



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19, No. 1
February 2016

P.O. Box 116, 149 Websterville Road
Websterville, VT 05678
(802) 479-9331/Fax (802) 479-9332 www.barretown.org



LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE.
..... of the town newsletter in April

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

- 2/16 – Property Taxes and Sewer Charges due
- 2/20 – Citizen Budget Tour
- 2/24 – Deadline for Voter Reg.
- 2/27 – Logging Workshop/Tour
- 3/1 – Election Day
- 3/4, 5, 6 – Winter Softball Tourn.
- 3/12 – Rabies Clinic
- 3/14 – Town Caucus
- 3/28 – Deadline to file Election Petition for town offices
- 4/1 – Deadline to license dogs
- 4/1 – Winter Parking Ban ends

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Town Forest Logging



Last fall the Town and its professional consulting forester, Jeff Smith of Butternut Hollow Forestry, advertised for logging bids. Five loggers answered the call. In November the Selectboard awarded the first town forest logging contract to George deNagy. Mr. deNagy offered the highest return (payment) to the Town. The \$11,110 return is based on Mr. Smith's estimated quantity for ten categories of forest products ranging from hardwood sawlogs to firewood. The actual payment to the Town will depend on the quantity of product in each category.

Logging work started in early January and is limited to two areas near Littlejohn Road. One area is between Littlejohn Road and East Barre. The other area is across Littlejohn Road in the Donahue Road/Littlejohn Road corner of the town forest. Logging is to be completed by the first of April.

It is advisable to stay off the trails in these areas this winter. The VAST snowmobile trail will remain open, however. The logger must (by contract) cut felled tree tops so no part is more than 3 feet off the ground and must minimize brush across recreation trails. The snowmobile trail is to be left in as good or better condition than before the harvest. Millstone Trails Association (MTA) volunteers will clear remaining brush from trails.

The cutting impacts about 1/7th of the town forest. There are many miles of trails in the town forest that can be used this winter. (See related article on this page.)

Mr. Smith has offered to conduct a logging education tour on Saturday, February 27. The public is invited to tour some of the logging area with Smith and learn about the how, why and whats of logging. Any town residents interested in the town forest or in logging (owners of wood lots) are welcome. Meet at the Waterman Street water storage tank at 10:00 a.m. Dress warm and ready to walk in the woods (on trails). The tour should end 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Winter Trail Grooming

The Millstone Trails Association (MTA) is in the process of preparing a map of trails to be groomed when there is enough snow. The trails are both in the town forest and on adjoining private property. MTA also will be grooming the Millstone Hill West Bike Path. After grooming, the trails will be in perfect shape for cross-country skiing, walking, snow shoeing and fat tire bike riding. When the map is completed it will be posted on the town forest kiosks and town website. For more information see the Millstone Trails website at www.millstonetrails.com.

By Moe Casey, Special Project Assistant

Open Appointments

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.

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 Working Group meets quarterly, usually during the afternoon the third Wednesday of February, May, August and November. Meetings normally last less than 1 2 hours. The Selectboard will 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 at 479-9331.

By Moe Casey, Special Project Assistant

ANNUAL DOG LICENSE(S) ARE DUE



Do you own a dog? Does the dog live in Barre Town? If you answered yes to both questions then by Vermont law (20 VSA Sections 3541-3591, 3801-3813) you are required to license your dog/wolf-hybrid annually in the Town of Barre.

What do I need to license my pet?

1. Have a current rabies certificate on file with the Town Clerk's Office or provide the office with a copy of the certificate at the time you license.
2. Pay the license fee (\$10.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$14.00 for an animal that is not fixed).
3. Remember the deadline to license your dog(s) is April 1, 2016. If your pet is found to be unlicensed after April 1, 2016 you can be fined (\$35.00).

The Town Clerk's Office has mailed a postcard reminder to the pet owners who have a rabies certificate on file but will expire before April 1, 2016.

Dog license renewal forms will be in the mail by the end of January for the calendar year 2016. Be sure to check the license information carefully (make corrections if necessary), sign, enclose your payment, and return to the Town Clerk's Office in the envelope which is provided.

By Donna Kely, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Summer Employment Opportunities

Looking for a way to enjoy the outdoors and make money at the same time? Become a seasonal employee at the Town of Barre! We are hiring for six seasonal positions in three departments. The optimal candidate will be able to return for several summer seasons in a row. Pay begins at \$10.35 an hour with possible attendance bonuses.

Department of Public Works:

Seasonal DPW employees provide assistance on various tasks maintaining and improving Barre Town's roads and utilities. The schedule is M-F 7:00am - 3:30pm. Required training will be provided. Make money and still have the afternoon free for summer fun!

Recreation and Cemeteries:

Enjoy the sunshine, improve your town, and get paid! Recreation and Cemetery includes duties such as mowing, trimming, and landscaping tasks as well as light building or painting activities.

Applications can be picked up at the Town Offices or downloaded from the town's website www.barretown.org. Please submit your application by email to offices@barretown.org or mailed to Town of Barre, PO Box 116 Websterville, VT 05678 Application review will begin on March 21st.

(Continued on page 7)

RABIES CLINIC

The Barre Town Fire Department will be hosting their annual rabies clinic for dogs and cats on March 12, 2016 at the South Barre Fire Station, 528 South Barre Road (Rt 14).

Shots will be given between the hours of 1:00pm and 3:00 p.m. and the cost per animal is \$15.00.

All proceeds benefit the Barre Town Fire Department. Dr. Erica Brunner of Heart of Vermont Veterinary Housecalls will once again offer a caring experience for your pet.

The Barre Town Clerk will be on hand to license dogs that reside in Barre Town, however, dogs and cats from outside Barre Town are welcome as well.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief



REMINDER

Property Taxes and Sewer Charges are due

on Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Reporting Streetlight Issues

Is there a dim bulb or streetlight out in your neighborhood? If so contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 or email tthurston@barretown.org to report the issue.

ELECTION DAY ANNUAL SCHOOL AND PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

This year on March 1st the polling place should be busy. In addition to the normal school issues (budget items and electing school directors for Barre Town Elementary & Middle School plus Spaulding Union High School) there will be a Democratic and Republican Presidential Primary elections.

Since Presidential Primaries only occur every 4 years, residents tend to forget that in order to vote in a Presidential Primary election you must declare a party – by Vermont law.

In the 1979 Adjourned Session of the Vermont General Assembly, Act No. 199 (which became effective on May 6, 1980) was passed setting out the procedures and requirements for the Presidential Primary in Vermont to be held on the first Tuesday in March in all Presidential election years.

Furthermore Chapter 57 of VSA Title 17, section 2704 provides: A person voting at the Presidential Primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter's choice of ballot.

So why was the law passed? The Secretary of State's Office was not real active in elections at the time of passage. However, their research led to the understanding that declaring a party was a compromise reached after the National Republican and/or Democratic parties threatened to not "count" the Vermont Presidential Primary unless there was some form of party identification recorded for the election.

Deadline for registering to vote and information on requesting an early ballot can be found in the Clip-n-Save article. *See you at the polls!*

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Campaign Finance Requirements for Local Officials

With local elections in March and May, a reminder of the recent changes to the campaign finance law. Candidates must register and submit reports via the Secretary of State's Campaign Finance website (<http://campaignfinance.sec.state.vt.us>). All reporting for campaign finance can be found on this website.

Local candidates for office who spend or raise over \$500 are required to register with the Secretary of State. Candidates who reach this threshold must submit reports of expenditures and contributions 30 days prior, 10 days prior and two weeks after the local election. A final report must be filed within 40 days of the election, but can be filed at any time. The report due 10 days after the election can be a candidate's final report. Candidates who do not spend or raise over \$500 are not required to report. Local candidates may only accept \$1,000 from a single source (individual or PAC). Political parties are allowed to donate unlimited amounts to candidates.

A person or group that spends over \$1,000 to influence the outcome of a public question are also required to register and report expenditures to the Secretary of State. These reports are due 30 days prior, 10 days prior and two weeks after the local election.

In addition to campaign finance reports, anyone that spends over \$500 on a "mass media activity" (newspaper ad, radio or TV ad, or electronic communication or mailing) must file a Mass Media report. These reports can always be filed on the Secretary of State's Campaign Finance website.

Any questions about campaign finances or elections in general should be directed to the Secretary of State Elections Division at 802-828-2363

By J.P. Isabelle, Justice of the Peace



Clip N' Save



2016 TOWN AND SCHOOL ELECTION CALENDAR

Election	Date	Petition Deadline – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Date – 5:00 p.m.
Ann.School Elect.	3/01/16	Jan. 25-2016	Feb. 24, 2016
Non-Part.Caucus	3/14/16	N/A	N/A
Open Town. Mtg.	5/04/16	N/A	May 4, 2016
Ann.Town.Mtg.	5/10/16	March 28, 2016	May 4, 2016

Non-Partisan Caucus: Meeting to ensure there is at least one candidate for each municipal office. Nominations and voting are done from the floor.

Petition Deadline Elected Town Officers: (Selectboard, Auditor, Constable, and Moderator) is Monday, March 28, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

Election Information: Available at the Barre Town Municipal Building, various local markets, and on the Town website (www.barretown.org).

Hours: Australian ballot voting to take place at Barre Town Elem. School gymnasium. Polls open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Handicap services are available. If you require assistance from the school parking lot area to the gymnasium contact the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391 prior to the election.

Early Voting Ballots: There are NO standing orders. You MUST make your ballot request for each election. To make a request call 802-479-9391, stop by the office, or email dkelty@barretown.org.

Checklist Applications: Checklist application are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Telephone 802-479-9391 or email dkelty@barretown.org



Clip N' Save



Police News



The Police Department recently launched a Facebook page. You can find it by searching "Barre Town Police Department" on Facebook. We hope to use this media tool to keep the

public informed about the police department and incidents that occur within the Town. We ask that you not use this page to report crimes, as it may not be checked on a daily basis. Please keep comments and posts professional and respectful. Questions or comments about the page can be referred to Sgt. Dodge at 479-0509.

By Michael Stevens, Chief of Police

Visit us at our website: for announcements, publications, permit forms, monthly calendar, etc. Also included are meeting minutes, genealogy information, information on boards and departments and more!



Pickleball

The Recreation Board is once again offering Pickleball for adults! Open play will be available on Sundays, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, through March 20th at the Barre Town School gymnasium. This activity is free to all who wish to play. It is geared toward adults only due to the fast pace. We hope to offer a kid clinic in the future. Please contact drouleau23@gmail.com if you have any questions.

By Elaine Wang, Special Project Assistant

Winter Softball Tournament

We are so excited to host the 18th annual Freezing Fun For Families (FFF) softball tournament! This tournament holds the world record for the largest snow softball tournament. This year's tournament will be Friday, March 4th to Sunday March 6th at the town park and ball fields. Games start Friday evening and run until about midnight. Play restarts Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. and goes all day until 9:00 p.m.

The final championship day starts on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. There is a cap of 80 teams this year so sign up early!

Each year FFF raises thousands of dollars to benefit Vermont families that have a child facing a serious illness. Between \$20,000 and \$25,000 are raised each year. This year's beneficiaries are 22 month old Ryland Houle of East Middlebury, Vermont, who is battling Neuroblastoma and 11 year old Garrett Peace of East Montpelier, Vermont who is battling Leukemia. So put on your gloves and scarf and come support those beautiful smiling faces!

If interested in helping out, but not interested in playing in the snow, come to FFF's Silent Auction and Dinner on February 27th located at the Barre Elk's club. Tickets are \$25 a person including auction, meal and raffle prizes. This is an exciting opportunity to support local families and obtain sports memorabilia like a Tom Brady autographed jersey, Michael Jordan autographed basketball, or even a "Miracle on Ice" jersey framed and autographed by the 1980 US Olympic hockey team!

For more information including rules, team registration and a full list of auction items, see their website at www.freezingfunforfamilies.com or contact Cory Touchette at 802-279-3632.

By Moe Casey, Special Project Assistant

Trow Hill Playground Redevelopment

Barre Town, the Recreation Commission, and several residents have been working to revitalize the Trow Hill Playground since August, 2015. Boy Scout Zach Bullock earned his Eagle Scout rank by leading a number of improvements, including upgrading the picnic shelter, making benches, and removing 11 truckloads of brush along the fence. The basketball court was resealed, a basketball net replaced, and the fence repaired.

The Imagine Dragon play structure, \$22,895 (sale price, including shipping), has already been delivered and will be installed in early summer.

The next step is to purchase and install more play equipment. Over 125 schoolchildren, teenagers, and adults from Trow Hill and beyond have provided input on what playground equipment to purchase, mostly as part of a survey conducted at Trow Hill Grocery last Halloween. Based on the survey results, the Recreation Commission shortlisted equipment to purchase and install in 2016, including a large structure for 5-12 year olds, a zipline-style ride which was the overwhelming favorite of the survey, new swings, a spring rider, a tunnel for toddlers, and more benches. Much of the equipment will be accessible.



In December Barre Town requested bids for this equipment, plus shipping, and installation. Two bids were received. UltiPlay of Massachusetts was selected as the lowest cost vendor with strong references and environmental record. The vendor, Town staff, and volunteers working on this playground will be finalizing the phase 1 and fundraising plan in February.

Cash and in-kind donations are sought for concrete, asphalt, use of small machinery, and more play equipment for phases 1 and 2, and volunteers are needed to staff fundraising events and participate in the supervised community-build of the equipment.

Visit the new Barre Town website for more information on this effort.

For more information on helping out, or to provide input, contact Elaine Wang at ewang@barretown.org or 479-9331.

By Elaine Wang, Special Project Assistant

Soccer Day Camps



Two soccer camps will be held this summer at the Barre Town soccer field. The Capital Soccer Club will conduct a soccer day camp for 6-15 year-olds from June 20-24, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Visit www.capitalsoccer.net for more information and to register.

Vermont Voltage will conduct a soccer day camp for 15-17 year-olds from August 15-19, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. For more information about their camp or to learn how to register visit www.voltagesportsclub.com.

Ultimate Frisbee Camp

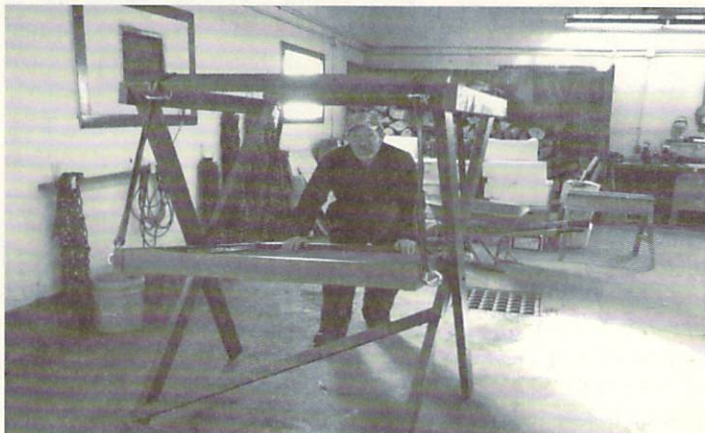
An ultimate frisbee day camp will be conducted for 10-14 year-olds at the Lower Soccer Field this summer from July 4th to 8th. Camp organizer Anne Watson coaches the Montpelier High School ultimate frisbee team and offered summer day camps in Montpelier in 2014 and 2015. For more information or to register, contact Anne Watson at anneofvermont@gmail.com.

Tennis Camps

Trainer Kelly Cleveland will be back to teach tennis mid-June (after school is over for the summer) through July. Camps for children 3rd-6th grade will take place in the morning; camps for adults and youth 7th-12th grade will take place in the evenings. For more information call Kelly Cleveland at 479-0581. Costs are \$60 for a two week session, \$45 for a one week session.

By Elaine Wang, Special Project Assistant

New Compost Sifter

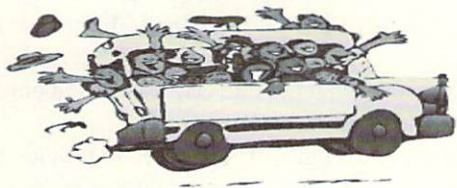


Department of Public Works laborer James Corson constructed the new sifters and is demonstrating how the sifter works.

At the lawn waste site the grass-clippings, leaves and other garden and lawn waste gradually have decomposed making a large compost pile. The Town (DPW) and some residents have used compost, but it is underutilized. During the mild December weather the public works department (DPW) made two sifters or compost screens. The sifters will be available at the lawn waste site for public use on Saturday mornings, when it opens in late April. The sifters are designed for easy use. The screen hangs by heavy bungi cords and has handles to easily swing and bounce the screen.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Come ride with us..... Annual Citizen's Budget Tour



For at least 25 years Barre Town has conducted a Budget Tour to help Budget Committee members learn about department facilities, projects, operations and budget requests. Many years ago the Tour was opened up to citizens.

If past practice is followed the 2016 Citizen Budget Tour will be on Saturday, February 20. Participants are asked to gather in the Municipal Building (149 Websterville Road) between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Hot and cold morning beverages along with muffins and doughnuts are provided. The tour begins at 8:00 a.m. with visits to departments located in the Municipal Building. A handy dandy Budget Tour booklet is provided to describe facilities and departments, and highlight recent acquisitions, projects and changes. Key budget facts are listed.

Transportation is provided for the tour around town and to other town facilities. The respective department head is present at each facility to make a presentation and answer questions. On the

ride between facilities citizens can discuss with Budget Committee members or Town Manager whatever interests them.

Participating in the tour is free; there is no charge for this civic education opportunity. All ages are welcome, but children must be with an adult. For more information contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 or email crogers@barretown.org.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Budget Committee

The 2016 Budget Committee started meeting on January 26 and probably will meet until March 29. Per the Town Charter, the Committee has ten members, the five selectmen and five appointed citizens. This year the selectboard appointed Bob Nelson and Paul White. The Town Clerk-Treasurer appointed Bill Wolfe. Those three citizens selected Joanne Cyr and Val Vallerand to round out the committee.

Committee meetings are held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights in the Municipal Building. The public is welcome to attend. Topics to be discussed are listed on the Selectboard meeting agenda. (The board meets at 8:00 p.m. when the Budget Committee finishes its meeting.) Selectboard meeting agendas are posted at Hannafords, Graniteville General Store and Trow Hill Grocery. The agendas also are posted on the town website (click on Boards and Commissions and then Selectboard). When the town manager completes a proposed fund budget it is posted on the town website. See www.barretown.org/Pages/gen/budgetin.

The Budget Committee has a critical role in town budgeting. According to the Town Charter the Committee makes the final decision about seven of the nine fund budgets. The Committee sets the amount of the proposed General Fund and Highway Fund budgets which are placed before the voters for approval in May.

If you are interested in town budgeting or a specific budget topic follow budget progress through the website and/or attend Committee meetings.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

*50th
Anniversary*

The Barre Town community, many years ago, educated its children in small school buildings. These school houses were located in Lower Graniteville, Trow Hill, Upper Websterville, Upper Graniteville, South Barre, Lower Websterville, and East Barre. At the current EMS station on Rt. 302 there was a building called the Spring House School. What used to be the Brookside School is now Bates & Murray on Rt. 14, the East Montpelier Road. In 1964 a committee was appointed to consolidate the schools and town residents then voted and decided to merge all of these neighborhood schools into one location. The doors to Barre Town Elementary School opened for the very first time in late summer of 1966.

We are excited to announce that the fall of 2016 is Barre Town School's 50th Anniversary! Barre Town School takes great pride in the community support we have received over the

(Continued on page 6)

(Cont'd – 50th Anniversary of BTMES)

years and we open this celebration to all of you. Our steering committee's planning for the event is well underway. We welcome all current and former Barre Town students, staff, families and community to join us in this upcoming celebration. We hope to announce the exact date soon. In the meantime, we are asking the community for any memories. This may include pictures, stories, memorabilia, etc. Please contact Tina Lunt at 476-6617 ext. 6307 if you have memorabilia that could be contributed to the 50th Anniversary celebration of BTMES.

You can find many more memories of Barre Town School in Mr. Stephen Clark's book, *Memorable Moments Frozen in Time*. Stephen is one of many educators who dedicated several years of service to Barre Town School.

 *By Tina Lunt, BTMES Administrative Assistant*

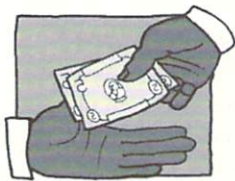
Filing Your Homestead Declaration

Every Vermont homeowner must file the Homestead Declaration HS-122 every year, regardless of whether they file a state income tax return. The deadline to file HS-122 with the Vermont Department of Taxes is April 15. If you or a family member own and occupy a home as of April 1, 2016 file the HS-122 to avoid a penalty. The elderly might still be living in their home but not need to file a state income tax return. Check to see if they are submitting the HS-122 form.

The form is available from the state's website www.tax.vermont.gov to print or file online. If you miss the April 15 deadline file anyway. If you do not file the form at all you will be charged the higher non-residential tax rate for the education part of the tax bill. Barre Town's non-residential tax rate this year is 1.7341, while the residential or homestead tax rate is 1.4056.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Low Interest Home Improvement Loans

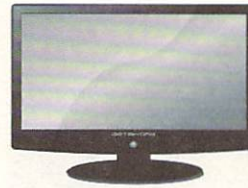


Barre Town homeowners, there is a great opportunity to get some of those expensive, nagging, and necessary home improvements done! Downstreet Housing and Community Development (formerly Central Vermont Community Land Trust) offers special low-interest loans for qualified homeowners. Downstreet Housing administers these loans for Barre Town providing all the necessary review and oversight. Downstreet Housing can be a little more lenient than commercial banks. Downstreet Housing has a very low denial rate. If homeowners fall just outside of the usual parameters to qualify they may be eligible for a loan from this program.

Loans may be used for housing improvements such as weatherization projects, roof repair, heating system upgrades, and access modification for the elderly or disabled 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, or a single individual who has an income of \$41,000 or less.

By Moe Casey, Special Project Assistant

Updated Town Website



The website www.barretown.org is getting a makeover! We have updated the site to increase accessibility and convenience. It is organized similarly to the old site; however with a new look that is easier to use than ever! When designing it we really wanted to keep it simple and easy to access. Use the site to check announcements, find public notices, view the events calendar, read commission meeting minutes, securely pay your taxes, water, sewer, or ambulance bills, find recreation information and more. The new design of the site allows it to be easily viewed on a mobile device, so town information is accessible no matter where you are! It also includes a slideshow of pictures that represent Barre Town, so if there are pictures you would like included on the site please send them to mcasey@barretown.org.

By Moe Casey, Special Project Assistant

Project Updates

Route 110 and Mill Street Intersection in East Barre: The intersection of Route 110, Mill Street, Old Route 302, and Bianchi Street in East Barre has been a challenge for many years, largely because the sharp angle between Mill Street and Route 110 makes northbound traffic on Route 110 hard to see. Also, too many roads converge at that one intersection. The State of Vermont seeks to improve it and has contracted with engineering firm VHB to redesign the intersection. VHB has developed a conceptual plan and is seeking public input on it. The firm made a presentation during the January 5th Selectboard meeting and a large color printout of the design can be viewed at the Barre Town offices. Key features of the draft redesign are:

- a) Shifting the Mill Street approach so that it is perpendicular to Route 110, improving sight lines for Mill Street traffic entering Route 110;
- b) Changing Bianchi Street to one way, eastbound only, to reduce the amount of traffic at the intersection;
- c) Narrowing the Old Route 302 approach to provide better definition for traffic leaving and entering Old Route 302;
- d) Adding a new sidewalk on the north side of Mill Street between Summer Street and Route 110, and a pedestrian crossing to connect the new sidewalk to the existing sidewalk on the Rt. 110 bridge.

The next steps are to develop preliminary plans based on public input received this winter and spring; acquire rights-of-way in 2017, finalize plans in the summer of 2018, and contract for project work in fall of 2018, with construction planned in 2019. The project is currently estimated to cost \$300,000 and will be paid for by federal and state dollars, with no costs to Barre Town. To provide comments contact Dave Saladino, VHB Project Manager, at 802-497-6121. There is no deadline for comments but providing them at this early phase of planning is encouraged.

(Continued on page 7)

(Cont'd – Project Updates)

East Barre (Cobble Hill) Water line: The plans for this project are nearly complete. There will be three construction phases. This spring, the section from the north side of the roundabout to Hillside Avenue will be constructed by the Town's DPW crew at an estimated cost of \$25,000. In 2017 the next phase will extend 8" pipe from the end of Mill Street at Rt. 110 across Old 302, to the Jail Branch. Estimated cost is \$20,000. The stream crossing will not be constructed until 2018 or later, and may include a pedestrian bridge as part of the project. This is estimated to cost \$90,000 to \$100,000. For more information, contact Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer, at 479-2595.

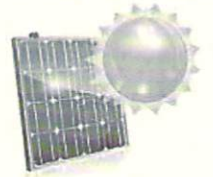
Mill Street Sidewalk in East Barre: The Town continually seeks to improve pedestrian mobility in Barre Town. Accordingly, it began a project in 2006 to construct a sidewalk on the east side of Mill Street, from the Town of Barre Fire Department building to Websterville Road and around the corner up to the post office. The project is estimated to cost \$197,500 and is funded with federal (80%) and Town of Barre (20%) dollars. Once the Route 110 project, above, is complete, Mill Street will have a continuous pedestrian facility between Websterville Road and the Route 302 roundabout. Also, a small section of sidewalk will be constructed in front of the East Barre Library, a crosswalk will connect that short section with the main sidewalk on the eastern side of Mill Street, and a crosswalk will connect the northeastern end of the new sidewalk to the existing sidewalk on the western side of Mill Street north of Summer Street. The project will improve drainage on some properties and reduce the likelihood of vehicles driving over another property. The Town must now obtain permanent easements from affected property owners before the construction process can begin. For more information, contact Elaine Wang, at ewang@barretown.org or 479-9331.

South Barre – Bridge Street Water Line: Barre City anticipates upgrading the 2 inch water line on Bridge Street with an 8 inch line as far as the access to the mobile home park. This upgrade in capacity will allow Barre Town to install a fire hydrant at the entrance to the mobile home park. The Town would pick up the cost of the hydrant with the rest of the expense being paid for by the City.

Bridge Street Sidewalk in South Barre: Another Barre Town road that needs a sidewalk is Bridge Street between Route 14 and the bike path. The bridge already has a sidewalk on the north side. Barre Town began this project in 2011. The project is estimated to cost \$164,400, is funded with federal (80%) and Town of Barre (20%) dollars, and is overseen by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Project alternatives were presented to the Selectboard on August 25, 2015, which decided that the sidewalk should be constructed on the north side of Bridge St. The conceptual plans were submitted to VTrans on December 11, 2015 and include a 3 foot bike lane on the north side of Bridge Street. The Town also plans to add pavement and stripe a 3 foot bike lane on the south side of Bridge Street. Thus the Bridge Street sidewalk project has also provided an opportunity to advance the Barre Connector (aka Semprebon) Bike Path. For more information contact Elaine Wang at ewang@barretown.org or 479-9331.

Rt. 14/Bridge Street Intersection: This project managed by VTRANS is still slated for construction in 2017 as described in the February 2015 newsletter. The news is that Barre City will replace 1500' feet of water line from Jockey Hollow to just south of the intersection prior to the state's project for the Bridge Street - Route 14 intersection. This work was made necessary by the amount of road cut required by the Route 14 project. These costs will not be borne by the Town of Barre.

Solar Farms: Malone Properties' 500 kw solar farm, at Wilson Industrial Park is complete but not yet on-line. Five more projects are undergoing the Vermont Department of Public Service review process. The locations and developers are Beckley Hill Road (Novus Energy), Pine Hill Road (Novus Energy), Morrison Road (Novus Energy), Osborne Road (Aegies Renewable Energy), and Cummings Road (Sun Common). The first four are proposed 500 kW arrays; Cummings Road is a proposed 150 kW. For more information, call the Barre Town Planning and Zoning Office at 479-2595.



Stormwater Grants: Two grants from the State of Vermont Ecosystem Restoration Program have been awarded to study stormwater in Barre Town. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) will study all major sources of stormwater and their impacts on water quality in Barre Town, Barre City, and Plainfield. The Friends of the Winooski River (FWR) will study the Quarry Hill and Sterling Hill watersheds to identify and prioritize stormwater management practices that would reduce localized flooding and infrastructure damage, and protect water quality. For more information on the CVRPC study contact Dan Currier at currier@cvregion.com; on the FWR study contact Ann Smith at ann@winooskiriver.org.

*By Elaine Wang, Special Project Assistant
and Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer.*

*(Cont'd – Summer Employment Opportunities)***Town Engineer:**

Plans are being made that would require employing a second engineer's helper for the summer of 2016. The summer helper would work with a partner, probably a full-time DPW employee, collecting information about sewer lines. Information about man-holes and pipes visible in the manholes will be recorded, possibly on a laptop. The field information will be used to create a GIS based record of the Town's sewerage system. This is an excellent opportunity for young and old, especially someone interested in a civil engineering career.

Get Ready for Spring

House number signs are for sale (\$10) through the town. Contact Tina at 479-9331 or tthurston@barretown.org. An order form is available at www.barretown.org/PDF/files/forms/hse-number. Signs are 4" x 12" and made of aluminum with bright white numbers on a highly reflective green background similar to street name signs.

Board and Commission Reports

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer (Note: No December meeting was held)

September 2015: Discussed line striping, advanced warnings for Hill St. intersection; discussed “No Outlet” sign for Barclay Rd. intersection at Phelps, Sunset Rds.; discussed sight distance for Kings Row at intersection of So. Barre Rd., reviewed with VTRANS; requested, updated speed study by CVRPC for speed on Osborne Rd.; discussed safety issues at Baptist/Graniteville Rd. intersection.

October 2015: Recommended tabling issues from September meetings until more members of the board (a full board) were present.

November 2015: Chief Mike Stevens presented newer types of portable speed monitoring units; recommended “No Outlet” sign for Barclay Rd.; recommended State investigate safety issues at Kings Row intersection with So. Barre Rd.; discussed speeding on Cedar Street; discussed sight distance problem on Graniteville Rd./Baptist St., considered Robert Murray request for line striping on West Rd.; town engineer informed committee that traffic counters were out on Osborne Rd.

January 2016: recapped position of Amy Gamble from VTRANS regarding sight distance issue on So. Barre Rd., discussed speed issues on Kings Row; committee agreed that VTRANS do sign improvements as discussed with town engineer.; discussed speed study for Osborne Rd. Item tabled for further review and to go to Public Hearing in February or March; discussed Rt. 110 at Mill St. intersection improvement project; discussed Cameron’s access and making Bianchi St. one-way in from Rt. 110.

Development Review Board – By Heidi Bennett (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen; S. Driscoll, G. Richards, J. Valsangiacomo, J. Fecteau, J. Hameline)

December 2015: Approved Town for 2-lot subd. on Parker Rd.; approved V&P Fecteau and Fecteau Residential for boundary line adj. off Beckley Hill Rd.; Approved JDJ Development for 2-lot merger on Rudd Farm Road; approved JDJ Development for conditional use to allow multi-family dwellings on Rudd Farm Rd.

January 2016: Approved V&P Fecteau for 4-lot subd. off Beckley Hill Rd.; approved Fecteau Residential for 3-lot subd. off Nichols Rd.; approved C&B Thygesen for 2-lot subd. off Meadow Wood Dr.; cont’d request by C&B Thygesen and P&K Grange for boundary line adj. off Meadow Wood Dr.; cont’d request by C&B Thygesen and B Sanborn, P. Hislop for boundary line adj. off Meadow Wood Dr.; cont’d request by One Bridge St. for major site plan approval off Bridge St.

Planning Commission – By Heidi Bennett (C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Bordo, C. Duke, J. Hameline, G. Clain)

November 2015: recap Solar Siting Task Force meeting; discussion with selectboard on Town’s position of solar siting task force. Public Service Board letter for Beckley Hill solar project.

December 2015: Presentation by Sun Common for proposed 150kw community solar project on Cummings Rd.; recap on Solar Siting Task Force meeting.

January 2016: Approved R. Hausman for allowed use for wholesale and retail sale of firearms on East Montpelier Rd.; approved Bullrock Deutche-Eco, LLC for allowed use for additional curb-cut for property on Pitman Rd., owned by Malone Properties, LLC.