- \*Move away from it and anything it may be touching! Stay at least 50' away.
- \*Do not touch anybody who is in contact with a powerline. You will become the next victim.
- \*Do not drive over a downed powerline.

*By Chris Violette, Fire Chief*

### School is Opening!

With school opening on September 8<sup>th</sup>, once again we ask that drivers pay particular attention to school buses and bus stops. Buses make frequent stops, and parents and children are walking along the roadways to get to those stops. Be aware of your surroundings, stay off your phones, and help us ensure the safety of everyone. Passing a school bus displaying flashing red lights carries a fine of \$249.00 and 5 points. For parents with school age children, please note the following changes for bussing:



- All students must complete a screening by the bus monitor before entering the bus, and must have a temperature below 100.4F.
- All bus occupants will be required to wear a face covering.
- A parent/guardian must remain with their child at the bus stop in the event the child isn't allowed on the bus.
- Students may only ride the bus between the school and one designated bus stop (two designated stops for a split household).

*By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police*

### Recreation News

**Animal Facts Scavenger Hunt:** The Recreation Board has hidden 15 animal facts on the bike path between the school and Rock of Ages. For example, did you know that male mallard ducks don't quack?? How many can you find?

**StoryWalks:** The Aldrich Library is posting StoryWalks in the Barre Town Forest along the #6 trail through September. From the parking lot at 44 Brook Street, Websterville, go up the hill to the left as though you're headed to Capital Quarry (families who have participated in Aldrich Fairy Houses Forest Storytimes in the past will recognize the clearing where the StoryWalk starts). The whole StoryWalk takes about 15 minutes, and there's a great picnic spot near #6 Quarry. Once you reach the end of the StoryWalk, a right turn on the VAST trail loops back to the parking lot where you started. The stories will change out every few weeks. For a marked, printable map, email [aldrichchildren@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichchildren@gmail.com).

**Dog Park Fundraiser Yard Sale:** Saturday, September 26, 8am-4pm. Organized by dog park volunteers. **Donors:** Drop off donations of small household items, books, toys, pet supplies and more to the Dog Park Organizers that day at 8:00 a.m. No clothing. Please check back by 3pm to remove unsold items. **Shoppers:** Arrive between 8:30am and 3pm. If you are only going to the fundraiser, please park in the auxiliary parking area. Wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Cash and checks will be accepted. 100% of proceeds go to the dog park.

**Electric Bicycles In The Town Forest:** In June of 2020, the Recreation Board authorized the use of Class 1 electric bicycles (ebikes) on Town Forest trails on a trial basis during the 2020 mountain biking season. Class 1 ebikes are defined as pedal-assist only, with a maximum speed of 20mph. The 2020 mountain biking season is defined by the Millstone Trails Association. If you have complaints about ebike users, notify the Barre Town Offices at 479-9331 or [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org). A discussion about the ebikes and whether to continue to allow them is planned for the Rec Board's October 5 agenda. Rec Board meetings start at 6pm and are open to the public. During the pandemic, the public is encouraged to call in to meetings ((802) 861-2663, Participant Code 489078) rather than attend in person. In-person attendance should be requested of the Barre Town Offices in advance so that staff can make sure 'COVID capacity' of the room isn't exceeded.

*By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

### (Cont'd - 4 Departments - Facebook)

suspicious or criminal activity. The EMS page could have new information relating to recognizing medical conditions as well as their current activities. The recreation department has information about construction /updates to town facilities, facility closures, and planned activities.

The Town also uses Front Porch Forum (FPF) extensively to announce and remind residents of meetings, events, services and deadlines. Currently there are 1,912 Barre Town FPF members. Subscription is free. Visit [www.frontporchforum.com](http://www.frontporchforum.com) to subscribe.

*By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police*

## 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**

**April 2020:** Approved SD at Lower Usle Road; approved BLA at Henry Street; approved BLA at Buena Vista Circle; approved Site Plan advanced to Second Hearing at VT RT 14, So. Barre Road.

**May 2020:** Approved Variance at VT RT 14, So. Barre Road; approved BLA at Websterville Road; Continued Site Plan & Second Public Hearing at VT RT 14, So. Barre Road.

**June 2020:** Continued Site Plan & Second Public Hearing at VT RT 14, So. Barre Road.

**July 2020:** Approved Site Plan & Second Public Hearing at VT RT 14, So. Barre Road; approved SD at Lower Usle Road; approved Variance at Plainfield Brook 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**

**April 2020:** No meeting.

**May 2020:** No meeting.

**June 2020:** No meeting.

**July 2020:** No meeting

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

**April 2020:** No meeting; no business.

**May 2020:** No meeting; no business.

**June 2020:** No meeting; no business.

**July 2020:** Discussed truck routes and no trucks signage, especially for Middle Road; turned down a request for speed humps on Websterville Road between Waterman Street and Mill Street; approved No Outlet signs for Casanova Street and McLeod Hill Road; re-elected W. Kirby chairperson and S. Corbett vice-chair.