



# BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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November 2015

## Management and Personnel Changes



Barre Town Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has a new Director following Dave Jennings' retirement on June 30 after 19 years of service in the position. Jennings began working as the EMS Director in 1996 when he was hired as the shared EMS Director for Barre Town and Williamstown. The shared position ended in 2005 and Jennings continued working for Barre Town. Before coming to work for Barre Town and Williamstown Jennings was the Director for Northfield Ambulance. When he retired he had 40 years experience in EMS.

Jennings was hired soon after Barre Town won the ambulance service contracts for Berlin, East Montpelier, Plainfield and Calais. He managed the department through a large increase in call volume and service territory. During his tenure Barre Town EMS began offering paramedic level coverage.

The Selectboard adopted a resolution on June 23 to honor Jennings and thank him for his service. Town staff and elected officials bid him farewell at a picnic lunch on his last day.

On the next day paramedic Christopher LaMonda stepped-in to begin serving as EMS Director. LaMonda had been working full-time for Barre Town EMS since May, 2014. His EMS experience extends back to 2003 as an EMT. He achieved the National paramedic certification in 2011. Prior to Barre Town he worked as a faculty member at the University of Vermont in the College of Medicine teaching various EMS courses. His EMS work experience as a volunteer and paid staff has been with Essex Rescue, UVM Rescue and Northern Ambulance.

LaMonda has a Bachelors degree in physical education. He taught at several VT public schools before embarking on an EMS career. He has earned a certificate of graduate study in public health from UVM. Currently he is working on his Masters in Public Health at UVM.

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**Lets celebrate!** The Barre Town Middle and Elementary School will be celebrating 50 years of dedicated service to the public in the upcoming 2016 year. They have organized a steering committee to head this celebration. If you are interested in planning this event, please contact Tina Lunt at (802) 476-6617 ext. 6307. Look for more details and celebration information to come in the Town's February, 2016 issue.

**Tax Rates**

At the Annual Election on May 12, 2015 voters approved the General Fund and Highway Fund budgets, the Cemetery Fund subsidy, the additional allocation to the Aldrich Library and all 16 non-profit agency requests. Earlier, at the conclusion of budget review work, the Budget Committee set the final Sewer and Water Fund budgets.

After the budgets are approved or set the Selectboard is responsible for setting the tax and utility rates. In preparation for the fiscal year that started July 1, on June 23 the Selectboard set the '15-'16 sewer and water billing rates. The base annual sewer use fee was kept the same at \$316 per basic household (assumes not more than 300 gallons of water used per day), per the Budget Committee's recommendation. That same meeting, acting on another Budget Committee recommendation, the Selectboard designated \$50,000 of Sewer Fund cash reserves for the purchase of a new sewer flushing and vacuum truck (vactor). A new vactor could cost \$300,000. The Committee and Selectboard are planning for replacement of the 2001 model the public works department uses now.

The water rates were increased. The quarterly base charge was raised by \$4 from \$51 to \$55. The price for water consumed increased by \$.47 (7.8%) per unit, which is 100 cubic feet or approximately 748 gallons.

A week later, when the state provided education tax rate information, the property tax rates were set. The Selectboard is obligated to set the education tax rates as calculated by the state. The education tax rates for last fiscal year and the current fiscal year, with percent change, are shown below:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Last FY</u>	<u>Current FY</u>	<u>% Diff</u>
Homestead Ed.	\$1.3930	\$1.4056	+ .9%
Non-residential Ed.	\$1.7328	\$1.7341	+0.07%

The Selectboard sets 3 tax rates for the municipal government: General Fund, Highway Fund and Local Agreement Rate. The General Fund (GF) tax rate raises the tax revenue needed for the GF, to cover the voter approved donations (including the additional allocation to the library), to cover the Rock of Ages tax credit and the anticipated delinquent taxes.

The Selectboard applied \$100,000 of cash balance to the FY '15-'16 budget, reducing the tax rate hike by about 1.6¢.

The Highway Fund (HF) tax rate is only for the Highway budget. The Local Agreement rate compensates for the amount of state education taxes waived by action of the voters or Selectboard. Voters approved the maximum tax break for disabled military veterans. The Selectboard approved a tax stabilization for MacIsaac Enterprises (dba Highland Sugarworks) exempting the company from a very small amount of state taxes.

Last year's and current year's tax rates are shown below:

<u>Classification/Use</u>	<u>Last FY</u>	<u>Current FY</u>	<u>Diff %</u>
General	\$.4944	\$.4990	+ .9%
Highway	\$.3948	\$.4069	+3.0%
Local Agreement	\$.0047	\$.0039	-1.7%

For a \$200,000 residential property the complete property tax bill went up \$57.00 for the year.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

**POLICE NEWS**



As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, the police department has responded to

3,395 calls for service since January 1. For the same period last year, we answered 2,784 calls for service. This is an increase of approximately 22% over last year. Speeding and associated motor vehicle complaints continue to be a large portion of our work. To help in this area we purchased a new radar trailer in July. A portion of this was paid for with grant funds earned through the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program. If you would like the radar trailer placed in your neighborhood, please contact Sergeant Dodge or Sergeant Thayer at the police department (479-0509).

The police department has been conducting extra patrols for general motor vehicle violations, and extra patrols specifically targeting DUI and alcohol violations. These extra patrols are paid for through grant funds awarded by the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Funding has been secured to continue these patrols through September, 2016.

The animal control officer, Paula Russell, has been hired as a part time police officer. She is in training and should be working soon.

In addition, our K9, Huey, has been staying busy. He has assisted on calls in Barre Town as well as neighboring jurisdictions.

If you have concerns, or would just like to chat with a police officer about what we do, feel free to call the station or stop by. Remember, you are our eyes and ears and without you we couldn't succeed.

*By Sergeant William Dodge, Police Department*

**ALL TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:**

***November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving***

***December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas***

***January 1, 2016 - New Years Day***

**Needed:**

**Budget Committee Members**

Town residents can volunteer to serve the town in a number of ways, for example working at an event like Green Up, serving on a board that meets monthly throughout the year, or keeping a regular schedule at the lawn waste site. The Budget Committee offers a different commitment.

The Budget Committee normally begins weekly meetings the last Tuesday of January. Meetings continue through the last

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***(Cont'd - Needed: Budget Committee Members)***

Tuesday of March. The weekly meeting are scheduled for 6:30 - 8:00 pm, with 2 or 3 nights having a short "second half" after a 15-20 minute break to allow for a quick Selectboard meeting. Additional night meetings may be needed; that depends on the committee. The committee schedules the extra meetings. A tour of town facilities is provided on a Saturday morning in February.

During this compressed period of service committee members have an opportunity to, and will, learn a great deal about town operations and budgets. The best volunteer board to serve on and learn about the town is the budget committee. After learning about town operations, committee members have a say in all fiscal year 2016-2017 budgets.

The committee reviews every fund budget. It adopts the budget for every fund except the General and Highway Funds. The committee decides what General Fund and Highway Fund budgets will be presented to the voters for approval.

The budget committee is 10 members. The Selectboard appoints two members. The board is seeking letters of interest from town voters (must be registered to vote to be eligible). Letters must be turned in by 4:30 pm December 30 to the Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT, 05678, or to [crogers@barretown.org](mailto:crogers@barretown.org).

The Selectboard's 2 appointees and the town clerk-treasurer's appointee select 2 more citizen members. The 5 citizen members serve with the 5 selectboard members as the budget committee. For more information contact Carl Rogers (479-9331) or a selectboard member.

***(Cont'd - Management and Personnel Changes)***

Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett resigned from his position effective August 17. Dorsett started working as the assistant manager April 21, 2014. He was instrumental in a number of recreation improvements, namely the Upper Websterville Playground and upcoming Trow Hill Playground overhaul. Dorsett left Barre Town to work as town manager of Littleton, NH.

Last spring Cemetery Sexton/Recreation Maintenance Supervisor Tim Brick submitted his resignation to pursue his dreams out of state. After an advertised search and interviews Dwight Coffrin was hired to fill the supervisory position for the two divisions. Coffrin knows the cemetery business well after 37 years of work, including 15 as Director, for the City of Barre. He started work in the full-time seasonal position on April 21, 2015.

One of two seasonal workers in the Cemetery Division did not return for 2015. Wayne King was hired from a pool of 11 applicants for the position.

Effective May 8, 2015 Edward LaPan, a recent hire in the public works department resigned to take a similar position with the Town of Berlin. Advertising to fill the vacant full-time DPW position started in August. There was a small group of applications that included a few well qualified people. Brian Pelchuck was hired and he started work November 2. Along with the minimum requirements, Brian has considerable experience driving

truck, plowing town roads (in East Montpelier) and operating loaders and excavators.

Finally, the vacant full-time paramedic position created by LaMonda's promotion was advertised. Three part-time paramedics applied. Kelly Wilder was hired. Kelly has 8 years experience with BTEMS and has extensive experience in medical care including work at CVMC and nursing homes to complement her EMS work.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager with input from Chris LaMonda, EMS Director*

***Low Interest Home Improvement Loans***

If you missed the recent article in the Times Argus about the Barre Town Housing Rehabilitation loan program, here is some of that information. Barre Town has provided over \$100,000 (from grants) in the last 15 years or so to Downstreet Housing and Community Development (formerly Central Vermont



Community Land Trust) to offer low interest loans for housing improvements to low and moderate income Barre Town residents. There is currently \$68,000 available to be loaned.

Downstreet Housing administers these loans for Barre Town providing all the necessary review and oversight. Downstreet Housing can be a little more lenient than commercial banks. If homeowners fall just outside of the usual parameters to qualify they may be eligible for a loan from this program. Downstreet Housing has a very low denial rate.

Loans may be used for housing improvements such as weatherization projects, roof repair, and heating system upgrades just to name a few. To be eligible a Barre Town resident must have a household income that is 80 percent or less of the Washington County median income. That means that somebody with a household income of around \$59,000 or less and a family of four may be eligible.

Barre Town homeowners, this is a great opportunity to get some of those expensive, nagging, and necessary home improvements done so please contact Downstreet Housing for more information at 476-4493.

*By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director*

***Business Loans***

On July 28th, the Town of Barre Board of Selectmen authorized the establishment of the Barre Area Loan Fund to assist businesses in the Town and City of Barre. The funding to establish the loan fund originates from repayments of a loan from the Town to SB Electronics (SBE), located in the Wilson Industrial Park. Using a community development block grant from the State, the Town made a \$984,000 loan to SBE to assist its expansion which resulted in a new 58,000 square foot building in the industrial park.

"We always anticipated that the repayments would be turned around and loaned again to local businesses," says Jeff Blow, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. "The primary intent of the

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***(Cont'd - Business Loans)***

original loan was to help a business and create jobs, and that's still the case now," he adds.

Under the terms of the grant agreement, the Town has to return 50% of the principal payments of the SBE loan back to the Vermont Community Development Program, and the balance of funds on hand and future SBE loan payments, less what is paid to the State, will be transferred to the Vermont Community Loan Fund (VCLF) for making new loans. To start with, VCLF will have \$236,633 to loan. Based on an agreement with the Town, VCLF can make a minimum loan of \$25,000 for construction, building improvements, machinery and equipment at a rate of .75% above the published prime rate, currently at 3.25% with terms that can vary from 3 years to 20 years, with a 10 year amortization, depending on the use of the loan funds and the useful life of the asset used as collateral.

"Barre Area Development is very pleased that this loan fund has been established," says Karl Rinker, its President. "Better yet is the fact that the City has agreed that repayments from any similar loan that it makes with grant funds will be transferred to the Barre Area Loan Fund as well. This is an acknowledgement that what's good for the Town is good for the City and vice versa."

Barre Area Development Corporation will market the Loan Fund. For more information contact Joel Schwartz at 476-0660, or [jschwartz@badc.com](mailto:jschwartz@badc.com).

*By Joel Schwartz, BADC Executive Director*

***Project Updates***

**July 19 Flood Road Repairs:** The heavy rain the evening of July 19 caused significant damage around two large road culverts, lesser damage along one road and minor shoulder and ditch damage at several more locations. The Gunner Brook eroded cover over the culverts on Cummings Road and Plainfield Brook Road. The guardrail and narrow strip of the road pavement was washed out at both locations, but the erosion cut slightly under the remaining pavement creating a hazardous condition. Both culvert crossings were blocked off that night and remain closed until repairs were completed. Duranleau Construction was paid \$1,105 to remove a very large amount of trees and other wood from the Plainfield Brook Road culvert inlet. On July 30 requests for bids for both roads were released. Bids were opened Monday, August 10. There were four bids for the Cummings Road work. Bids ranged from \$35,500 to \$69,525. Three bids were received for the Plainfield Brook Road project. The bid range was \$49,900 to \$74,445. On August 11 the Selectboard awarded both contracts to X-treme Excavating from Orange. A pre-construction meeting was held at each location on August 14. Work started the next day. X-treme estimated 30 days to completion of Plainfield Brook Road and 3 weeks to finish Cummings Road. Work included removing the guardrail, more woody debris, gravel deposits (under supervision of the state river management engineer), creating channel bed armoring (where the natural clay channel started washing out), making flood plain terraces (for storing

water during high water events), adding rip rap and retaining (head) walls and backfilling the large holes over the culverts.

X-treme finished the work to re-open the roads within the time estimates. The invoices did not exceed the bid amounts. Shown here is the new headwall at the outlet of the Cummings Road culvert. After Xtreme's work, the Town had the pavement patched and roads near the culverts paved.



This event did not cause \$1 million in damages to public facilities in Washington County, consequently FEMA could not issue a disaster declaration or offer any financial assistance. The Town applied for and was awarded a VT AOT Town Highway Emergency Fund grant, instead. The grant application was processed during September and October. The Town's expenses totaled \$193,000. The grant will reimburse the Town 90% or \$173,700.

**Bridge Street Sidewalk:** This VT AOT Transportation Enhanced Grant project will provide a sidewalk from Rt. 14 to the new bridge. (The new bridge has a sidewalk that connects to the South Barre bike path.) The sidewalk will be 5' wide. Earlier this year, after a request for proposal process, Dufresne Group was selected to provide the engineering.

On August 25 at the Selectboard meeting the project alternatives were presented. Because this is a fairly straight forward project, the alternatives were: sidewalk on the southside of the street; sidewalk on the northside; or no sidewalk. The bike path and bridge sidewalk are on the north side, and because of the parking and delivery area on the south side, building the sidewalk on the northside was an easy choice. The Selectboard voted to make that the preferred alternative.

That section of Bridge Street is a segment of the Semprebob Bike Path. The engineers are working on an alignment that will provide a 5' sidewalk, 2, 10' vehicle lanes and 2, 3' bike lanes. A large tree was removed November 10.

Project construction period still is unknown. Barre City's waterline, in the ground where the sidewalk would be built, needs to be replaced. It is not known how soon Barre City can replace that section of water pipe.

**East Barre (Cobble Hill) Water Line:** Phelps Engineering is the engineer. The news is about Phelps Engineering. Owner Lance Phelps decided in October to retire and close his firm. Phelps Engineering has been the Town's consulting water engineer since the early 1980s. The project engineering almost is complete. The lead engineers will move to Otter Creek Engineer where the final details will be completed. Otter Creek

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***(Cont'd - Project Updates)***

employs 4 former Phelps employees who have been directly involved in Barre Town water projects in the past. Construction of the water line from the end of the pipe under the roundabout to the 8" pipe near Hillside Ave./E. Cobble Hill still is scheduled for Spring, 2016. The 2015 Water Fund budget figure is \$25,000.

Phelps' contract is for designing the project from the end of Mill Street, across the Jail Branch and up to Hillside Avenue. An aerial crossing of the Jail Branch is being planned. The engineers are working with the VT AOT and exploring the possibility of a shared mini tressel that could carry a Barre City water line, if in the future, the City decides it needs to lay a new pipe to Old Rt. 302.

**Solar Farm #2:** The possibility of a second solar array on town property, this one in the Wilson Industrial Park, has been suspended. (The solar array near the 4-way intersection in the W.I.P. is on private property.)



*Every five years the inside of the large water storage tanks are cleaned and inspected. Shown above a diver/inspector from Liquid Engineering of Billings, MT prepares to enter one of the tanks on September 1. The inspector took many photographs of the two tanks and cleaned the tank floors. L.E. submitted a report including photographs. This year L.E. reported an average of 1/8" sediment in one tank and a "skiff" of sediment in the other*

**Town Forest Award**

In 1915 the VT legislature adopted legislation enabling municipalities to designate town forests. One hundred sixty-eight (168) municipalities have a town forest now. To mark the centennial of the enabling legislation the VT Urban and Community Forestry Program created a Centennial Town Forest Award to recognize one municipality with a model town forest in every county. The

VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Town Forest Centennial Planning Committee nominated communities. Award criteria were: 1) management and stewardship planning; 2) conservation and protection; 3) citizen advisory group engagement; 4) community use and engagement.

The Town of Barre Town Forest won the Award in Washington County. The Award was presented to several town

officials at the 2015 Conservation Summit - 100 Years of Town Forests on Saturday, November 7.

**Winter Use of Trails**

The Millstone Trails Association is planning to groom forest trails this winter. The groomed trails will be open to multiple users: walkers, fat tire mountain bike riders, snowshoers and cross country skiers. This coming winter monitor the town website for more information. MTA will not charge for the use. Grooming requires a snowmobile (a new one for 2015-2016), a tow behind groomer and fuel, thus MTA would appreciate donations from people who enjoy the packed snow trails.

MTA hopes to be able to drive its snowmobile to the BT school area and then groom the Millstone Hill West bike path. Watch for news about that 1.35 mile path being groomed.

**Town Forest Logging**

The forest management plan calls for logging. Last winter a request for proposals for a consulting forester was released. Eight proposals were received. After interviews and checking experience, Jeffrey Smith of Butternut Hollow Forestry was hired by the Recreation Board and Selectboard. Mr. Smith set out to review the logging recommendations in the forest management plan. It was decided to accomplish the 2014, 2015 and 2016 work recommended in the plan.

This fall Mr. Smith, working with town staff and conferring with Millstone Trails Association, Vermont Land Trust and Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club, prepared a more detailed plan for the work recommended for 2014-2016. He prepared bidding instructions, notified potential bidders and held a site visit. The Town placed a bidding notice in several newspapers. On November 2, on behalf of the Town, Smith received 5 bids. The Selectboard award of the contract is scheduled for November 10. The bidders listed the dollar amount they'd pay the town for each of the various classes of timber (hardwood sawlogs to firewood). Smith provided an estimate of the quantities. The high bid was \$11,110 and the low bid was \$4,200.

The logging could be done between December 15, 2015 to March 15, 2016. The logging will be in two areas of the town forest. The first area is from Littlejohn Road going north toward East Barre. For those familiar with forest trails, this area is centered over the Sidewinder Trail vicinity. The second area is south of Littlejohn Road, in the corner of the forest closes to the Donahue Road/Littlejohn intersection.

Trees to be cut are marked with blue paint. Three blue dots mark the edge of the cutting zone.

For a while trails in these two areas will be blocked by downed tree tops (slash). Plans are made to mark the trails to expedite removal of slash across the trails. Wheel rutting and other disturbance to trails will have to be repaired in the spring. The purpose of logging in late December to mid-March is minimizing this type of ground damage. Mr. Smith has expressed willingness to conduct a public

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***(Cont'd - Town Forest Logging)***

education tour of the logging. Check the town website for an announcement. This logging impacts about 1/7th of the town forest. There are plenty of trails unaffected by this first round of selected, managed cutting.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

***Thanksgiving 5K***

The Barre Congregational Church is holding its Thanksgiving morning 5K (3.1 miles or 5,000 meters) walk/run again. The popular event is known as the Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot. This is the 13th year for the event and 4th time it is held in Lower Websterville.

Registration is operated in the town municipal building starting at 8:00 am. Race time is 9:30 am. Parking is available at the municipal building and at the DPW Yard. Pre-registration is possible using a link on the church website ([www.barre-congregational.org](http://www.barre-congregational.org)) The registration fee is \$15 before November 23 and \$20 afterwards. Long-sleeve t-shirts are available if ordered by November 13. Registration for children age 10 and under is free. Prizes for women and men, by age group, will be awarded to the top finishers.

The event is family friendly; strollers and pets, on a leash, are welcome. For more information about the race see the church website.

The race will start on Bolster Road near the municipal building parking lot. On Websterville Road runners and walkers turn right and go by the town school. At the 4-way intersection between the cemeteries the race course turns left onto Graniteville Road. If there isn't too much snow the course will follow the bike path back to Websterville Road ending between the school and municipal building. If there is too much snow the course essentially double backs on itself (an out and back course).

Residents and visitors are advised to by-pass the race course roads between 9:20 and 10:15. Drivers who must use the race course roads are asked to slow down, watch for participants, especially children.

Racers are asked to bring a nonperishable food item.

*By Carl Rogers, Town Manager*

***Christmas Tree Collection***

Among the many duties, assignments and tasks the public works department (DPW) is asked to do is collection of Christmas trees. The town offers the service so residents don't have to burn their tree in the backyard or try disposing of it with household trash. The town also is interested in seeing that Christmas trees are not tossed over a bank and into drainage-ways or streams.

To facilitate a better disposal, DPW collects trees left out along the road. Trees are hauled to the lawn waste site where the trees are chipped with other brush and made into wood mulch (which is free for residents to take).

Before setting the tree out along the street or road all



records, lights, ornaments, wire, plastic and string must be removed from the tree. Thanks for observing this detail.

Collection dates are shown below. Snow or ice or freezing rain storms will delay collection. Be patient; DPW will complete its rounds.

**January 4-8, North of Rt. 302:** including Richardson Rd., Beckley Hill, Cassie St., Camp St., Trow Hill, East Hill, Cobble Hill

**January 11-15, South of Rt. 302:** including East Barre, Websterville, Graniteville, Quarry Hill, Sterling Hill, South Barre, West Hill

***Winter Parking***

Winter time is upon us again and with it comes the Town of Barre's winter nighttime parking ordinance which went into effect November 1st and lasts until April 1. The ordinance prohibits parking of motor vehicles, or any other conveyance within the right-of-way of town roads or state highways between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Vehicles in violation of this section may be ticketed and towed. This violation results in a \$15 fine.

If your vehicle is towed it will not be released until the fine and towing fees are paid. Many times people think it is okay to park on the road or in the right-of-way when there is no snow. Take notice that the parking ban is in effect from November 1st until April 1st, 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. regardless if there is no snow. Tickets can be written if there is no snow. If you do not know the limit of the right-ofway, contact the Town Engineer (479-2595) who can help you before you get a ticket.

Understanding the ordinance and preparedness is essential to having a worry free winter parking experience. I hope this article helps explain the ordinance. Preparation is needed too. Search out an off street parking space, if needed. Be sure guests know about the parking ordinance and suggest a parking space for them. If you are having a large, late night party call the police department and let us know cars will be on the street for a while after 11:00 p.m.

*By Michael Stevens, Police Chief*

***Winter Sand Pile***

Sometime during November the Department of Public Works (DPW) will pile winter sand outside the gate at 129 Websterville Road. DPW will try to keep the pile stocked, but during a storm, when the priority is plowing, salting or sanding roads, the pile might be depleted.

The sand is provided for town residents to use at their home. The sand shall not be taken for use at commercial properties or residential rental properties.

Because the pile could get low, when the DPW is busy during a storm it is advisable to collect a few buckets of sand before a storm. Storing a few buckets of sand at home will alleviate the need to travel during the storm and to wait for a turn to get sand. Residents are asked not to enter the DPW Yard in search of sand.

### **Ordinance Prohibits Placing Snow on Road**

Man. Another 6 inch snowfall; there's already 2 feet to 3 feet on the ground. Where can snow off of the driveway go? Ah, there is some open space. No, wait. Is it a violation of a town ordinance to put snow on the road.

Someone remembered it is a violation of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances (Sec. 6-2) to put snow on the road. The section prohibits the throwing, blowing, shoveling, plowing or pushing of snow from driveways, parking lots, roadside parking spaces, lawns and any other property. This prohibition includes putting snow on one of the town's five public sidewalks.

The police department is authorized to enforce the ordinance against the owner of the property from which the snow came. Fines range from \$60 to \$110. Compliance with this ordinance is important for the safety of motorists and pedestrians. Snow placed on a sidewalk or road can be packed down turning icy. If temperatures are right the snow will melt during the day, but at night the water could freeze creating an icy spot. Like winter parking, snow removal requires some planning.

### **Development Review Board Minutes** - (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, G. Richards, J. Fecteau, J. Valsangiaco, J. Hameline)

**April, 2015:** Approved Wilkins Enterprises' addition; Approved S&J Prives' roof expansion, addition, installation of concrete pad.

**May, 2015:** Approved Gordon Booth Living Trust and J&P Benoit boundary line adjustment; approved M. Groleau for construction of a building on Farwell Street.

**June, 2015:** Approved J. Viens' contractor's yard on Bridge St.; continued approval for D&L Commos' conditional use of multi-family dwelling; approved K. Lyons' conditional use of multi-family dwelling; approved TD Properties for conditional use allowing RV temporary residence; approved L. Lessard for addition to existing commercial building.

**July, 2015:** Approved HP Hood's addition; continued approval for D&L Commo for conditional use of multi-family dwelling.

**August, 2015:** Approved L&J Dutil 2-lot subd; approved Alfred & Anita Monty boundary line adjustment and subd; approved D&L Commo conditional use of multi-family dwelling; approved East Barre Congregational Church for right-of-way setback; approved D Lyon conditional use of multi-family dwelling.

**September, 2015:** Approved HP Hood, Inc. construction of addition.

**October, 2015:** Approved Malone Pitman Properties, LLC 3-lot merger.

**November, 2015:** No meeting.

### **Planning Commission** - (C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Bordo, C. Duke, J. Hameline, G. Clain)

**April, 2015:** Approved J. Reilly's construction of single-family dwelling; discussed solar panels in Industrial Park; discussed potential zoning changes; discussed ATC letter to Selectboard.

**May, 2015:** Discussed Solar Array proposal for Wilson Ind. Park; discussed 500kw net-metering solar project on land owned by Canadian Club; open discussion concerning future potential Zoning Bylaw amendments.

**June, 2015:** Approved C. Neddo to operate winery; discussed solar array projects on land owned by Canadian Club; discussed three zoning amendments.

**July, 2015:** Update on Pitman solar array project; update on Morrison Rd./Booth solar array; update on Canadian Club project.

**August, 2015:** Update on 3 solar array projects; discussion on proposed zoning amendments.

**September, 2015:** Follow-up presentation from Alex Bravakis of Novus Energy; report on attendance at legislative study committee on solar siting; report regarding VLCT Quality of Life and Land Use Comm.; discussion on proposed zoning amendments.

**October, 2015:** Recap on Solar Siting Task Force; joint discussion with Selectboard on town's position regarding solar siting; discuss Public Service Board letter for Beckley Hill solar project.

### **Traffic Safety Advisory Committee** - (C. Liese, D. Newall, P. White, W. Kirby, V. Vallerand)

**May, 2015:** Recommended sign package for south end of Middle Rd. and overweight vehicles sign; discussed replacing sign for Lazy Lion Campground; discussed curbed island or jersey barriers on Sterling Hill at S. Barre Rd for traffic calming measures; discussed signal sequence delaying turning lane at intersection of Middle Rd., So. Barre Rd. and Rt. 63.

**June, 2015:** Tabled sign package for overweight truck traffic on Sterling Hill and intersection of So. Barre Rd.; site visit to Summer and High Streets for action on traffic calming measures; tabled replacement sign approaching Lazy Lions Campground; recommended greater police presence on Summer and High Streets with further discussion to follow.

**July, 2015:** Recommended jersey barriers on Sterling Hill at Rt. 14 as well as a "No Outlet" sign; Recommended "No Outlet" sign north of Summer on High Street; recommended increase police presence on Summer Garden and High Streets along with speed cart; posting 24,000 weight limit, and 25 MPH speed limit; site visit to Cedar Street to consider traffic calming measures.

**August, 2015:** Recommended replacing Campground Ahead sign on Middle Rd.; requested traffic counters on Cedar Street; recommended streetlight at end of Cedar St. become a town streetlight.

**September, 2015:** Discussed sight distance from King's Row and suggested meeting with appropriate VT AOT officials.

**October, 2015:** Recommended intersection of Quarry Hill/Websterville be smoothed over.

TOWN OF BARRE  
PO BOX 116  
WEBSTERVILLE VT 05678

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
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THE MAILING CENTER  
05641

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### ***Two Positions Open***

***Deputy Health Officer:*** Letters of interest are being accepted for the deputy health officer (DHO) position. The DHO handles cases when the health officer (HO) is not available. Health officer and DHO work is on a call-by-call basis. Typically the HO and DHO receive fewer than 10 calls per year, of which about half require follow up and written reports. Training is available and the VT Department of Health provides a very useful handbook.

Health officers and DHO's enforce VT's rental housing code, respond to dog bite cases and enforce state law about improper disposal or storage of trash.

A \$400 per year stipend is paid. Town residents interested in this important position should submit a letter of interest addressed to: Selectboard, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. A short resume would be helpful. The appointment officially is made by the VT Department of Health. For more information visit the Department of Health website at [www.healthvermont.gov/local/tho/tho.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/local/tho/tho.aspx).

***Phoenix House:*** The memorandum of understanding (MOU) about the Phoenix House in South Barre created a Community Relations Working Group. The Group includes one position reserved for a member of the South Barre community. The position is vacant. The Working Group (committee) meets quarterly, usually during the afternoon of the third Wednesday of February, May, August and November. Meetings normally last less than 1 ½ hours. The Selectboard would appoint the South Barre resident member. Anyone from South Barre interested in serving could send a letter to the Selectboard at the address shown above. For more information contact Carl Rogers, 479-9331.

***Visit us at our website: [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) for announcements, publications, permit forms, monthly calendar, etc. Also included are meeting minutes, geneology information, information on boards and departments, and more!***