



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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20th Year
of the Barre Town
Municipal Newsletter

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Barre Town's new sewer vacuum truck. This machine, including cab and chassis, cost \$392,909. Of this, \$100,000 came from budget set-asides and the remainder through 6 year financing at 2.39%.

Stormwater

The effective dates of new stormwater regulations are approaching. The new regulations will affect the VT Agency of Transportation (roads), every VT municipality (roads), farmers, and owners of property with 3 or more acres of impervious surface. The town will be affected because of its roads and at least one property.

There has been planning activity on all three fronts: **1)** town roads, **2)** town property with 3+ acres of impervious area, and **3)** private property. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is working on a Stormwater Master Plan for Barre Town. CVRPC hired Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA) to work on the plan. WCA identified 75 potential stormwater projects in Barre Town. The top 20 projects were suggested. From that group the top 5 were highlighted. The top 20 is significant because those projects would be entered into a state data base. If someone applied for a grant to build one of these projects, the grant application would receive a more favorable rating.

From the top 20 projects, 5 would be selected for preliminary design plans. On September 19 the CVRPC and WCA told the Selectboard and about a dozen property owners about the projects. Some owners were interested in building stormwater projects on their property and had conversations with CVRPC and WCA after the meeting. On October 3 the Selectboard approved lists of the top 20 and top 5 projects. The top 5 projects are: **1)** ground infiltration project in green space next to Smokehouse Lane, **2)** retrofitting the Wilson Industrial Park retention pond and outfall, **3)** Neddo farm, **4)** Route 14 and Wilkins Harley-Davidson infiltration chambers, and **5)** a retention and treatment facility in the green space next to New Life Assembly Church parking lot on Hill Street.

On the road front, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) identified 704 points of town roads that are hydrologically connected to a stream. The town has until the summer of 2020 to "inventory" these locations detailing the conditions that could impair water quality and planning for improvements. Town staff will start inventorying segments in the new 5 year gravel road plan and at least year one of the new 5 year paved road plan. The needed improvements would be added to the road projects. The improvements could include: lead-offs from roadside ditches, stone check dams in ditches, changing the size of a culvert, making a headwall around a culvert, establishing vegetation in the ditch, or stone-lining the ditch. This type of work and process is not entirely new to public works. Stormwater is one of, if not the most, common topics on the work list after the pre-construction walkarounds (inspections) are done. In preparing for road paving or improving gravel roads, public works sometimes

(Continued on Page 2)



Dates & Events:

- Nov. 1– Apr. 1 - Winter Ban on Street Parking
- Nov. 23- 5K Walk/Run (Turkey Trot)
- December 29 - Budget Committee Letters Due
- January - Budget Committee Appointed
- January 2 - 12 - Christmas Tree Collection
- January 30 - Budget Review Begins
- February 15 - Property & Sewer Taxes Due

Look for the next issue of the Barre Town newsletter in February, 2018!

(Cont'd - Stormwater)

is instructed to stone line ditches or add stone check dams, as examples of stormwater improvements. Because of the new regulations, in the future a more prescribed and thorough “inventory” process must be followed and more stormwater related work will need to be done in conjunction with road projects.

The Friends of Winooski River (FWR) is completing a study of the Quarry Hill watershed. Per the Selectboard’s request, as part of that study the FWR is providing a plan and design for stormwater coming off the public works yard (129 Websterville Road). The town school and recreation area probably will need to create stormwater management facilities, too.

A good stormwater quality practice is re-establishing vegetation soon after construction. To help with that, last summer the town applied for a Ecosystem Restoration Program grant from the VT DEC. The \$6,073 grant was awarded. The town used the money for the stated purpose - buying a hydroseeder, which spreads seed, starter fertilizer and mulch in one spray. Hydroseeding grows grass quicker than conventional methods of seeding and mulching.

Keeping catch basins clean is another good practice. The sewer vacuum truck shown on page 1 is used to clean catch basins and paved drainage swales .

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Visit the Town website at www.barretown.org for the latest news, announcements, contact information, agendas and meeting minutes for all of our boards, commission and departments!

Employee Change

In October we were sad to have to wish a happy retirement to Gary Munson, a 28-year veteran of the Department of Public Works. Gary was dependable, hard-working and a model employee who was always available and reliable in an emergency and after-hours . The average town resident may not be familiar with Gary, but whether we know it or not we have all benefitted from his care of our roads, sewer lines, and catch basins. He was the lead sewer vacuum truck operator for many years, safeguarding us from stormwater and wastewater hazards. His masonry skills were much used in raising or lowering manholes and catch basins in preparation for road paving, meaning that we’ve had smooth passage over Barre Town roads. He says he’s passed on these skills to our newer crew members, a legacy we’ll all appreciate. His institutional knowledge, good humor, and work ethic have been a lasting value to the town, and he will be sorely missed by his coworkers.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Seeking Budget Committee Members

If you’re a registered voter in Barre town, and would like to gain an understanding of how your tax dollars are spent, consider serving on the Budget Committee. As mandated by the Town Charter, the Budget Committee reviews the town manager’s proposed budgets; approves the General Fund and Highway Fund budgets submitted to voters at May’s election; and sets the budgets for the seven other funds. The Budget Committee has ten members: the five Selectboard members and five citizens. The Selectboard appoints two of the five citizen members. The Town Clerk -Treasurer appoints one member, and those three appointees name two more citizens to fill out the Committee.

The Selectboard is accepting letters or emails from town residents who want to be considered for appointment by the board. The only required qualification is that you must be a registered voter in Barre Town, providing other information in your letter is helpful, such as how long you’ve lived in Barre Town, your service with other community organizations, your prior municipal volunteer service, why you’d like to serve, and/or your work experience or education relevant to the Budget Committee. Letters or emails will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Friday, December 29.

Unlike other boards and commissions, Budget Committee members are appointed for only the period it takes to review and approve budgets, all in about two months. The meetings are every week starting the last Tuesday of January, and run from 6 pm to 8 pm. A few Tuesdays, the Committee holds double sessions, before and after a brief 8 pm Selectboard meeting. The Committee also tours town facilities one Saturday morning in February. Over eight weeks the Committee reviews the General Fund, Highway Fund, Sewer Fund, Sewer Capital Improvement Fund, Water Fund, Equipment Fund, Cemetery Fund, Ambulance Fund and Building Fund budgets. The Committee also

(Continued on Page 3)

(Cont'd—Seeking Budget Committee Members)

receives explanations of several 5-year plans and other finance-related appendices to the budget.

The Committee's engagement with all these fiscal matters is an important way the general public can be assured that their tax dollars will be spent wisely in the coming year. For more information, contact Carl Rogers at 479-9331.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Vacancy—Alternate Development Review Board

An alternate member of the development review board (DRB) was appointed to fill the full member position advertised in the August newsletter. That appointment created a vacant alternate member position. Letters of interest (application) are being accepted until December 8. A sample letter of interest (LOI) is available on the town website under Permits and Forms. Submit the LOI by mail to Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT, 05678 or email to offices@barretown.org.

The DRB meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. There are two alternate members. In the event a full member is absent or has a conflict an alternate takes a seat at the table. The DRB reviews and makes decisions about subdivisions, property boundary adjustments and business site plans. It also hears requests for variances from zoning regulations, for conditional use permits and for appeals of the zoning administrator's decisions.

Alternate members' terms are for one year, consequently the new alternate will be appointed to fill a term due to expire May 31, 2018.

For more information about the DRB go to the website and click on Boards and Commissions.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Winter Reminders

◆ **Winter time is upon us** – which brings the yearly ritual of cleaning the snow out of our sidewalks and driveways. This event has been made easier by the use of snowblowers, snowplows, snow scoops and even better designed shovels. When we clear the snow, we then become somewhat challenged as to where to put the snow. So we push, shovel, plow or blow it either into or across the road or sidewalk thinking it will just melt or be plowed away.

People forget it is a violation of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances which states, "any snow cleared from driveways, parking lots, roadside parking spaces, lawns or other residential, commercial, agricultural or industrial properties shall not be deposited within the right-of-way of any town road or highway." If this happens, in the judgment of a Town police officer, the property owner shall be cited for a violation.

When you plow across the road, it leaves some snow which will freeze, causing a dangerous situation. Drivers can hit ice spots or lumps left by the snow causing them to lose control of

their vehicle and leave the roadway. Also damage can occur to the Town snowplows which can be costly. Try to put snow on the right side (going out of the driveway). When the plow goes by the snow does not get pushed back in your driveway or walk. You can see up the road better also.

Please remember that if you violate this ordinance you can receive a civil ticket with a fine of \$60.

By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

◆ **Winter Driving Safety** - It's no surprise that the majority of the traffic crashes we respond to occur within the winter months. Despite the fantastic job our highway crew does, winter driving can sometimes be a challenge. Your chances of being involved in a traffic crash can be reduced significantly by following a few simple steps.



First, a good set of winter tires is important. Remember, once you get going you still need to stop. Make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition, so that you can keep your windshield free of snow and ice, and keep your headlights on even during the day. Once you have your vehicle ready to go, it's time to concentrate on your driving habits. Reduce your speed, allow yourself more time to stop, and be mindful of the distance between you and the vehicles in front of you. Make sure you leave in plenty of time to reach your destination so you won't need to hurry. It also can't hurt to keep an emergency kit in your car for emergencies. Include items such as flares, a flashlight, a winter hat and gloves and a shovel. Most importantly wear your safety belt and make sure any children are secured in an approved child safety seat.

By William Dodge, Police Chief

◆ **Winter Parking Ban** - Fall is upon us, and that means winter will be here soon. Remember that effective *November 1st* of each year through *April 1st* no vehicle may be parked within the right-of-way of public roads between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am. Vehicles found in violation may be ticketed and towed at the owners expense. Town ordinances are available by visiting the Town of Barre website at www.barretown.org and clicking on the Charters, Ordinances and Policies tab.



By William Dodge, Police Chief

◆ **Winter Sand Policy** - From November 15 to April 1 town residents can access sand for free outside of the public works fence. This service is for residential use only; businesses need to make alternative arrangements. Town residents are allowed to take a reasonable amount (much less than a pickup truck load) for personal use. Do plan ahead - the public works crew, which replenishes the free winter sand pile, is very busy maintaining public roads during storms, i.e. the same times residents would most need sand. If you do find the pile depleted, please come back later. Follow instructions posted at the sand pile, and for everyone's safety, do not enter the public works facility.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Recreation News

◆ **Open Pickleball** will be held again this winter on Sundays from January 14th through March 18th, 1 pm to 3 pm, at the Barre Town School gym. Three courts and equipment will be available. Pros and beginners are welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers, and bring a water bottle. This event is free and is hosted by the Barre Town Recreation



Board.

◆ **Sledding** - Mark Saturday, January 13 and Sunday, February 11 on your calendars for this winter's sledding parties. Bring your sleds on those days, 1 pm - 3 pm, to the hill behind the Barre Town Municipal Building, 149 Websterville Road. Have some hot chocolate and roast marshmallows too! Note that the hill will be open for sledding any time once the weather cooperates. The hill is a slow one, suitable for young children; stay tuned to the town website as to whether a ramp will be groomed for faster sledding during the parties. This event is also free and is hosted by the Barre Town Rec Board.



◆ **Town Forest Logging** - Logging in the Town Forest, per the Town Forest Management Plan, is expected to be completed this winter. The next round of logging won't happen for several years. Logging this winter will start when the ground is frozen hard enough to support heavy equipment, and end when the ground is too soft in the spring. Town Forest users should stay tuned to the town homepage for the exact dates. You'll want to avoid the Heifer Pasture and Rambler trails, as portions of these will be in this winter's logging area. The VAST trail will remain open to traffic.

About 20 acres remain to be logged. Last year's logging earned about \$2,500 after costs and the 2015-16 logging season earned \$1,628. The town's consulting forester, Jeff Smith of Butternut Hollow Forestry, still expects the town to reach the initial estimate of \$11,000 in earnings because the highest value lumber is still to be cut, this winter.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Thanksgiving 5K

If you are a runner or if you have family or friends visiting on Thanksgiving the Barre Congregational Church's 5K on Thanksgiving morning can spice up your festivities. The 15th annual Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot starts at 9:30 am at the Municipal Building, 149 Websterville Road. Registration is conducted in the Municipal Building starting at 8:00 am. Parking is available at the municipal building and in the public works yard, 129 Websterville Road.

For more information about the race and about registration, fees, t-shirts and prizes visit www.barrecongregational.org. Walkers and dogs are welcome.

The race starts on Bolster Road next to the Municipal



Building parking lot. From Bolster Road the course turns right (to the west) on Websterville Road. At the four corners by the Wilson Cemetery the course turns left (south) on Graniteville Road. If there is not too much snow the course continues on Graniteville Road to the Rock of Ages Visitor Center where the course turns back on the bike path. The course follows the bike path to the school parking lot and finishes in front of the school.

If snow on the bike path is too deep for running, about three quarters out Graniteville Road the course reverses direction. On the way back to the Municipal Building participants go into the Wilson Industrial Park and turnaround.

Drivers should be aware traffic on Websterville Road will be stopped when the race starts at 9:30. Traffic on Quarry Hill Road/Graniteville Road will be stopped, or at least slowed down, by the runners turning off Websterville Road to Graniteville Road. Best bet is to avoid driving through the race course area between 9:30 and 10:45 am.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Dog Park

The Barre Town Selectboard has approved the preliminary plans of a volunteer group to develop a dog park at the Barre



Town Rec Area. The planned location is between the road and the fence on the first base/right field side of the baseball field. The area is currently staked out if you

would like to get an idea of the space. An agreement between the group's lead organizers and the Town for the dog park's development, operation, and maintenance should be signed by the time you read this. The organizers are raising funds to develop the park. The first goal is \$9000 to purchase fencing. Donations can be made by cash, check, or GoFundMe online. To drop off your donation, go to the Town Clerk's Office at 149 Websterville Rd. Please make checks out to the Town of Barre, with "Dog Park" on the memo line. The Clerk's Office hours are 8am-4:30pm. After hours, checks can be placed in the drop box at the front of the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Rd. They can also be mailed to PO Box 124, Websterville, VT 05678. The dog park online fundraiser is at www.gofundme.com/town-of-barre-dog-park-fundraiser. Follow the group's Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/214773445631358/>.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager



**November 23rd & 24th
December 25th
January 1, 2018**

Winter Emergency - When the Power is Out

When the electric power is out but you, a family member or friend need electricity to operate vital medical equipment, the town will help. The town's EMS and fire stations have emergency power generators. The town has and will again help set up a resident who needs electricity to run his/her medical equipment.

The form below could be filled out and mailed to *Division of Emergency Management, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT, 05678*. The form will be kept confidential. If you are not comfortable submitting the form or and if you need assistance during a loss of electricity do not hesitate to call the Department of Emergency Medical Services (476-3147) or the town offices (479-9331).

-✂️ *Clip N' Send* -✂️

(Please Print)

Person using medical equipment: _____

Street address: _____

Telephone No: _____ Emergency Contact No: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Equipment needed: _____

How often used: _____ Generator at home: Yes _____ No _____

Additional note, information: _____

Seeking Volunteer Coordinator

The town is seeking a town resident who is interested in being a member of the town's emergency management team. During a true emergency – an event or condition requiring resources exceeding town departments' capability - volunteers may be needed. Other times volunteers step forward offering to help with events such as windstorms or flooding. A volunteer coordinator would be helpful in these situations.

Volunteers could be helpful or essential depending on the event or condition. The recent wind storm suggests one type of event for which volunteers could be helpful. Volunteers might also lend assistance through alternative transportation (snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles). In a number of scenarios volunteer labor may be needed such as to unload and distribute supplies. The coordinator, as the leader and organizer of the volunteers, would serve as the interface between the emergency management team and the volunteers.

The volunteer coordinator would need to meet with town staff to flesh out this new volunteer position. The coordinator might maintain lists of volunteers who would accept a call for their equipment or labor when needed. Once appointed, meetings with the emergency management team are a possibility, but not more than quarterly.

The coordinator needs to be free of other obligations if called upon during an emergency. A town resident interested in this position may call the town manager at 479-9331 to ask questions and learn more. A letter of interest could be mailed to Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT, 05678 or emailed to crogers@barretown.org.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Halloween Safety

Through an effort led by Chief William Dodge of the Barre Town Police Department, Barre Town's Emergency Services supplied youngsters around Barre Town with trick or treat bags and glow sticks.



The trick or treat bags come with safety tips that include messages such as don't trick or treat alone, stay in well-lit areas, be mindful of cars, wear light clothing, and of course, always have an adult check your treats. The glow sticks are made to attach to a costume or clothing with the goal of making the child more visible.

The main effort to distribute the bags and glow sticks took place at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School's harvest dinner and open house September 28th. Officer Jake Frey, EMT Alex Jarvis, Paramedic Kim Thiel, Chief Dodge, and Chief Chris Violette of Barre Town's three emergency service departments were present to talk with children and hand out the bags and glow sticks.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief



What do chimney's, ashes, plastic containers, and candles have in common? Answer, they all can burn your house down!! Some of the most common causes of house fires in Barre Town are from those four things. Chimney fires can leave the chimney and get into the structure, ashes not disposed of properly, candles not used appropriately, or extinguished, and plastic buckets used for the disposal of cigarettes or ashes all can cause fires. It is very important always to use common sense regarding these and many other fire starters.

We all know chimneys carry dangerous smoke and gases from our fireplaces or woodstoves to the outside. The chimney and liner within can get very hot. However, generally the chimney is cooler than the contained fire below. As the warm smoke and gas exit up the cooler chimney, creosote can be created which is a black or brown crusty, flakey, sticky, or tar-like residue that sticks to the wall of the liner. The creosote can catch fire causing a chimney fire. Often chimney fires are never detected, but other times the fire can be detected by loud cracking and popping noises, dense smoke, or intense and hot smell. Fires inside a chimney can spread to the nearby combustibles of the house and catch the house on fire.

Preventing chimney fires is quite simple, clean chimneys don't catch fire! The Barre Town Fire Department recommends your chimney and liner be inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney sweep. Any damage must be fixed before a woodstove or fireplace is used. Also, tips to help prevent the creation of creosote include, using seasoned wood, having a good air supply, don't allow cooler burning smoldering fires, and avoid using paper products to start fires.

Related to the use of woodstoves and fireplaces are the ashes left behind. Always deposit ashes into approved non-combustible containers and remove from the house immediately. Plastic containers or cardboard boxes are not approved containers for ashes. Containers should be covered or placed a safe distance from buildings.

Like inappropriate containers for ashes, there has been an uptick in the use of unapproved containers for collecting cigarette butts. Cigarette butts can burn long after you think they are out. Putting them in a plastic container in bulk is a recipe for disaster. The Barre Town Fire Department has seen two structure fires in the last month because of the improper disposal of smoking material. Please use non-combustible containers for the disposal of smoking material and KEEP away from your house.

Many people enjoy candles for ambiance and fragrance, but burning candles must be done safely. Candles are a common cause of structure fires in the United States. The proper use of candles includes, but is not limited to, keeping away from anything flammable, drafts, and other heat

sources; keeping them out of the reach of children, and NEVER leaving a burning candle unattended.

Following the above will allow for a safe and enjoyable holiday and winter season.

Please think about safety and keep your chimney clean.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief

Project Updates

◆ **East Barre Sidewalk** - The town has been awarded \$92,400 in new grant funds, sufficient to construct this sidewalk on Mill St and a bit on Websterville Rd. The grant program is administered by the state, requiring 20% cost share, or \$23,100, from the Town. Construction is planned for 2018.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

◆ **South Barre Sidewalk:** Forty-five feet of this sidewalk remain to be constructed as of this writing, which will be done this year if weather permits. The project is still anticipated to be completed under budget. This is a state-administered grant project.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

◆ **Websterville Fire District** - On August 8 the Websterville Fire District #3 (WFD #3) Prudential Committee awarded its water line and electrical panel contract to Haluch Water Contracting of Ludlow, MA. Haluch's bid, using the WFD #3's engineer's quantity estimates, was \$645,210. A pre-construction meeting was held August 17. Haluch started work the week of August 28. As of the week of October 23 the entire new water line was installed, sanitized and pressure tested. The new pipe was connected to the water lines in the adjoining streets and all homes and businesses were connected to the new water main. Restoration and re-paving were being completed. A substantial completion (for the water pipe) meeting was scheduled for November 2. Motorists should no longer experience delays caused by construction.

The electric work will be completed later when the emergency power transfer switch is delivered.

Completion of this project is another step toward merger of the town (water system) and WFD #3. That merger could be finalized late next spring.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

◆ **Peloquin Road Culvert** - The contractor, C.L.H. and Son, and its concrete sub-contractor, Hutch Brothers Concrete of East Barre, finished the project the week of September 25. There were no change orders, thus the contractor's bill was the same as its low-bid, \$214,665. A VTrans Structures grant will reimburse \$175,000 of the project expense. The contractor installed a 5' diameter liner in the existing culvert and pumped grout (concrete) under pressure between the existing culvert and new liner. Hutch built head and wing walls on the inlet (upper) end of the culvert, which was extended 10' to reduce the slope from the road to the headwall. C.L.H. also added large blocks of granite in the plunge pool (outlet) to prevent erosion and to absorb energy of the fast moving stream. The existing culvert was installed in 1978. *(Continued on Page 7)*

(Cont'd—Project Updates)

Below is a picture of the completed project of the Pelouquin Road culvert.



By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Christmas Tree Collection

The Department of Public Works will provide Christmas tree collection the first two weeks of January. The dates and areas served are noted below. If you would like your tree picked up, first remove all lights, ornaments, garlands, and any other decorations, then place the tree by your street or road. The DPW will pick it up when they aren't tied up maintaining roads and other town infrastructure in snow, ice or freezing rain storms. DPW takes the trees to the Holden Road lawn waste site, where, next October, they will be ground up into mulch. Residents are not required to use this tree collection service, but do not: burn the tree, send it to a landfill, or throw it into a waterway or drainage way.



-January 2-5: North of Rt. 302, including Richardson Rd, Beckley Hill Rd, Camp St., Windywood Rd, East Hill, Trow Hill, Cobble Hill.

-January 8-12: South of Rt. 302, including East Barre, Websterville, Graniteville, Quarry Hill, Sterling Hill, South Barre, West Hill.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

New Cemetery Option

Cremation is being used by more and more people. The monument industry responded by offering private or family columbarium. These private columbarium might look like a typical headstone but cremains are placed in niches built into the monument.



The town's Maplewood Cemetery, at the corner of Farwell Street and Nichols Road, had not been fully laid out. While planning lots in the "open space" at Maplewood the Cemetery Commission decided to offer lots specifically for family or private columbariums. The lots probably will be 8' x 8'. The lots are planned for the area close to Farwell Street.

These lots should be ready for sale next summer after the Commission sets lot prices and writes rules and regulations for this new use.

For more information call the town manager's office at 479-9331.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Walking, Running & Cycling Safety

In the rolling hills of Barre Town we are fortunate to have many cycling and walking trails, and a fabulous bike path that many enjoy. Many also run, walk and cycle on our roadways, including using this as transportation to the workplace. Following a few simple tips can increase safety during the darkest of nights and early mornings. In addition to being vigilant to your surroundings including traffic, wearing bright clothing and a reflective vest can make you more visible to motorists. Adding reflective tape to your bicycle will also help. Remember, by state law bicyclists are required to have a lamp affixed to the bike, and must have either a steady or flashing red light, or reflective material visible from the rear affixed to either the bike or rider. It also can't hurt to slow down when riding at night to give you more time to react. Pedestrians should use crosswalks whenever possible, and remember if not in a crosswalk you must yield to traffic. Pedestrians should also use a clip on light and/or carry a flashlight. Limit your distractions such as cell phones, and remember you may hear something before you see it, so wearing headphones may limit your reaction time. Exercise is important to a healthy lifestyle, but please be safe!

By William Dodge, Police Chief

Hazard Mitigation Plan

On October 17 the Selectboard voted to authorize a new Hazard Mitigation Plan be submitted to the Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) for review. As the Plan was submitted, public notices were posted, published and mailed to other interested parties inviting comment until November 1.

After VEM's review and public comments, if any, the Plan will be revised and returned to VEM for another check before being shipped to FEMA. After FEMA approval the Plan would be adopted by the Selectboard. An approved Plan is required to remain eligible for FEMA disaster relief funding.

The 80 page plan is about mitigating threats from natural hazards such as flooding and ice storms. The Plan includes a list of past federal disaster declarations needed after a natural disaster in Washington County. The status of mitigation actions suggested in the 2012 Plan is reported as are other mitigation steps completed since then. Twenty-five potential natural hazards were scored. Higher scores suggest hazards for which the town should plan mitigation actions. The Plan concludes with a list of 13 mitigation programs or projects. Some are site specific projects while others are on-going activities.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager



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

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

August, 2017 - Approved variance for 46 Pine Hill Rd.; approved CUP to convert existing barn into community rec center at 29 Littlejohn Rd.; approved CUP for a 4-unit mobile home park at East Barre Road.

September, 2017 - Approved preliminary review for major SD and CUP off of Beckley Rd. and Daniels Dr.; continued multiple requests to the October meeting for various reasons.

October, 2017 - Approved preliminary review and final for 3-lot at 360 School Rd; amended BLA and SD for Fecteau Residential that was approved in Jan., 2016; created new SD and BLA of Nichols Rd. and Beckley Hill Rd.; Denied variance for 332 Websterville Rd.; continued multiple requests to the November meeting for various reasons.

Planning Commission – *By Emily Marineau, 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; SD=Subdivision; BLA=Boundary Line Adjustment

August, 2017 - Approved third curb cut for 29 Littlejohn Rd.; rec'd Central VT Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) draft of Barre Town's Energy Plan.

September, 2017 - Approved AUD for small craft distillery at 77 Neddo Rd.; discussed draft Energy Plan.

October, 2017 - Worked on draft Energy Plan.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - *By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer and Tina Thurston, Executive Secretary (C. Liese, S. Corbett, J. Blow, W. Kirby, V. Vallerand)*

August, 2017 - No meeting.

September, 2017 - Referred a brush issue on Cross St. to public works department for corrective measures; recommended installation of Hidden Drive Left sign on Holden Rd. near Darshir Ln.; sent recommendation to selectboard to consider removing Rt. 110/302 sign on Waterman St.; denied request for a street light near #272 Donahue Rd.; set meeting schedule for the remainder of 2017: Oct. 25th, Nov. 29th.

October, 2017 - No meeting.