

# Barre Town Newsletter

Municipal News

Vol. 16, No. 1

February 2013

## Bridge Work to Begin

The Agency of Transportation (AOT) is managing the Bridge Street bridge replacement project. On November 9<sup>th</sup> AOT opened bids for the project. The low bidder was Miller Construction of Windsor, VT. Miller's bid was \$1,698,880. Three contractors bid within \$100,000 of Miller's bid. A pre-construction conference was held December 19. AOT reminded the contractor of numerous requirements (there is federal funding, thus federal requirements). Town staff emphasized that trucks are not permitted on Middle Road. The Town also objected to allowing the project to start in January.

Miller Construction likely will start the project in late March. A couple weeks after Miller arrives on scene demolition of the current bridge will commence. The bridge will be closed at the time (around April 1) and detour routes will be in effect. Signs on Route 14 and Bridge Street will state the bridge closing and detour effective date.



The detour route will be Rt.14 between Bridge Street and Rt.63; Rt.63; Miller Road between Rt. 63 and Airport Road; Upper Prospect between Airport Road and Morrison Road, and Morrison Road.

The route will be marked in both directions. There will be no access from Rt. 14 to the bike path during the project. The contract calls for completion of the 120' foot long bridge by the end of October, 2013.

The new bridge will be constructed over the Stevens Branch on the same location as the present 60 year old bridge. It will carry two, 11 foot wide travel lanes with 3 foot shoulders outside each lane. A 5 foot sidewalk will be built on the north (downstream) side. The bridge railings will be made of concrete and galvanized steel tubing, which will be about 4 feet 6 inches high over the sidewalk or curbing.

Barre Town will pay 5% of the construction costs (construction contract plus AOT's construction engineering). The Town's share of the construction contract is \$89,944. The Selectboard has been setting aside money for the project and some AOT engineering bills are paid already.

A town sewer line is attached to the bridge. Barre Town's consulting sewer engineer designed construction plans to adjust adjoining sewer lines and manholes, and to attach the sewer main to the new bridge. Miller Construction will perform that work.

Please watch for signs or listen for announcements of the bridge closing and detour effective date. If you live in the area or have a regular business close by and have regular visitors, customers, or deliveries let them know of the detour.

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### New Website Page



As mentioned in the last newsletter Barre Town is adding a new page, "Public Notices", to our website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)). The "Public Notices" page will be an electronic bulletin board for Town and State notices. Examples of Town notices include special meetings, public hearings, tax sales, ordinance adoption, and Town Meeting and Election Warnings. State notices (such as Act 250 hearings) and other government entities' (Washington County, fire district, and school) notices will be posted too. You can access the new page by using the drop down General Government button menu, then select Public Notices.

*(Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer)*

### 2013 DOG LICENSES ARE DUE

Vermont law (20 VSA Sections 3541-3591, 3801-3813) requires ALL dogs and wolf/hybrids be **licensed annually** in the Town in which the pet resides.

**Cost:** To license your pet you must have a current rabies certificate on file in the Town Clerk's Office. The cost to license a dog is \$9.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$13.00 for an animal that is not fixed. **Deadline to license your dog(s) is April 1, 2013.** If your pet is found to be unlicensed after April 1, 2013 you can be fined (\$35.00).

**Licensing Procedure:** A dog license can be obtained in person or by mail. The 2013 Dog License renewal forms are in the mail to all pet owners who have a current rabies certificate on file. As for the expired rabies certificates-these pet owner(s) will be mailed a courtesy post card advising them a new rabies certificate is needed before a license can be issued.

For animal licensing questions contact the Town Clerk's office by telephone (479-9391) or email ([dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org)).

**Complaints:** To report an animal complaint, contact the Barre Town Police Department. A copy of the

Animal Control Ordinance, which includes leash restrictions, can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391 or by visiting the website at [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org). (click on the button, Charter, Ordinances & Policies).

**Be a responsible pet owner!** Make sure your pet is licensed, has a current rabies vaccination, and the current year license tag is affixed to your pet's collar. *(Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer)*

### Recycling Center

**Open:** Tuesdays & Saturdays - 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

**Location:** Wilson Industrial Park

**Run by:** Earth Waste Systems of Rutland

### Rabies Clinic

The Town of Barre Fire Department and the Barre Animal Hospital will once again be teaming up to host an annual rabies clinic at the South Barre fire station on Saturday, March 9 or 16, 2013. This event is an affordable way to protect your dog or cat from getting rabies and most of the proceeds benefit the fire department. While all are welcome, the Barre Town Clerk will be on hand to register dogs that reside in Barre Town. The event kicks off at 1:00 pm and will go until 3:00 pm. Please make sure that all dogs are leashed and that cats are in a carrier. *(Chris Violette, Fire Chief)*

### TAXES DUE!

Property taxes and sewer use charges are due Friday, February 15. A drop box to the left of the front door of the Municipal Building is available for your after-business-hours convenience. Envelopes must bear the postmark of February 15 to avoid penalties. On the 15<sup>th</sup> the box contents will be removed at midnight. After that time, a payment is considered late and a 5% late charge will be assessed.

## Snowmobile Entertainment

Saturday, February 23rd the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) and the Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club (Club) will bring three exciting events to the Wilson Industrial Park (WIP). The Club is bringing back the popular snowmobile freestyle jump show. VAST had a fund raising event to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation planned for the same day and asked to combine its events with the Club's.

The events will be held in the W.I.P., at the end of Parker Road-down the hill past the Foodbank. VAST will conduct radar runs from noon to 3:00.

For a \$5.00 entry fee (to benefit Make-A-Wish) snowmobilers can speed down a straight single track and have their speed measured. Presumably they aren't looking to see who goes the slowest! VAST also will set up a Kiddie Track where children ages 5 - 8 +/- can operate speed governed mini-snowmobiles.



Hot food will be available to buy from Jockey Hollow Catering from noon to the closing. The Times-Argus/Rutland Herald teamed up with VAST for the newspapers' SnoQuest 2013 competition. The Grand Finale event will be at 5:00 pm.

There will be two snowmobile freestyle jump shows, one at 4:00 pm and one at 6:00 pm, under the lights. A fireworks display will close out the day's activities at about 7:00 pm.

Parking is available at SB Electronics and Highland Sugar Works. There is no charge to attend. Come out for a little mid-winter entertainment and contribute to Make-A-Wish.

*VAST, the Club and Town of Barre caution snowmobilers: The individuals performing the freestyle jump show are professionals. Don't try jumping at home or on the trails. Jumping can be very dangerous and could lead to injury or death.*

### ***Email Contact Information:***

[crogers@barretown.org](mailto:crogers@barretown.org) for the Town Manager

[dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org) for the Town Clerk-Treasurer

## ***Coming and Going.....***

The last newsletter announced Diane Waters' retirement after 37 years of service as executive secretary. There is more news this edition.

Tina Thurston has been hired as the new executive secretary. She started work full-time on January 2nd. Tina has over twenty years of administrative assistant work experience. She was working at CVMC when hired by Barre Town. Her experience includes two years at Goddard College and five years at Norwich University. She lives with her husband in Websterville.

Scott Lamson was the assistant public works superintendent since 1995. Last fall Scott submitted his retirement papers effective January 4, 2013. Scott always was an active member of the DPW management team, providing valuable input and helping whenever needed. He was interim superintendent for one year after Steve Blondin's retirement. During that year Scott led DPW's response and recovery to the May 26-27, 2011 flash flooding and Tropical Storm Irene flooding.

Assistant town manager Shawn Benham resigned his position effective January 11. Shawn accepted an advancement with the state working in Chittenden County, closer to his home.

## **Skateboarding Day**

The Recreation Board with cooperation from Curtis Ritchie is planning a two-day skateboard event at the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark in the town's big park. A learn to skateboard clinic will be held Friday, June 21.

The next day will be "Go Skateboarding Day". The event is for people of all ages. Watch for more information in the April newsletter or on the town website.



### Budget News

The 2013 Budget Committee has started reviewing the manager's proposed 2013-2014 budgets. The committee will meet every Tuesday night from 6:30 to 8:00 in the municipal building until the end of March. The public is welcome to attend. The topic (budget) to be discussed each Tuesday night is listed on the Selectboard meeting agenda which is posted at the municipal building, Hannaford's, Graniteville General Store and Trow Hill Grocery. The agenda is also posted on the town website. The Committee will review the Cemetery, Building, Ambulance, Sewer, Water, Equipment, Highway and General Fund budgets.

The summary page and highlights for each fund budget are posted on the website; [www.barretown.org/Pages/gen/budgetin](http://www.barretown.org/Pages/gen/budgetin).

The 2013 Committee members are citizen appointees; Jack Mitchell, Jaime Fewer, Jason Picard, Bill Kirby and Tom White. The five selectmen also are Committee members.

The Committee adopts budgets for all funds except General and Highway. The Committee recommends the General and Highway Fund budgets for voter approval.

### Home Repair Loans

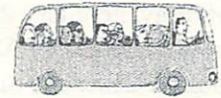
Several years ago the Town of Barre partnered with the Central Vermont Community Land Trust to administer the Barre Town Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. With money in hand from the program, CVCLT began making loans to qualifying Barre Town residents. This program has proven to be a valuable



resource for home owners to get low interest loans to fix up their homes. Loans must be used for rehabilitation to resolve health and safety issues such as weatherization, structural problems, or system failures. In addition, similar to the Barre Town program, CVCLT has other programs available geared toward income eligible residents of Washington County that also provide funds for housing improvement. For information regarding rehabilitation loans or other available programs, contact the Central Vermont Community Land Trust at 476-4493. (Chris Violette, Zoning & Planning Office)

### Tour Town Facilities

**Date:** Saturday, February 23



**Time:** 7:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Place:** Meet at the Municipal Building; ride bus to the other town buildings.

The budget committee visits each of the major town facilities on its annual tour. A tour booklet provides background information about each town department and building, as well as describing recent and present budget requests. The department head is present at each facility to answer questions and explain major budget requests, if any.

The public is invited to join the committee for the tour. Citizens receive a copy of the tour booklet and are welcome to join in discussions and ask questions. Some people turn out every year. Don't be shy; join the committee for a very informative morning. Children with adults are welcome.

### Summer Employment

Although it is too early to state definitely, but Barre Town usually hires 5 people for full-time summer workers - roughly mid May to late August. The Department of Public Works typically has 4 summer employees who work on the road and utility projects. DPW's regular hours are Monday - Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. The Parks and Cemetery Divisions share a summer worker who works maintaining green space at the park and cemeteries. The hours are 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Employment applications are available at the Town Manager's Office or on the town website: [www.barretown.org/PDFfiles/forms/employment.pdf](http://www.barretown.org/PDFfiles/forms/employment.pdf). Applications could be delivered to the manager's office, emailed to [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org) or mailed to Town of Barre, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. Questions should be directed to the manager's office at 479-9331.

***Residents and non-residents may apply.  
Barre Town is an equal opportunity employer.***



## Town Plan

The Barre Town Planning Commission is well underway in updating the Town's municipal plan. The Town Plan, as it is called, is a document made of numerous elements and goals ranging from economic development to energy to daycares. The plan also is a bit of a historical document with lots of information about how the town has evolved and where it stands right now but at the same time paving a path for the future. Municipalities must have an adopted Town Plan for several beneficial reasons including being eligible for community development grants and updating Zoning Bylaws. Plans are valid for five years after having been adopted by the Selectboard and approved by the Regional Planning Commission. Barre Town's plan expires in June of this year.

The Planning Commission meets regularly on the third Wednesday of every month. Currently, the Planning Commission's meetings are pretty much dedicated to working on the plan but it is likely additional meetings will need to be scheduled. When ready, the Planning Commission will conduct at least one public hearing on the plan. Once approved by the commission, the plan will move to the Selectboard for final approval. The Selectboard will hold at least two public hearings before final adoption. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend any of the meetings and/or hearings held by either the Planning Commission or the Selectboard. Watch the Town's website, this newsletter, or the Times Argus for dates and times. Questions can be directed to the Planning and Zoning Office at 479-2595.

*(Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Office)*

### Planning Commission:

*C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, K. Yearman,  
C. Duke, D. Wilson and J. Hamelin*

**November, December (2012) and January (2013):**  
No action taken; continue work on the Town Plan.

### Voice Mail Extentions:

Town Manager: Carl Rogers @ 479-9331 (Ext. 1261)  
Town Clerk-Treasurer: Donna Kelty @ 479-9391 (Ext. 1251)

## Development Review Board

*(M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen,  
S. Driscoll, G. Richards, J. Valsangiacomo,  
J. Fecteau, J. Hameline)*

**November 2012:** Continued request by Zaremba Group on behalf of M. Bilodeau for boundary line adjustment on East Barre Rd; continued request by Zaremba Group for major site plan approval on East Barre Rd; Approved request by J&M Berry for 6' variance from road right-of-way and 3' variance from left yard setback for the construction of a mudroom on Websterville Rd; approved request by J&M Berry for 5' variance from right yard setback for the expansion of existing porch.

**December 2012:** Approved request by Zaremba Group on behalf of M. Bilodeau for boundary line adjustment on East Barre Rd; Approved request by Zaremba Group for major site plan approval to construct 9,100 sq ft. bldg. on East Barre Rd; continued request by P. Couture for a boundary line adjustment on Websterville Rd. & Littlejohn Rd; approved request by G. Booth and K&G Bission for a boundary line adjustment off Jensen Rd;

**January 2013:** Approved request by M. Ladd et al for a 2-lot subdivision off Beckley Hill Rd; approved request by P. Couture for a boundary line adjustment on Websterville Rd & Littlejohn Rd; approved request by Demas Estate for a 3-lot merger of land located off Middle Rd.

## TSAC Meeting Notes

**A. November 2012** - No meeting for November.

**B. December 2012** - Reviewed a request from Dave Rouleau for guard rail on upper section of Holden Road. No action taken. Reviewed the status of the street lighting upgrade project with Green Mountain Power to LED lights. Reviewed the street detour route for the Bridge Street bridge replacement project.

**C. January 16, 2013** - Reviewed Holden Road guard rail request from December's meeting. Item tabled until further review. Reviewed information on types of temporary speed humps recommended in September 2012 for McLeod Hill Road to be located either side of Lucia. St. Reviewed update on street lighting project with Green Mountain Power.

*(Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer)*

## EMTs WANTED

Barre Town EMS is one of the busiest ambulance services in the state answering about 3,200 calls per year for emergencies and non-emergent transfers. Staffing two stations 24 hours per day, seven days per week and responding to that many calls creates part-time employment opportunities. Daytime, Monday through Friday is the busiest time of the week. Barre Town EMS (BTEMS) utilizes two part-time crews during these hours. When the duty crews are called out, the stations must be backfilled (covered). The need for coverage means there is part-time work opportunity nights and weekends too. When a full-time EMT misses a shift there is an opportunity to work a full shift.



BTEMS has part-time work for EMT's. If you or someone you know is a certified EMT consider applying. If you think you might be interested in EMS work check out BTEMS' third rider program. After completing an application, and an orientation people can ride with and observe an EMT crew on calls. The third rider program can help people decide if EMS work is for them before entering a training program.

Application for the third-rider-program and for part-time EMT positions are available at the Route 302 station and at the town manager's office. Call EMS Director Dave Jennings at 476-3147 for more information or to get an application. *Barre Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

*(Dave Jennings, EMS Director)*

## Ancient Roads Committee Actions

After several site walks on or around roads in question and after many hours researching old and very old town records, on January 23 the Barre Town Ancient Roads Committee made some recommendations to the Selectboard.

A. T.H. #26 (Curtis Road)- A section of this road is mapped as a class 3 (open to year-round travel) road and another section as class 4 (minimal summer maintenance, no winter maintenance). In 1873 Curtis Road extended to the Orange town line. Barre Town selectboard minutes show a part of Curtis Road was reclassified as a legal trail on October 20, 1970. Since 42 years have passed the Committee recommends the board formalize the change and correct the highway mileage certificate submitted to VTrans.

B. T.H. #83 (John Hood Road)- This road starts at Hillside Avenue and travels northerly to Partridge Road. The Committee recommends T.H. #83 be reclassified as a legal trail from Hillside Avenue to a point at the Young-Dessereau property boundary, and discontinued from that point to Partridge Road.

C. T.H. #500 (temporary # assigned to facilitate discussion)- This old road extended from the Old Wells-Lamson Road through Rock of Ages Property and joined Church Hill Road by Lamson's Store. The Committee recommends the board classify it as a trail.

D. T.H. #34 & #35 (Belding Road, Lyman Road) - The Committee recently received new information bringing into question the layout and status of sections of T.H. #34 and T.H. #35 near the intersection with T.H.#33, Lords Mill Road. The Committee reported to the board that this new information deserves further research of town records.

E. Budget Concerns: There could be legal and survey costs associated with following through with these recommendations. The Committee recommended the board budget for these costs. Also the Committee recommended each class 4 road and legal trail be appropriately marked with a street name-type sign.

*(Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer)*

### Winter Softball

Cold air, wet snow, gusty wind..... sound like fun? It is for more than 600 softball players who will help



raise money for two Vermont families with a child diagnosed with cancer. More than 60 co-ed slow-pitch softball teams will occupy Barre Town's big park March 1 -3 to play a one-pitch, double elimination tournament.

Team registration fees, food concessions, souvenir sales and raffles help raise up to \$25,000 per tournament.

Two families will benefit from this year's tournament. Last fall a Colchester family learned their 16 year old daughter has leukemia. A 14 year old from East Rygate has cancerous tumors on her spine.

Spectators are welcome and can contribute by buying food, drink or a raffle ticket. A fireworks display is offered at 9:00 Friday night while teams play under the lights. The championship game is played early Sunday afternoon.

To learn more about the tournament and its good cause or to learn about registering a team visit the website [www.freezingfunforfamilies.com](http://www.freezingfunforfamilies.com).

### Town Forest

The town forest real estate purchase was not closed by January 31 as written in the November newsletter. United States Forest Service (USFS) Community Forest Program requirements for real estate documents 60 days prior to the closing delayed the closing until the end of March. Locally, however, there has been progress. The Town Forest Management Plan Committee finished its recommended plan and presented it to the selectboard. The draft plan is available to read through the town website (a link is provided on the home page). The selectboard held two advertised public hearings in January. The board is contemplating several minor issues and the larger issue of authorizing groups to charge user fees.

The Town purchased property boundary markers which the Trust for Public Land paid a surveyor to install around the property. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Vermont Land Trust are surveying property where the forest property line is close to houses. The small parking area at the top of Barclay Quarry Road was completed and blocked off awaiting the real estate closing. The Town and Barre Area Development signed loan documents in December for \$75,000 of the \$100,000 B.A.D.C. is loaning the Town. Papers for the remaining \$25,000 will be signed in March.

Maps and additional information will be available when the deal is closed. As a condition of several of the funding sources pedestrian uses such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing and running will be free to everyone.



#### BARRE TOWN ELECTION CALENDAR For 2013

2013 Election	Event Date	Petition Deadline Date - 5:00 p.m.	Voter Registration Date - 5:00 p.m.
Annual School Mtg.	March 5, 2013	N/A	February 28, 2013
Town Caucus	March 18, 2013	N/A	Not applicable
Open Town Meeting	May 8, 2013	N/A	May 8, 2013
Annual Town Meeting	May 14, 2013	April 2, 2013	May 8, 2013

**Petition Deadline for Elected Town Officers** (Selectboard, Auditor, and Moderator) is Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 5:00 p.m.

**Election Information** is available at the Barre Town Municipal Building, various local markets, and on the Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)).

**Hours:** Australian Ballot voting will take place at the Barre Town Elementary School gymnasium. The polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. for all elections. 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 each 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](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org).

**Checklist Applications** - Checklist applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Telephone 802-479-9391 or email: [dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org).

### Town Reports

The 2013-2014 Town Report will be sent to the printer soon. The school audits were completed recently. Reports will be available at the following locations: Municipal Building, Lawson's Store, Graniteville General Store, Hannaford's, Trow Hill Grocery, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Brookside Country Store and Morgan's East Barre Market.

**Sterling Hill Update**

**Railroad Project:** The VT Agency of Transportation (AOT) hired CCS Constructors of Morrisville to stabilize the steep bank under the railroad switchback above Sterling Hill Road. Originally the work was to be completed in February. While CCS Construction has made progress the winter cold has delayed work. Completion is not expected until late Spring, 2013. There will be truck traffic starting late March and continuing through April.

**Culvert:** Barre Town was awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant for the installation of a large (8' x 5') reinforced concrete box culvert. Last fall the Town received clearance to proceed with installation. Late this winter the Town will seek bids for manufacture of the box culvert. A separate contract for site work, culvert installation and restoration will be released shortly after the manufacture contract is awarded. The state division for stream alterations requires work not start before June 1. The Town will plan to have the culvert installed in June. The project will be nearly identical to the Cherrywood box culvert installation done in 2009. The major difference is the Sterling Hill culvert is 30'-36' shorter.

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

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