

# Barre Town Newsletter

## Municipal News

Vol. 13, No. 2

April 2010

## A Full Ballot for May 11<sup>th</sup> Election

Barre Town's annual election will be held Tuesday, May 11. This year there are 25 articles on the town election ballot. Coinciding with the town election is a special meeting of the Barre Town School District.

On election day, voters elect 5 town officials: 2 selectboard members, a moderator, a constable, and an auditor. Fourteen agencies are seeking voter approved donations. The list includes one new agency on the Barre Town ballot. There are 5 articles asking if voters will approve Town Charter amendments. The Barre Town School Board received a petition about maintaining "the present two-wave busing system". The School Board called for a special meeting (election) of the school district so the petitioned article could appear on the ballot.

Also on the ballot are the General and Highway Fund budgets. See the article on page 3 of this newsletter for more information about registering to vote, early (absentee) voting, voting hours, and where the ballot can be read.

### BUDGETS

In total, the proposed 2010-2011 General and Highway Fund budgets equal \$5,450,056 which is \$62,355 or 1.15% greater than the current budgets. Both proposed budgets are balanced (revenues equal expenses). The municipal tax rate would increase about 1/4¢ (one-quarter of a penny) to properly fund the two spending plans. If the budgets are approved as proposed, municipal taxes would increase:

\$2.50 per year on a property assessed at \$100,000; \$5.00 per year on a property assessed at \$200,000; and \$7.50 per year on a property assessed at \$300,000.

**General Fund** - The proposed General Fund budget is \$111,540 or 3.95% greater than the current budget. Non-tax revenue is expected to increase \$25,505 requiring a tax revenue increase of \$86,035. A 1.45¢ tax rate increase will be needed for the General Fund budget.

Barre Town's emergency medical service (EMS) per capita fee is going up \$129,645 which is more than the total budget increase. Faced with the prospect of losing the Berlin ambulance service contract, the Selectboard submitted a per capita charge proposal that is lower than the per capita rate for the entire service territory. The proposal won the Berlin contract for another 3 years. The Selectboard made the offer to Berlin because calls originating in Berlin (hospital and nursing homes) account for about 2/3 of all BTEMS calls for service. Without the calls and resulting revenue from Berlin, Barre Town's per capita rate would rise to the \$40-\$45 range, even after cutting staff in half. The move to retain the Berlin contract assures Barre Town EMS can offer fulltime paramedic service 24/7 for another three (3) years.

If the EMS per capita fee is going up more than the total budget increase, the rest of the budget must be decreasing? Yes, but one savings (in police wages) is more than the \$18,105 difference between the per capita rate and the total budget increase. Last year, after the budget was approved, Rock of Ages let it be known they would appeal the total assessed value of its property. With the possibility of a shortfall in tax revenue, the Selectboard retrenched a vacant police officer position. This year, building a budget with 7 fulltime officers instead of 8 produced a savings of \$30,645 in police wages.

After the EMS per capita fee and retrenched police officer position are removed, the remaining General Fund accounts are rising \$12,540 or 4%. There are many changes in these remaining accounts, but public service will change very little. One issue of this newsletter was cut to save \$1,675. There are very few personnel changes. The police officer position was already mentioned. A part-time office helper position in the Town Manager's office was cut to save \$1,986.

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## Lawn Sales

Lawn, porch, and garage sale season will start in May. Like spring flowers, signs advertising sales will pop up along roads and streets, and there will be an ever-changing crop of signs until the leaves fall.



Residents having a sale should consider the impact of their sale on motorists and on roadside aesthetics. Plan for parking and traffic. If possible, park customers' cars off of the road. If roadside parking is necessary, direct customers to the safest spots where the car is mostly off the road and can be seen at a safe distance by oncoming drivers. (Don't park in a blind spot on the road!) Roadside signs on either side of the sale would give motorists advance warning of cars parked on the road and of sudden stops or slow-downs (windshield shoppers).

Directional and advertising signs logically are placed at intersections. It can't be helped, but signs can and should be placed where they do not block drivers' line-of-sight. Check your signs by driving through the intersection and noticing if the signs obstruct the view. Finally, remove signs within 24 hours of the sale closing.

Lawn sales can be profitable and fun, but shouldn't be at the expense and injury of others. Be responsible. ■

- Carl Rogers, Town Manager

## Picnic Shelter Reservations

The picnic shelter at Barre Town's recreation complex is available for group functions. It's a popular venue for family reunions, corporate cookouts, and other assorted gatherings. To reserve the shelter, contact Recreation Maintenance Supervisor Don Gainey at 476-6174 for availability. The minimum reservation fee is \$50 per group less than 50 people; a \$1 per person charge is assessed for groups over 50.

Book your event today! ■

- Kelly Murphy, Management Intern

## Fireworks Permits - What you should know

Most all towns require a fireworks permit of some kind. Fireworks are legal once you have a permit. You can pick up permit applications at the Barre Town Clerk's Office. The cost is \$15.00.

The next thing to do is get approval from the Selectboard. They meet every other week in the summer, so don't wait until the last day. Get it done early and you won't be disappointed.

There are 3 kinds of fireworks. A-rated must have a license. B-rated are what you see at big events and you should have help or someone who is experienced. C-rated are what most people use.

Remember people get hurt and even killed every year ... so be safe. Also, call the Town Fire Warden if it's been really dry. ■

- Steve Blondin, DPW Superintendent

## Message from the Fire Warden

Hello, and welcome to another burn season. We want to remind everyone that you need to obtain a burn permit before starting any bonfires. Burn only natural wood, not painted, stained, or plywood that has glue products in it. Paper products and cardboard are considered trash. Trash burning is an offense dealt with by the Police Department. Burn barrels are not legal in Vermont and shall not be used for any reason to burn in.

Please give as much notice as possible. If you call and want to burn NOW, it might not happen that fast. We have the right to come and inspect burn sites. Last year, Brent Putney (deputy fire warden) and I did visit a few of you. We will this year as well, to keep things in check with the burning laws. For any questions about what you can and cannot burn, visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org), click Barre Town Fire Dept., and you will see the Fire Warden box. Click on it to see updated information. Or call us at 498-8694, leave a message, and we will call you back as soon as possible.

If Brent or I do come see you, remember we are just doing our job for you and your town, so please help us with the information we ask for. If you are burning without a permit and there is a complaint or we happen to stop by, there is a chance we will ask you to put it out. It will go in the records as an un-permitted burn and that will be a warning. A burn ban can be placed on the property for one year.

Again, please call us at 498-8694 and wait to hear back from Brent or me so a permit can be issued to you. Thank you for your support, patience, and cooperation. Have a safe, fun, and careful burn season. ■

- Christopher Day, Barre Town Fire Warden

### OPERATION HOLIDAY HOMECOMING

Thanks to the generosity of Barre Town residents, the Town Clerk's Office collected \$200 in support of Operation Holiday Homecoming. Your support provided an opportunity for our deployed soldiers to spend the holiday season with their family.

**FULL BALLOT** (continued from page 1)

Other, more significant budget changes are:

- Health insurance premiums are expected to be \$18,725 more than this year, but reductions in two health insurance related accounts drop the net increase to \$14,295.
- Barre Area Development requested and received a \$14,125 increase to help fund the Executive Director position.
- A reduction of \$6,400 for two solid waste services (brush chipping and bulk trash day roll-off containers) is planned.
- Unemployment compensation insurance will cost \$5,850 more because the base for U.C. premiums rose from \$8,000 of pay to \$10,000 of pay, and the rate increased from 6.97% to 7.8%.
- The Washington County tax will be \$5,395 less than the current year.

**Highway Fund** - The proposed \$2,517,020 Highway Fund budget is \$49,185 or 1.9% less than the present Highway Fund budget. With a slight increase (\$9,305) in non-tax revenue and Grand List growth (\$400 more revenue per 1¢), the Highway Fund tax rate will decrease 1.18¢.

There are two primary reasons for the budget decrease. A fulltime employee will retire early next fiscal year. The vacant position will not be filled. The budget savings for wages and benefits is \$62,800. To compensate for the loss of an employee, another plow route will be contracted out; the estimated expense is \$15,000. Because this is the second DPW position cut, the Budget Committee added \$10,000 for contracted summer maintenance work. The net budget savings is \$37,800.

Old Man Winter must have high blood pressure because the '09-'10 winter took very little salt – about half a typical winter, in fact. The Budget Committee directed the large salt storage building be filled now. With the large supply on hand to start next fiscal year, the road salt budget was reduced by \$60,000.

Those two primary savings total \$97,800. The net budget reduction is \$49,185; therefore, the remainder of the Highway Fund is increasing \$48,615. Six items are responsible for \$39,960 of that amount. The remaining 74 Highway Fund budget accounts are increasing \$8,655 or .33%. The six notable items are: 1) \$16,440 more for equipment rent (paid to the town Equipment Fund) for summer and winter maintenance activities; 2) \$9,665 more for contracted sidewalk (winter) maintenance; 3) \$6,790 more in administration/engineering salaries because a greater percent of three DPW employees' pay is charged to the Highway Fund after the Bus Fund was eliminated; 4) \$2,950 more for the streetlight bill; 5) \$2,115 more for the first contracted snowplow route; and 6) \$2,000 more for contracted line painting.

The road paving program will continue at the same level as in the past. Efforts to improve and maintain gravel roads will continue. Overall, no reductions in road maintenance are planned.

The ballot lists five articles for proposed amendments to the Town Charter. See the article below for more information. The School District's special meeting to vote on maintaining the current two-wave busing system is not a town (municipal) matter and does not impact the General Fund and Highway Fund budgets proposed for 2010-2011.

More information will be offered in a Budget Booklet at stores around town and in the Municipal Building. Also, a budget presentation will be played over CTV, Channel 7 the week before the election. Please vote! ■

- Carl Rogers, Town Manager

## Town Meeting

**Hear ye! Hear ye!**

Open Town Meeting is Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School Gymnasium beginning at 7:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for town residents to bring questions related to town operations and expenditures before voting on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Voters will vote on local officials, the municipal budget, and proposed Charter amendments. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deadline to register for the voter checklist is Wed., May 5, at 5 p.m. Early voting ballots can be done in the Town Clerk's Office until 4:30 p.m. on Mon., May 10. Absentee ballots must be in receipt of the Town Clerk's Office no later than 4:30 p.m., May 11. ■

- Kelly Murphy, Management Intern



## Revising Our Charter

Barre Town is governed by two sets of rules: Vermont Statutes Annotated and the Town Charter. Both are approved by the State Legislature. However, the Town Charter's purpose is to clarify the structure and organization of town government; define the duties and responsibilities of town officers, officials, and employees; establish procedural requirements for the proper transaction of town business; and provide citizens a unified and more convenient reference with respect to the basic laws affecting Barre Town.

As with any set of rules, there are times when they become outdated or need clarification and must be amended. The Town Charter and Vermont Statutes have strict procedures for Charter amendments. Each step of the process has deadlines which have to be met. Without going into great detail, the process highlights are:

(continued on page 4)

**WHEN IS THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?**  
 Due to budget constraints, the Barre Town Newsletter will be published 3 times a year instead of 4. The next edition will be published in October.

**REVISING OUR CHARTER** *(continued from page 3)*

- › Changes proposed by the Selectboard/petition
- › Notices posted and public hearings for information/comment are held
- › Changes are voted on by Australian ballot
- › Election results are filed with the Secretary of State who forwards copies to the State Legislature
- › The amendment becomes effective upon an affirmative vote of the proposal (as proposed or as amended by House and Senate).

This year the Town Meeting ballot has five questions asking residents to amend five sections in the Town Charter. Some of the amendments are simple such as changing the word “selectmen” to “selectboard”, or “he” to “town clerk”. So let’s discuss the proposed changes:

- **Ballot question #19 amends Ch. 1, Sec. 2 (Meetings and Elections).** The Town is required to hold an open Town Meeting the Monday night prior to the election. At this meeting, through a floor vote, business conducted includes setting property tax and sewer use charge due dates, giving the Selectboard authorization to sell town real estate, and announcing the Wendell Pelkey Citizenship award. Immediately following the meeting, an overview of the proposed Town Budget is given. Historically, turnout for Town Meeting has been almost non-existent and does not give the voter ample time to gather questions and review the budget on his/her own. As a result, the Board of Civil Authority recommended amending the open meeting date. It would be moved from the “Monday before” to the “Wednesday before” Australian voting. This day was chosen as it is the deadline to register to vote for this election. The BCA further recommended the Selectboard move their regular weekly meeting to this Wednesday and combine it with the BCA checklist meeting and the Open Meeting budget presentation. With the Selectboard meeting being televised, this is an economical and convenient way for Barre Town voters to hear about budget changes prior to the vote.

- **Ballot question #20 amends Ch. 1, Sec. 8 (Nomination of Candidates).** The Town Charter requires petitions for town offices to list signatures of 1% of the registered voters (currently 57). During discussions, the BCA noted the number of required petition signatures for a local office is more than what is needed to run for State Representative (50) which is unjust. The proposed recommendation is to

amend the number of signatures required to thirty (30) signatures of voters or 1% of the voters, whichever is less.

- **Ballot question #21 amends Ch. 3, Sec. 10 (Elected Officers: General [c]).** Last year there was a discrepancy between the Charter and State Statute regarding the compatibility of two elected offices. For clarification, the following sentence is added: No person shall hold offices which are defined as incompatible in Vermont Statutes.
- **Ballot question #22 amends Ch. 3, Sec. 12 (Auditors).** Barre Town hires an outside audit firm to do our annual audits. A few years ago, rules overseeing audits for municipalities changed which required the Town to comply with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices. Some of the compliance rules which have greatly impacted the way we do business is: 1) our audit cannot begin until 60 days after the end of the fiscal year; 2) we are required to have a Management Discussion & Analysis Report; 3) include fixed assets in the audit (roads, bridges, etc.); and 4) the firm doing the audit cannot do our adjusting entries for those fixed assets. The Charter states the Town Report is available not later than 100 days after the close of the fiscal year. Given the new rules, this makes meeting that deadline impossible. The proposed amendment is deleting the “100” day deadline and inserting the audit deadline of 185 days after the close of the fiscal year.

- **Ballot question #23 amends Ch. 5, Sec. 28(a) & (b), (Budget Preparation).** This clarifies the Town Manager’s role in the budget preparation and clarifies the budget presented to voters is the budget which was adopted by the Budget Committee (Selectboard plus 5 citizens).

The full text of the proposed Charter amendments are available in the Announcements on the town web site ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)). The complete Charter, with current language, is available on the web site; click on Charter and Ordinances.

- Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

IMPORTANT DATES	
May 15 ..... 8 a.m.	Flags for Veterans - placing flags on veterans’ graves in Wilson, Maplewood, Hope, St. Monica’s cemeteries. Volunteers welcome. Rain date May 22.
May 15 ..... all day	BTMES PSTL group will be holding Family Fun Day event to promote outdoor recreation, BT Park
May 22 ..... 11 a.m.-4 p.m.	BYSA organizing a Family Fun Day fundraiser to benefit less fortunate youth athletes, BT park
May 22 ..... 9 a.m.	Central VT Runners is sponsoring the Barre Town 5K Spring Run; BT park
June 20 ..... 12-2 p.m.	Barre Town Fire Dept. Father’s Day Chicken BBQ, E.B. fire station

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# SOLID WASTE NEWS

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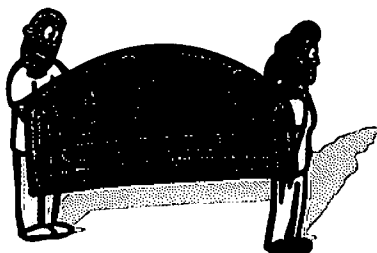
## SPRING BULK TRASH COLLECTION - May 8

Pick up a newspaper, magazine, or just listen to the news and all you hear is the need to go green — reduce/recycle and reuse/compost. Barre Town has been on the cutting edge of this movement with our semi-annual bulk trash collection events. This year marks our 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary (our first event was held in May 1993)!

The Spring Bulk Trash Collection event will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Public Works garage on Websterville Road. This service is offered to Town residents for their home use only. Residency can be confirmed by bringing your property tax or utility bill.

Acceptable bulk trash items include, but are not limited to:

- Building demolition materials such as wood (easily-handled lengths), sheetrock, plaster, roofing shingles (must be in containers), windows, vinyl siding, porcelain fixtures
- Furniture – wooden and upholstered, mattresses, carpeting
- Toys – large plastic, swimming pool liners



Vehicle Type	Fee
Car	\$5.00
Pickup truck	\$8.00
Unloaded car/truck with loaded trailer	\$8.00
Loaded car/pickup with loaded trailer	\$13.00
Truck larger than pickup (1-ton maximum)	\$13.00
Loaded large truck with loaded trailer	\$20.00

Some items/materials are not accepted at the bulk trash collection. Take the following materials to: household trash and recyclables, consumer electronics (TVs, computers) tires, and appliances - Wilson Recycling Depot; household hazardous wastes (oil-based paint, pesticides, etc.) - HHW collection on May 22; grass clippings, tree branches - Holden Road lawn waste site. There is a disposal fee for some items, so visit the Barre Town web site ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)), Solid Waste Department, for details.

Would you like to volunteer to work at this event? Call a Selectboard member or the Town Intern, Kelly Murphy, at 479-9331.

### S.K.I.P. on over and participate in the Spring Bulk Trash Collection event!

- S** = Safety! During the event, be alert and follow the directions given by staff/ volunteers; protect our children and keep them inside the vehicle.
- K** = Know the date, time, place of this semi-annual event.
- I** = Identity, bring your proof of residency.
- P** = Pack your vehicle sensibly; plan your driving and delivery route ... remember: last in - first out. Make unloading fast, easy, and safe!

- Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

## **Green Up Day**

Barre Town, like the rest of Vermont, has many scenic areas. Litter is a blight on our roadsides and other public areas. You, your family, your neighborhood, your club, or your co-workers can help by cleaning a section or two of roadway or other public space. You'll be rewarded with satisfaction in keeping Vermont beautiful, with appreciation from many travelers and with a BBQ lunch!

This is Vermont Green Up's 40<sup>th</sup> year. The main event is the first Saturday of May – May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Barre Town's coordinators Jeff and Danette Gagne have organized a BBQ lunch for all volunteers. The BBQ is held at the picnic shelter in the town park (behind the school) around noon.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to sign up through the Town Manager's Office. You will be asked to give your name (or group name), a phone number, and the area(s) to be cleaned up. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Town web site ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)). Check it to see what areas have been claimed. Contact the Manager's Office at 479-9331 or [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org) to add your name to the list. Vermont Green Up trash bags, latex gloves, and BBQ lunch tickets are available in the Manager's Office.

On the day of action, volunteers bag the litter and leave the full bags along the road. The Town will collect bags and large debris. Arrangements can be made if it is more convenient for volunteers to pick up litter a few days before or after May 1.

All non-participants: You can help by driving extra careful on May 1. You will see more people than usual along the road, and children frequently volunteer for Green Up.

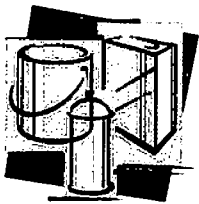
- Carl Rogers, Town Manager

## **Household Hazardous Waste**

There are four categories of household hazardous waste (HHW) that account for the vast majority of hazardous materials that may be present in a home. The categories are: toxic cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, paint, and pesticides. These HHW should be removed from homes to prevent a child or pet from inhaling or ingesting the material or spilling it on themselves. Likewise, these HHW must be properly disposed of to prevent environmental damage or public health contamination.

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) provides a series of HHW collections from spring to fall. Use the HHW collection when made available; there may not be another reasonably-priced disposal option available when you have to dispose of the HHW.

The CVSWMD will offer a HHW collection on Saturday, May 22 at the Barre Town Public Works garage, 129 Websterville Road, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fee is just \$15.00 per car load. Other CVSWMD collections will be held on June 26 at the Tunbridge Transfer Station and on September 25 at the VT Department of Labor in Montpelier. Hours for all events are 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Read the cleaning product packaging for proper disposal instructions. Don't wash out almost empty containers and rinse down the drain or toss the water on the ground. Don't mix left-over cleaners; there could be an unpleasant and dangerous chemical reaction. Fluorescent bulbs (including new compact fluorescent bulbs) contain mercury and must be handled carefully to prevent breakage. Some retailers accept fluorescent bulbs free of charge, or take them to the HHW collection. Liquid (wet) latex paint and oil-based paint cannot be discarded with regular trash. If the paint can't be re-used, take it to a HHW collection. Paint thinners and cleaners fall into this category. Pesticides and all the other "cides" – rodenticides, fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides – are dangerous chemicals; after all, they are meant to kill. Bring left-over or unused "cides" to the HHW collection.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.cvswwmd.org](http://www.cvswwmd.org) or call 229-9383.

- Carl Rogers, Town Manager

## **Holden Road Lawn Waste Site**

This spring, the DPW opened the Holden Road lawn waste site ahead of schedule Saturday, April 10 due to early spring conditions. Many residents of Barre Town welcome the opportunity to haul their grass clippings, leaves, and tree debris to this compost site.

The site will be open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout the summer until about early November. Wednesdays (beginning May 5) will be manned by volunteers Jewel Starz and Ed Relation from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Thursdays will be manned by volunteers Joe and Cliff Coates from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Saturdays are manned by employees from the DPW from 8:00 a.m.-noon.

We are still looking for additional volunteers to allow for extra hours during the week. If you are interested in volunteering, the Town Manager's Office is accepting calls (479-9331) from folks who are willing to spare a couple of hours on a weekly basis through the summer months. We are looking to form 2-person teams (minimum) for any given shift or time period.

The site is open to Barre Town residents for disposing of organic and garden waste such as tree branches under 5" in diameter, leaves, flower and garden plants, old vegetable stalks and vines, etc. Please follow the directions of the attendants on-site. Residents are expected to unload their own material for disposal. Also, please remember to remove and take with you any plastic or paper bags from leaf or lawn clippings. Branches or logs larger than 5" should be placed in the firewood stall area. Wood chips, compost, and firewood are free so help yourself. Town equipment will not be used to load mulch or wood chips, so please bring your own shovels or buckets.

Building lumber may be taken to the bulk trash collection in May or September at the DPW garage, but do not bring them to the Holden Road site.

This site is not a stump dump. The Town hires a wood chipper to grind up Christmas trees and branches. The chipper is not able to grind up stumps or large logs.

- Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

## Want To Serve Your Town?

In over two decades I've been an employee of Barre Town, people have mentioned to me how they would like to be involved in their community. Most of the time, people decide they are too busy or they don't have anything to offer. In the end, many decide not to do anything.

I'm writing to let people know a couple of things about serving on a town board or commission. The first thing is time. Time is precious; there is no doubt about that. Here in Barre Town, we have numerous boards and commissions that, while they take time, many really don't take that much. On a rare exception, a little homework is needed, but most boards or commissions only meet one night a month and generally meetings last a couple hours.

The second important point for people to understand is that everybody has something to offer. A broad range of representation on a board or commission makes it that much stronger. I have yet to meet anybody that when provided a list of regulations and guidelines on how a process works, can't sit, listen, and make an informed decision on any subject. So if one reason you might not feel like serving on a board or commission is that you don't have something to offer, please don't feel that way.

The following boards or commissions are open to residents to serve on:

- Planning Commission,
- Development Review Board,
- Traffic Safety Advisory Committee,
- Cemetery Commission,
- Recreation Board,
- Housing Advisory Committee, and
- Central VT Regional Planning Commission.

Every May the Selectboard appoints citizens to the boards mentioned above. With staggered appointments, there are always positions that need filling. This year alone, 15 terms are expiring. Many times the person holding a position is reappointed – often times because there isn't anybody that has expressed an interest in serving. Currently, there is an opening on the Recreation Board. I encourage anybody that has ever thought about how you can serve your community to consider serving on a Barre Town board or commission.

If you are interested (and I hope you are) in serving your community by sitting on a board or commission, you can request a model letter of interest by calling 479-9331 or emailing [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org). You can find the model letter on the town web site under Permits & Forms. All you need to do at that point is submit a letter of interest to the Town Manager at either PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or [crogers@barretown.org](mailto:crogers@barretown.org). You could find yourself helping steer the direction Barre Town heads for years to come. ■

- Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Administrator

### HAVE YOU NOTICED ...

for this newsletter the department heads wrote articles about other departments' news? These assignments were made in an effort to add new perspective to events, services, and processes. The assignments also require department heads to learn about another department and breaks up their monotony in writing the same articles each year.

- Carl Rogers, Town Manager

## Lodging of 2010 Grand List



The 2010 abstract of individual lists (proposed Grand List) probably will be lodged in mid-May, but no later than June 19, with the Town Clerk. The abstract will be available for review at that time.

The same day the abstract (Grand List) is lodged with the Town Clerk, a Notice of Change of Appraisal is mailed to every owner whose property value was changed. Also on the same day the abstract is lodged, a Notice of Grand List Lodged is published in the local paper and posted on store bulletin boards.

During the 14-day period, property owners are encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office and arrange an informal meeting to ask questions and hear an explanation of assessing methods. Call the Assessor's Office at 479-2595 to make an appointment.

Grievance hearings will begin 14 days after the abstract has been lodged. Taxpayers will be allowed sufficient time to make their case during the hearing. A decision probably will not be made at that time.

A Result of Grievance Notice will be mailed to all grievants within 7 days of the last grievance hearing. The notice will include the assessor's decision and instructions on appealing the decision to the Board of Civil Authority. Property owners will have 14 days from the date of mailing of the Result of Grievance Notice in which to appeal to the Board of Civil Authority.

Grievances and appeals are expected, and an important part of the assessment process. They will be handled professionally and in a timely manner. ■

- Dave Jennings, EMS Director

## Summer Time and the Living's Easy – Recreation Invitation



Enjoy the great outdoors!

What better way to spend your free time this summer season than taking advantage of all that Barre Town has to offer. Such offerings promote healthy living and are an inexpensive way to relax and rejuvenate during the warmer

months. From trails for biking, hiking, and walking, to fields for various sporting events, to parks for picnics – there's something for everyone. There are basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts as well. For a complete listing of amenities and locations, visit the Town's recreation website: <http://www.barretown.org/Pages/dept/rec.html>.

In addition to general offerings, the Barre Town Recreation Department has partnered with Barre City to offer a youth track and field program. The program is for children ages 7-14. Programming will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to compete in the Hershey's Track Meet on July 10 and the Vermont Recreation & Parks Association Track Meet on July 24. Registration forms are available on Barre City's website: [www.barrecity.org](http://www.barrecity.org) or at the Town Municipal Building. The cost is \$25 per child.

Lastly, back by popular demand, Barre Town is offering swim lesson reimbursements of \$25/child/season. Lessons are offered at First In Fitness (223-6161), Lotus Lake (433-5451), and Barre City (476-0257) to name a few locations. To obtain this benefit a reimbursement form, receipt of payment, and proof of lesson completion must be submitted to the Town Manager's Office. Reimbursement forms are available on the Town's web site under permits and forms.

- Kelly Murphy, Management Intern

### TAXES DUE!

Property taxes are due Monday, May 17. A drop box to the left of the front door of the Municipal Building is available for your convenience. Reminder: Any taxes unpaid after June 30<sup>th</sup> will be listed in the Town Report.

## Man Of The Hour

Edo Perantoni passed away earlier this year. The Perantoni family asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations could be made in Edo's memory. One of the suggested recipients was the Barre Town Recreation Board. Upon

learning the news of donations in Edo's memory, the Recreation Board and Selectboard agreed the donations would be used to purchase and install a new scoreboard on the softball field – the Edo Perantoni Field. The Budget Committee suggested this article as many residents might not have heard of Edo's passing and to give notice of the fundraising effort in his memory.

Edo was the Parks Maintenance Supervisor for 17 years. He was instrumental in building the Barre Town Recreation & Athletic Complex (or Park). His relentless and conscientious maintenance developed the park's reputation as one of the finest in the state. Because of his devotion to the fields and recreation area, the softball field was named in his honor upon his retirement. He was selected to receive Barre Town's Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship & Public Service Award in 1998.

The Edo Perantoni Softball Field needs a new scoreboard. It will be appropriate to fit the scoreboard with a "In Memory of Edo Perantoni" sign. Donations may be sent to the Town Clerk's Office, PO Box 124, Websterville, VT 05678.

- Carl Rogers, Town Manager

## 2010 Summer Construction

The following roads will have work done on them this summer. Please heed the times; traffic can be tied up a little longer making your travel a little slower.

You will see the streets have been grouped together to keep the paving in a particular neighborhood. It is important to recognize that if you live in the area where the paving will be done, and you come home during the daytime, you may not be able to make it to your house. Consider making arrangements with your neighbors to park in their yard if need be so you will not be inconvenienced.

You will notice that pavement milling will occur from July 6-16 and must be done by the 16<sup>th</sup> so the hot mix asphalt paving contract #2 can begin on July 19-30. Pavement reclamation (which consists of complete crushing and chip seal) will occur August 2-20. This will take the surface off the roadway leaving the roadway rough while this project is being completed. Motorcycles should use caution while traveling Plainfield Brook Road. Hot mix asphalt paving contract #3 is in the Websterville area and Barre View area and will complete the schedule from August 23-September 3.

If you have questions, feel free to contact DPW Superintendent Steve Blondin at 476-3522.

Hot mix asphalt paving contract #1 (June 21-July 2):

1. Waterman St. - Websterville Rd. to Donahue - 2" overlay
2. Panther Dr. - entire street - 2" overlay
3. Hillside Ave. - entire street spot repairs & 2" overlay

(Continued on page 7)



**SUMMER CONSTRUCTION** (continued from page 6)2009-2010 work held over from 2009 - full-depth reclamation & double chipseal (during June 2010):

1. Pierce Rd. - entire street
2. Nuissl Rd. - end of pavement to Pierce
3. Old Quarry Hill Rd. - entire street
4. Anderson Rd. - Pierce Rd. to Phelps Rd.

Pavement milling (July 6-16):

1. Middle Rd. - Graniteville Rd. to upper Hutchins Cir.
2. Windywood Rd. - Andrus farmhouse to GMP #44
3. Miller Rd. - end of new pavement to south end of Birchwood Park
4. Buick Street - entire street
5. Ferris St. & Ferris St. Ext. - entire streets
6. Bolster Rd. - top half of street
7. W. Cobble Hill Rd. - E. Cobble Hill to Cobble Hill Meadows

Hot mix asphalt paving contract #2 (July 19-30):

1. Windywood Rd. - upper Sugarwoods Rd. to Sunset - 2" overlay
2. W. Cobble Hill Rd. - E. Cobble Hill Rd. to Cobble Hill Meadows - 2" overlay
3. Crescent Lane - entire length - 2" overlay
4. Camire Hill Rd. - entire length - 2" overlay
5. Miller Rd. - end of new pavement to south end of Birchwood Park - 2" overlay
6. Middle Rd. - Graniteville Rd. to upper Hutchins Cir. - 2" overlay
7. Meadow Wood Dr. - entire length - 2" overlay

Pavement reclamation and chipseal (Aug. 2-20):

1. Plainfield Brook Rd. - Camire Hill to mid-point

Hot mix asphalt paving contract #3 (Aug. 23-Sept. 3):

1. Bolster Rd. - top half - 2" overlay
2. Buick St. - entire street
3. Ferris St. & Ferris St. Ext. - entire streets - 1½" overlay
4. Pitman Rd. - Parker Rd. to current end of pavement - 2" overlay; end of pavement to recycling depot - 4" paving
5. Parker Rd. - end of pavement to SBE driveway - 4" paving
6. Barre View St. - Gr. Mountain View to Quarry Hill Rd. - 2" overlay

- Mike Stevens, Chief of Police

handful of owners attended the meeting; several others submitted their opinion in writing. The RFP or request for proposals for preliminary engineering (collecting planning information) has not been written. There is a possibility of obtaining a grant for the preliminary engineering study. The committee is waiting for news about the grant possibility. There has been no progress on the section of path needed to connect Websterville Road to the East Barre path already cleared on the old railroad bed.

● **Wilson Industrial Park and S.B. Electronics:**

**Industrial Park** - During the winter, GMP strung 3-phase electric lines from Websterville Road to the end of Bolster Road. This month the Town DPW will build the gravel base for the 1,900' of road that will connect Bolster Road to SBE's driveway. When the gravel base is done, GMP will return to pull its electric cables through the conduit from Bolster Road to the current end of pavement near Highland Sugarworks. This spring the Town will hire a contractor to build a stormwater retention pond.

**SBE** - The town closed the real estate sale to the partners who will own the 10-acre lot on which SBE's new plant is being built. The VT Dept. Of Housing & Community Affairs, Community Development Program, offered the Selectboard a grant agreement (for the grant awarded last October). In March the Selectboard adopted the necessary resolution and authorized signing of documents to complete the loan to SBE. SBE's contractors have begun work. They expect their new 52,000 s.f. facility to be finished late this year. Production of power rings in the new plant is expected to start early next year.



**SBE Groundbreaking - April 17, 2010**

1st on left, U.S. Rep. Peter Welch; 2nd on left, Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie; 5th from left (in white coat) Cathy Zoi, Asst. Sec. of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (U.S. Dept. of Energy); 6th from left Gov. James Douglas; 3rd from right, SBE Pres. Ed Sawyer

## PROJECT UPDATES

● **Semprebon Bequest & Bike Path:** The Bike Path Committee invited to a meeting all property owners along the 2 possible routes that would connect the existing bike path (Millstone Hill West) to the South Barre path. A

● **East Barre Sidewalk:** Since the last newsletter issued in February, there has been some progress. AOT issued the necessary environmental clearance. The right-of-way plans have been submitted to AOT's Right-Of-Way Section for approval. When approval is granted, the Town's project manager will contact property owners. Town officials are still hopeful the project can be built this year. ■

## Boards and Commissions - Summary Report

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BRD** (*M. Nicholson, P. Malone, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, E. Bancroft, J. Fecteau, J. Valsangiacomo*)

**Feb. 2010:** Approved request by R.G. Gosselin for 2-lot subdivision on Snowbridge Rd.; denied request by CVCLT for 6' variance from side yard setback on Orchard Terrace.

**Mar. 2010:** No action.

**Apr. 2010:** Approved request by G. Booth/HP Hood for boundary line adjustment on Allen St.; approved request by N. & B. Lyford for 3-lot subdivision on Washington Rd.; denied request by A. Bartlett for 5' variance from rear yard setback on Crest St.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** (*C. Sanborn, M. Hutchins, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, K. Yearman, E. Brigham, C. Duke*)

**Feb. 2010:** Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway curb-cut for Pike Ind. on behalf of Bond Auto on Prospect St.

**Mar. 2010:** Approved request by R. Moody for allowed use determination to operate a commercial firewood business on Osborne Rd.; approved request by R. Moody for 2<sup>nd</sup> curb-cut on Osborne Rd.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (*D. Newhall, P. White, V. Vallerand, C. Liese, J. VanGuilder*)

**Feb. 2010:** Recommended installing hidden drive signs and 25 mph advisory sign placards on existing curve ahead signs on Taplin Rd.

**Mar. 2010:** Recommended 3 locations for High Risk Rural Roads Program: Rt. 110/Mill St., East Cobble Hill Rd., Route 14/Pine Hill Rd. Reviewed gravel roads currently 40 mph and consider lowering speed limits to 35 mph.

**MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED**

Memorial Day	-	Monday, May 31
Independence Day	-	Monday, July 5
Labor Day	-	Monday, Sept. 6

**TOWN OF BARRE**  
**PO Box 116**  
**Websterville, VT 05678-0116**

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