

Barre Town Newsletter

Municipal News

Vol. 16, No. 2

April 2013

TOWN FOREST PURCHASED

BUDGETS UP FOR VOTER APPROVAL



Barre Town's municipal election day is on May 14. Registered town voters will elect town officers (selectboard, moderator, auditor, constable) and decide if the Budget Committee's proposed General and Highway Fund budgets are acceptable (See article on page 2 for information about registering to vote and about voting).

The proposed property tax funded budgets total \$5,760,381, which is \$83,090 or 1.46% more than the current fiscal year (CY). Both budgets are balanced - new revenues equal planned spending. The combined municipal tax rate would rise one penny to support the budgets. A 1¢ tax rate translates to a \$10 per year tax bill increase for each \$100,000 of assessed value. A property assessed at \$50,000 would see a \$5 increase in the yearly tax bill. A \$200,000 property would pay \$20 more in taxes.

Budget Committee members Jack Mitchell, Bill Kirby, Jaime Fewer, Tom White, Jason Pinard, and the selectboard propose a General Fund (GF) budget of \$3,224,851.

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TOWN FOREST PURCHASED!

The end of June, 2010 the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Millstone Trails Association (MTA) approached the selectboard about buying several hundred acres of land that would become a town forest. After 33 months of studying, fund-raising, planning, writing, negotiating, revising, checking and double-checking, the Town of Barre, TPL and a handful of landowners finally got to the signing and paying. The data gathering, pondering, grant writing, hand wringing and debating will be well worth the collective effort. Barre Town now has an open space asset the public can use for recreation and education forever. The forest will be managed for timber harvesting earning money for the town and supporting the regional forestry industry. Visitors will contribute to the local economy, and the forest will be a draw to residential and business properties.

The \$1.38 million deal was completed on March 29. The Town paid \$100,000 as advertised. MTA kicked in \$100,000 as planned. TPL raised the remainder of the cash. Major grant sources included the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program (\$400,000), the VT Housing and Conservation Board (\$310,500) and the Open Space Institute (\$220,000). 355 acres were acquired from five owners. The open space,
(Continued on page 3)



(Budget Approval – Continued)

This amount is 5% or \$153,900 more than the CY. A 2.5¢ tax rate increase would be needed to pay the planned expenses. The GF has three main sections; Administration and Finance (A&F), Public Safety and All Other Departments. Department budgets in A&F represent 22.28% of the GF. For FY '14 these budgets are increasing \$9,610 or 1.35%. The public safety department budgets are 45.54% of the GF. For FY '14 these department budgets are increasing \$103,150 or 7.55%. All Other departments comprise 32.18% of the budget and for next fiscal the budgets would go up \$41,140 or 4.1%.

The single largest change in the budget is the plan to have an additional (the 8th) full-time police officer. \$40,000 was added to the budget to hire an officer at mid-year. Barre Town's ambulance per capita fee (paid to our own Ambulance Fund) is jumping up \$28,810. Both of these expenses fall in the public safety section.

Debt service is in the All Other section. The first year (of 4) of the town forest loan payment is adding \$27,915 to the budget. The fourth biggest increase is back in public safety. The Budget Committee proposed \$25,000 be added to the fire department budget to change the East Barre Station's furnace from oil to propane and to remove the 30+ year old underground oil tank. Savings on the heat bill is the motivation. The recreation department gets the fifth biggest increase. The recreation board wants to overhaul the Upper Websterville playground. It asked for \$40,000 for new apparatus. The manager recommended \$20,000. The Budget Committee approved \$15,000. Recreation is in the All Other section.

The additional full-time police officer is the only proposed staffing change. Other highlights include: \$6,800 for a new town website program; \$6,000 for recreation programs; \$4,700 to survey and engineer an extension of the East Barre bike path from Millstone Boulevard to the town office.

While the GF is going up 5% the proposed Highway Fund (HF) budget is 2.7% or \$70,810 less than the CY. The FY '14 HF budget is \$2,535,530. A 1.5¢ tax decrease is possible due to the reduction in spending and small increase in non-tax revenue. The proposed HF would maintain the same services and amount of road surfacing. Eliminating the assistant superintendent position is the only change in staffing.

The biggest change in the HF budget is a \$77,270 reduction in the paved road project sections. The Committee recommends a less expensive pavement plan be used on some streets. Next on the list is a \$38,400 increase in the salt purchase account. The CY account was reduced because of salt left over from the winter of '11 -'12. The '13 -'14 budget re-sets the account at its typical amount. Third on the list of major adjustments is a \$28,200 reduction in wages and equipment (one less pick-up truck) due to retrenchment of the assistant superintendent position. Another significant savings is completion of the Bridge Street bridge. The CY budget includes \$25,000 to help pay

the Town's share of the new bridge. No more money for that project is needed in the FY '14 budget.

Other Ballot Questions – Last year voters approved all 13 not-for-profit agency requests for a donation. The 13 donations total \$44,250. All 13 are back on the ballot for the same amounts.

More budget information will be available in budget booklets the end of April. The booklets will be available at the municipal building, Hannafords, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Brookside Country Store, Trow Hill Grocery, East Barre Market, Lawson's Store and Graniteville General Store. Look for a budget program on CVTV Channel 7 May 6-11.

ELECTION DEADLINES & INFORMATION

When are the elections? Barre Town has two (2) municipal elections. The "Barre Town Open Meeting" will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room. This election is conducted in the traditional "from the floor" manner. Moderator Tom Koch will be presiding. The "Annual Election of Officers and Voting By Australian Ballot" (second election) will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at the Barre Town Elementary School Gymnasium. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.



If you are **not a registered voter** and would like to vote in the upcoming elections, you must complete the checklist application and submit it to the Town Clerk's Office no later than Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 5:00 p.m.

Ever get so busy you forgot to vote? Not a problem – vote early. **Early voting ballots** (formerly known as voting absentee) are available approximately 30 days prior to each election.

The deadline to request an early ballot or Justice of the Peace delivery is Monday, May 13, 2013, 4:30 p.m. Contact the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391 or email dkelty@barretown.org.

Sample ballots are available on the Town website (www.barretown.org). Just look under announcements for a quick link. You can also go to one of the local markets (Hannaford's Market, Lawson's Store, Trow Hill Grocery) to see a copy.

Voting is quick, easy, and more convenient than ever -- let your voice be heard – VOTE!

(Donna Kelty, Town Clerk)

*** **Town Offices Closed** ***



Monday, May 27th - Memorial Day
Thursday, July 4th - Independence Day

(Town Forest- Continued)

recreation and education uses, and timber harvesting (include maple sugaring) are protected by a conservation easement held by the VHCB and Vermont Land Trust.

In preparation for the land purchase the selectboard approved the Town Forest Management Plan. Corridor (trail) Management Agreements (CMA) with MTA and the Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club also were signed.

MTA will maintain trails for walking, running, mountain biking and cross country skiing. Yellow and black trail name signs mark the trails. Maps are available for a small fee from MTA at the Millstone Store on Church Hill Road. In the near future trail maps will be posted on kiosk at town forest parking areas and on the town website. Everyone can walk, run, walk the dog and snowshoe free of charge. Due to expenses MTA can charge a fee for mountain biking and cross-country skiing. Snowmobile use is limited to properly registered snowmobiles.

The town created a small parking area at the top of Barclay Quarry Hill Road in Upper Graniteville. It is open for use. In the near future a parking area also will be available on Brook Street in Upper Websterville. Users should know the Management Plan includes a Leave No Trace statement. Be prepared to carry out all waste. Trash cans won't be found every several hundred yards. Leave artifacts in place; don't feed the birds or animals and respect other users. For the most part, there are single track trails; someone has to yield to the other user.

The Management Plan also requires dogs to be on a leash. Some trails come close to adjoining private property. Stick to the marked trails and keep noise levels down. Many quarry holes are found on the property. Parents should keep children within rapid response distance.

The Recreation Board is working on plans to offer guided nature walks. These might be good get-to-know events for people who haven't visited the town forest yet. On the town website information about the forest will be posted under the Recreation page.

EMS WEEK

National EMS Week is May 19-25. This year's theme is "EMS: One Mission. One Team." EMS Week was developed to bring together local communities and medical personnel in an effort to publicize safety and to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line."

As EMS professionals, each of us is dedicated to serving our communities and providing the best care for our patients. Right now is an exciting as well as challenging time to be in EMS. The changes being implemented in our nation's healthcare system will certainly impact how we deliver EMS in the future. We must be prepared to work with this new healthcare model and understand how we can use it to improve patient care.

The EMS Department has experienced, highly trained advanced EMT's and Critical Care Paramedics on every ambulance. The service began offering critical care paramedicine 10 years ago in 2003. Barre Town EMS has the highest medically capable crews an ambulance service can offer.



During National EMS Week please thank the dedicated professionals in Barre Town's emergency medical services for the critical work they do to improve the health of the town's residents and strengthen the health security for all of our patients.

(Dave Jennings, EMS Director)

Taxes Due!

*Property taxes are due Wednesday, May 15, 2013.
The Town Clerk's Office is open 8:00 a.m. – 4:30
p.m. every day*

PROJECT UPDATES:*** Sterling Hill Culvert & Railroad Switchback -**

Environmental clearance to proceed from FEMA was received. Town staff worked with VT Stream Alterations on the angle, length and lining of the culvert. Bidding specifications for manufacturing of the 32' 5'x8' reinforced concrete culvert plus wing walls have been sent out. It is the Town's intent to install the culvert in June. In April AOT informed the Town its contractor working on the railroad switchback won't be done until July 25 (5 months after the original completion date). AOT was told that this is not acceptable. The state's and the town's projects are funded by the same FEMA program. The state and the town are trying to work together to complete both projects before July.

*** Jockey Hollow Culvert & Sewer Relocation –** AOT intends to replace the culvert under Rt. 14 near the Lowery Auto Sales. The town must relocate a sewer manhole and some pipe to accommodate the culvert. AOT is obtaining the rights-of-way from property owners and recently informed the town the r.o.w. would not be secured in the time completing the sewer work this summer. Both sewer and culvert work are slated for 2014 at this time.

*** Bridge Street bridge –** Work started April 1. The road is closed at the bridge. A detour route is signed. Miller Construction is working on the temporary sewer line crossing the deep chasm, among other steps leading up to bridge

removal. Completion is scheduled for the end of October, 2013.



DO YOU NEED A PERMIT THIS SPRING OR SUMMER? - *(Chris Violette, P & Z Director)*

Fireworks Permit: The application can be downloaded from the website (www.barretown.org) or call the Town Clerk's Office (479-9391). Information required includes: date of display, fireworks storage location, type of fireworks, physical location of display, and sketch detailing distance to neighbors buildings, highways, and overhead utility lines. Notice to your neighbors might be required. A newspaper ad might also be required. Applications must be submitted at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the date of the display. The application fee is \$15.

The Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Selectboard can deny or place restrictions on an application. These can include fireworks storage or public notice. Starting this year, a condition limiting the time fireworks can be stored on your property probably will be added. Be safe this summer and let the show begin.

Outdoor Burning: Outdoor burning is a popular social activity in Barre Town. Before burning understand the law. First, the only legal items to burn are natural untreated wood such as brush. Burning plywood, pressure treated wood and other processed wood is NOT allowed. A permit from the town Fire Warden is needed. Call the Fire Warden at 802-498-8694. The Warden will call you back to discuss plans and may require a site visit before he issues the permit.

Second, burning trash is illegal. Trash includes paper and cardboard and cannot be burned. The penalty for burning trash is significant, think twice before burning.

Working in the Town right-of-way: Working alongside the road this summer? You will need a working in the right-of-way permit. Working in the right-of-way permits are issued by the Town Engineer to ensure that no long term damage is done to a road or that a ditch isn't altered. It is important to know that the right-of-way extends beyond the traveled portion of a road. If you are close to the road, you could be in the right-of-way and should contact the Town Engineer at 802-479-2595 and ask for help.

Building Permit: If you are planning an outside building project that is more than 64 sq. ft. in size, you likely will need a building permit. Building permits carry a state mandated 15 day waiting period when your property is posted with a big Z. This waiting period, offers the opportunity for somebody that may be considered an "interested party" to look into your project. If they feel the Zoning Administrator erred in issuing the permit, they can appeal the permit. Once the 15 days have gone by, you are good to go.

If you have any questions about a building permit, contact the Zoning Office at 802-479-2595 to discuss your project. If submitting a permit, you should allow for at least 25 days before you plan to begin your project because of the administrative time it takes to review the permit and the 15 day appeal period. Good luck on your summer project!

TSAC MEETING NOTES - *(Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer)*

February 2013 - Reviewed a request by Chris Lacarno of 14 Bianchi Street for traffic calming; recommended 25 MPH speed limit signs be posted on both Carnes and Bianchi; reviewed the detour route for the Bridge Street bridge construction project.

March 2013 - Considered possible road candidates for making requests of Central VT Regional Planning Commission to conduct seasonal traffic studies. Middle Road was considered for reassessment of speed since the speed limit change.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD - *(Chris Violette, P&Z Director)*

February 2013 - Approved K. Miller and Miller Building Co., boundary line adjustment involving 3 parcels of land at Miller Rd. and off Birchwood Park Dr.; approved F & P Baker's conditional use for a two-family dwelling located at 9 Carnes Rd.; approved Golden Arch LTD Partnership (McDonald's) 22' variance of side yard setback (abutter Hannafords) for proposed construction of a 830 sq. ft. addition to the front of the existing building located at 478 So. Barre Rd.

March 2013 - Approved J. Culver's 2-lot merger of land at 522 Cummings Road; approved New England Excess Exchange, LTD's conditional use approval for commercial office building in the Wilson Industrial Park; approved request by Patrick Malone, to enlarge an existing nonconforming structure on So. Barre Rd. (Rt.14); gave final approval to Jack McKissock & Lindy Smith for a 2-lot subdivision for property located at 265 Cassie St.; approved Jack McKissock & Lindy Smith's 2-lot merger of lands for property located off Cassie St. & Camp St.

April 2013 - Approved Fecteau Residential's 3-lot subdivision (2 new residential lots) of property located off Nichols Rd.; approved J. Parker and C. Cliché's 3-lot merger of property located at 379 E. Montpelier Rd.; approved M. Copeland's 11' variance from side yard setback for construction of a porch on property located at 37 Waterman St.; approved New England Excess Exchange, LTD's major site plan for the purpose of constructing an 8,000 sq. ft. building in the Wilson Industrial Park; approved McDonalds minor site plan for constructing an 830 sq. ft. addition to the existing building along with drive-thru and sidewalks improvements on property located at 478 So. Barre Road.

PLANNING COMMISSION - *(Chris Violette, P&Z Director)*

February 2013 - Approved A&J Fontana's allowed use determination for daycare/pre-school in an office building retail zone on property located at 1 Conti Circle; continued work on the Town Plan

March 2013 - No action taken; continued work on the Town Plan

April 2013 - Special Meeting - No action taken; continued work on the Town Plan

SOLID WASTE NEWS

SPRING BULK TRASH DAY

BULK TRASH DROP-OFF - May 11, 2013

Got junk? We'll take it! The spring bulk trash drop-off service is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. Volunteers will be at the DPW yard (where the school buses are parked) from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The type of junk or debris accepted is shown below. Be sure any small items, especially from home improvement projects (plaster, sheet-rock and roofing shingles) are in containers. Cut siding, partitions, 2"x4"'s to manageable sizes. Loads of loose roofing shingles will be parked to the side and directed to wait until no one is waiting to unload.

<u>Items Accepted</u>		
Mattresses	Carpeting	Furniture (wood/plastic)
Plastic toys	Pool liners and covers	Home demolition material
Porcelain fixtures	Siding	Shingles (boxed) - extra fee
	Windows, doors	

Not everything is accepted at the town's bulk trash drop-off, but there are options for getting rid of most everything.

Items Not Accepted

Household trash, recycling
Electronics
Tires
Large Metal/appliances
Hazardous Materials
Lawn waste

Take To

Wilson Depot or other licensed collectors
Wilson Depot, CVSWMD ARCC
Wilson Depot, CVSWMD ARCC
Wilson Depot
CVSWMD collection
Holden Road site

Residents are welcome to make multiple trips. The fees are:

FEES	
Car	\$5.00
Pickup truck	8.00
Unloaded car or truck w/loaded trailer	8.00
Loaded car or truck & loaded trailer	13.00
Truck larger than pickup (1-ton max.)	13.00
Loaded large truck & loaded trailer	20.00
Loads of roofing shingles charged double.	

GREEN UP DAY 2013

May 4, 2013

Vermont Green Up Day is the first Saturday of May (May 4, 2013). Last year approximately 150 Barre Town volunteers picked up 4 tons of litter and other debris, plus 200 tires. Volunteers' efforts make a noticeable difference along roads and are appreciated by many.

Individuals, families, neighborhoods, groups, clubs, churches, troops and businesses are encouraged to volunteer and clean up a roadside or other public place. To volunteer stop by, call (479-9331) or email (offices@barretown.org) the town manager's office. A Green Up Day sign-in sheet lists volunteers. The list is posted on the town website (www.barretown.org/Pages/dept/waste.html). Check the list to see if anyone has claimed the area you are thinking to green-up. At the town manager's office you will receive the VT Green Up bags, latex gloves and free BBQ lunch tickets. Green Up work isn't limited to May 4. If needed,



volunteers can clean up the week before or after. Pick up and disposal of the bags and other debris is taken care of by the Town. Volunteers don't need to haul trash.

Brenda Lafirira is Barre Town's Green Up Day Coordinator again this year. With the help of her Girl Scout Troop, she collects donations from local businesses to offer the free BBQ lunch held from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at the picnic shelter in the big park.

Where ever you drive in Vermont on May 4 keep an eye open for volunteers. Many groups include children. The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District provides a \$500 grant to help off set disposal costs.

Lawn Waste Site Open

Barre Town provides an area where residents can drop-off organic lawn and garden waste. The lawn waste site is located at the top of Holden Road which runs from Graniteville Road (in front of Rock of Ages) to Rt. 14. The service is free.

Organic waste means trees, leaves, grass and plants that grow on the lawn or in the garden. Tree branches (less than 5" in diameter) and brush are piled in one area. Grass clippings, leaves and other small plant waste are dumped in another area. Tree branches and trunks larger than 5" are placed in the firewood corner.



The site will open April 24th and close in early November. It is open:

Wednesdays, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; monitored by volunteers Ed Relation and Dylan Bachand
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - noon; monitored by volunteers Joe & Cliff Coates
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - noon; monitored by DPW

Monitors are on scene to ensure compliance not to unload cars or trucks. Please don't leave boxes, bags, rope or plastic. Lumber and building demolition materials are not accepted.

The firewood is free for the taking. The brush is chipped into landscaping mulch and is free. Bring tool(s) to load; DPW can't use the loader to load private trucks.

Solid Waste District Services Barre Town Collection - May 4, 2013

The Central VT Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) is providing a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection at the Barre Town DPW yard on Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. HHW include oil-based paints, gasoline, cleaners, thinners (solvents), household chemicals, herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides. A fee of \$15 per vehicle is charged for most loads. Small businesses may use the service but must pre-register (call the CVSWMD at 229-9383 - ext. 106).

The District is offering a number of other collections this year. Barre Town residents may utilize any of the following collection services:

Friday,	June 21	9 am - 1 pm	Williamstown Old Landfill - HHW
Saturday	Aug. 24	9 am - 1 pm	Hardwick Town Garage, E-waste, books, textiles
Saturday	Sept. 7	9 am - 1 pm	Tunbridge Transfer Sta. E-waste, books, textiles
Saturday	Sept. 14	9 am - 1 pm	Bradford Town Garage, HHW
Saturday	Oct. 12	9 am - 1 pm	Montpelier, Dept. Of Labor

The CVSWMD now offers an Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC) at 3 Williams Lane in Barre City. A wide assortment of items are accepted at the ARCC during its regular operation hours: M - F, 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm. The long list of accepted items includes bottle caps, cereal bags, propane tanks, latex paint, tires, down hill skis, food scraps, plastic plant pots and trays, books, cell phones, digital cameras, styrofoam peanuts, bubble wrap and much more. There is a \$1.00 per visit fee, plus a small fee for tire disposal.

Visit the solid waste district website (www.cvswwmd.org) for details about any of the District's services.

1 – 888 – DIG – SAFE

The first step to a safe and successful construction project is a call to Dig Safe. This call can help avoid delays with a project, the disruption of services for abutting property owners, and may even save a life. A call to their toll free number, 1-888-DIG-SAFE, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., is all that is needed to request a utility marking. They will notify their member utilities, which then come out for any necessary marking of their services and/or equipment. Call at least 48 hours in advance of any digging, trenching, blasting, etc. in public ways, right-of-ways, and easements.

**2013 PAVED ROAD PROJECTS:**

The Town of Barre will be doing several paving contracts this summer. The tentative schedule is:
Contract #1 - Hot Mix Asphalt paving will run from July 22 to August 2: Miller Rd. – Perry Rd. to Airport Rd., Perry Rd. apron, Jensen Rd. apron, Cedar St., Scenic View will be paved in with a 2" overlay. Getting an overlay of 1 1/4" will be Upper Prospect St. from the town line to Morrison Rd. and Sesame St. Streets getting a shim coat will be Wendell Terrace, Lucia, McLeod Hill Rd. (from Graniteville Rd. to Lucia), and a section of Maplewood.
Nova Chip – (Paver Place Surface Treatment) will take place from August 12 – 23: Woodland, Lague, Wildwood, Wendell Terrace, Cedarbrook Ave., Lucia St., McLeod Hill Rd., Maplewood, Hillcrest Ln., East St. Ext., Camel's Hump Ln., Grace Ave., Burnside, Meadows, Grandview Farm Rd., the upper portion of Sterling Hill Rd., (Quarry Hill Rd., to #130), and Platinum Plain.
Contract #2 – Hot Mix Asphalt paving will run from August 26 – September 6: Sterling Hill Rd., from pole #21 to lower Silver Cir. will be reconstructed and get 3" new pavement. Lower Silver Cir., to the end of pavement will get a 2" overlay. The streets getting an overlay of 1 1/4" are Bolster Rd. - #29 to end of road plus turnaround, Richardson Rd. (Ledge Drive to old end of pavement), Spring Hollow Ln., Cross St., Meadows Dr., Cano Dr., Moonlight Dr., Granview Dr., and Misty Mtn. Drive.

2013 GRAVEL ROAD PROJECTS:

West Rd. – remove surface gravel and replace top 6-8"; May – June 2013
Cheney Rd. – reconstruct gravel portion; May – June 2013
Beckley Hill Rd. – remove surface gravel and replace top 4-6"; April – May 2013
Lyman Rd. – reconstruct road; May – June 2013
Lowery Rd. – resurface with 4" additional gravel – Waterman to Fournier's and ditch past Johnson's residence to town line; September – October 2013
Upper Usle Rd. – Re-ditch and reconstruct; east end near Lower Usle use road fabric; September 2013

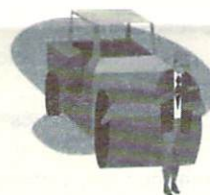
Averill Rd. – Top-dress surface with 4-6" crushed gravel; September – October 2013

Littlejohn Rd. – 150' section near quarry-full depth reconstruction; September – October 2013

West Hill Roads – Jensen, Sunrise, Cedarcliff, Breer, Isabelle and Snowbridge Rds. – top dress roads with crushed gravel; September – October 2013

REMEMBER DRIVEWAY PERMITS

Water is the number one enemy of a road. One reason towns and cities regulate driveway placement and design is to eliminate or at least to reduce water running out of driveways onto the road where it can freeze on a winter's night or seep into pavement cracks possibly causing soft base, wheelrutting and potholing. Before doing any work on your drive (building new, re-paving or adding gravel) call or visit the Town Engineer's or Planning & Zoning Office (479-2595). It is the property owner's responsibility to get a permit (or verify a permit is not necessary). Also, the property owner needs to watch that the contractor performs the driveway work in compliance with the permit.

OTHER CONSTRUCTION

- Taplin Road (Sunnyside towards East Barre) road ditch stabilization funded by Better Back Roads grant.
- Richardson Road (across from Daniels Drive) installation of a sewer meter pit; by Barre Town DPW, May – June, 2013
- Sterling Hill Road (top of gravel section) installation of new 5'x 8' concrete box culvert by contractor; June - July 2013; funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program Grant.
- Green Mountain View Street – install new 4" water line; work by Barre Town DPW.

ROCK FIRE IS BACK

Millstone Trails Association, a private, not-for-profit association, will conduct its 2nd Rock Fire event on June 21 & 22. Throughout the weekend selected MTA trails in the Town of Barre Forest and on adjoining lands will feature a dozen or more art installations and the unveiling of several new granite sculptures. Also, there will be a series of guided nature and history walking tours.

The highlight of the festival once again will be the 2 mile Firewalk along a trail lit by more than 1,000 luminaires and 40 bonfires. Walkers will be entertained by a dozen live performances.

(Continued on page 6)

(Rock Fire – Continued)

The Firewalk will be held from 9:30 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, June 22. A concert will be held at the Millstone Lodge (Littlejohn Road) starting at 7 p.m. Admission to the concert is \$10, to the Firewalk is \$20 or \$25 for both. To compensate for any inconvenience, Websterville Fire District residents will be offered up to 3 tickets at half price. WFD #3 residents are asked to bring their water bill to the MTA Touring Center at 34 Church Hill Road and pre-buy their tickets.

For more information visit rockfirevt.com.

SKATEBOARD LESSONS & EVENT

The Recreation Board has organized a 2 day skateboard event at the Travis Mercy Memorial skatepark. Travis' mother, Linda Mercy, is chairwoman of the Recreation Board. She is instrumental in organizing skateboarding lessons on June 21 and a skatepark Fun Day on June 22.

On Friday, June 21 from 1-3 pm learn-to-skate lessons will be offered. There is no cost to participate. In fact every participant will receive a new helmet. The lessons are open to all ages! To sign up, call Linda at 479-3405 before June 17.

The next day (June 22) all skateboarders are invited to come out to practice and display their skills. The Skatepark Fun Day is scheduled for 10 am – 3 pm. Again there is no cost or age restriction, but a helmet is required. Participants can stop by any time

between 10 – 3 and are invited to bring their music. Food and prizes will be provided. More details will be available through the town website and World. Both events must be rescheduled in the event of rain.

**YOUTH TRACK TEAM**

WHO: Boys & Girls ages 7 – 14

WHEN: Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 pm – 7:30 pm, June 10 – July 17

WHERE: Barre Town Track

FEE: \$30 before June 3; \$35 after

Barre Town and Barre City Recreation Departments once again are sponsoring a youth track team. Young athletes will receive instruction, practice and competition in running, jumping and softball throw events. Barre City Recreation handles registration and administers the program. Call 476-0257 to register or for answers to questions.

Participants will be eligible for two track meets:

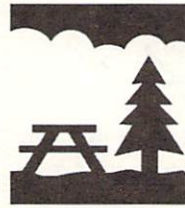
July 6 – Hershey's National Competition Qualifying Meet (for children ages 9-14 on 12/31/13)

July 20 – Vermont Recreation & Parks Association Meet (for children ages 7-14 on 12/31/13)

Parent volunteers are needed, call 476-0257.

USING PICNIC SHELTER

The picnic shelter in the big park has become a popular venue for family reunions, birthday parties, showers, and club or business outings. The shelter is booked (reserved) most weekends during the summer. If you are thinking of using the shelter contact Park Maintenance Supervisor Don Gainey at 476-6174 or offices@barretown.org. Plan ahead; it is not too early to call or email with your reservation request.



For smaller gatherings, especially with younger children, an alternative is either the South Barre (Wilson Street) or East Barre (Pleasant Street) playground. Each site has a shelter, 3 or 4 picnic tables, a small grill, playground equipment and playing fields. There are no restrooms at these locations, however. Contact Mr. Gainey to confirm availability.

THE NEXT EDITION.....
..... of the Barre Town Newsletter will be published in August, 2013

CENTRAL VERMONT RUNNERS 5KS

Barre Town Spring Run 5K "CVR/ORS race series:

WHERE: Barre Town Rec Fields

WHEN: May 18, 2013

REGISTRATION: 8:00 at the track; small fee

RACE: 9:00 a.m.

Proceeds go to the Barre Town Recreation Department

For more information:
ajvtskler@msn.com

"CVR" Barre Heritage Festival
5K Trail Race:

WHERE: Millstone Lodge/Town of Barre Forest

WHEN: Sunday, July 28, 2013

REGISTRATION: 8:30, Millstone Lodge; small fee

RACE: 9:00 a.m.

Proceeds to benefit SHS Track

For more information: lori.lacroix21@gmail.com

**UPCOMING EVENTS -**

Green Up Day - Saturday, May 4th

Spring Bulk Trash - Saturday, May 11th

Barre Town Fire Dept. - Chicken BBQ, Sunday, June 16th, noon to 2:00 p.m.

Flags for Vets. Comm. - Flag placement, veterans graves, all cemeteries, Saturday, May 18th, 9:00 a.m.

APPEALING PROPERTY VALUE

By State law, properties are assessed for property tax purposes based on the condition of the property as of April 1st. Town assessors and boards of listers all over the State are busy during April determining the new value of properties that have been modified since the previous April. When the assessments of these changed properties have been determined, the Grand List is lodged or filed, kicking off an important sequence of events of which all property owners should be aware. The property assessment, appeal process can be summarized as follows: **STEP 1:** Based on permits and visual evidence, the assessor inspects properties believed to have been altered during the prior year of April 1 – March 31 and calculates the change in appraisal.

STEP 2: When property valuation changes are completed, the assessor lodges the Grand List, the list of all property values. The same day the Grand List is lodged, a Notice of Change in Appraisal is mailed to the owners whose property value was changed. At about this same time, the assessor publishes a notice in the local newspaper and posts it at public places around town. The notice alerts all property owners of their once-per-year opportunity to challenge the assessed value of their property.

STEP 3: Within 14 days of the Notice of Change and the notice being published, owners must contact the assessor, in writing, requesting a grievance if they wish to challenge or grieve their property assessment.

STEP 4: Owners meet with the assessor to simply ask questions about their property value or may have a prepared presentation based on comparable property values.

STEP 5: The assessor answers all grievants in writing within 7 days after all grievances are heard.

STEP 6: Owners unsatisfied with the assessor's written decision may appeal to the Town Board of Tax Appeals. Appeals must be in writing and filed with the Town Clerk within 14 days of the date of the assessor's written response.

STEP 7: The Board of Tax Appeals schedules a meeting or series of meetings to hear the owner and assessor explain the reason for their assessed value. The Board assigns an inspection committee which visits the property and collects information. At a later meeting, the committee reports to the Board and gives a recommendation for a value. The Board of Tax Appeals votes to set a property value. The Town Clerk-Treasurer sends a response to the owner.

STEP 8: If the owner is unsatisfied with the Board of Tax Appeals figure, the owner may appeal to the Vermont Tax Department, Division of Property Valuation & Review or to the Washington County Superior Court.

The statutes governing the grievance and appeal process can be found in the Vermont Statutes, Title 32, Chapters 129 & 131.

Owners should remember they can visit the Assessor's

Office anytime to inspect and review their property assessment card (file). Owners should check that all information is correct. Because permits are not needed to remove porches, decks, garages, sheds, or pools, the assessor might not know those structures have been removed. Dimension and building material details should be checked.

Selling Your Property: If you sell your property after April 1, you still are the owner of record for the ensuing tax year, and you will receive the tax bill in mid-summer. Your name will be on the tax list, including delinquent tax lists. Sellers can try protecting themselves by talking to their realtor or attorney about this detail.

The Assessor's Office phone number is 479-2595 if there are follow-up questions.

WHEN CAN I EXPECT MY NEW PROPERTY TAX SEWER BILL ?

Barre Town's fiscal year is July 1st – June 30th. New property tax and sewer use charge bills will be mailed no later than July 15, 2013 provided all the Town and School budgets have passed.

IMPORTANT: Only one tax bill is sent each fiscal year to the owner of property as of April 1st. If you have sold your property since April 1, 2013 please forward the bill to the new owner. If you have an escrow account, you are responsible to see that your bank receives a copy of the bill. Remember to keep a copy for yourself as you will need it to file the Homestead Declaration for next year.

PAYMENT DUE DATES: The due dates for property tax and sewer installments are set by vote at the Annual Barre Town Open Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 7:30 p.m., at the Barre Town Municipal Building. However, the customary dates for the quarterly property installments are August 15, November 15, February 15, and May 15; while the semi-annual sewer installment due dates are August 15 and February 15.

REMITANCE: Payments may be made in person, by mail, or by pre-authorized direct withdrawal from your bank account. If you pay by mail, it must be postmarked by the coupon due date or earlier to avoid a late fee of 5%. A check or money order should be made payable to "Town of Barre". More information about the direct withdrawal from your bank account is available on the Town website (www.barretown.org), click Permits and Forms, scroll down to Town Clerk, and locate the Electronic Payment of Taxes Enrollment Application.

REVIEWING YOUR TAX BILL: When you receive the new tax bill, please take a minute to look it over. It shows information regarding your property such as: the taxable value, lot size, tax rates, state credit amount, and much more. For questions about your tax bill do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391.

(Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer)

TOWN OF BARRE
P.O. BOX 116
WEBSTERVILLE VT 05678

PRESORTED STANDARD
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05641

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April 2013

BOARD AND COMMISSION SERVICE



Citizens' terms on boards, commissions and committees expire the end of May. The selectboard usually appoints and re-appoints members the last Tuesday in May (the 28th). Volunteering to serve on a board or commission is an excellent way to contribute to your town. Board and commission members are not responsible for any administrative tasks or scheduling; each board or commission is supported by town staff. Generally the citizen members receive a meeting packet to be reviewed before each meeting. Occasionally, additional review is needed. Meetings are held on a regular schedule, unless the members decide to call a special meeting. Serving on a board or commission

gives citizens an opportunity to have a more direct say in what town services are provided, and how the town develops. Don't miss out!

Positions on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (2), Planning Commission (2), Development Review Board (2), Cemetery Commission (1), Housing Advisory Committee (2), and Recreation Board (2) are up for re-appointment. As this article is written the town is searching for one representative to the Regional Public Safety Study Committee.

To apply, residents can clip, complete and mail the application form provided below. It is suggested interested residents submit a Letter of Intent. A sample LOI is posted at www.barretown.org/Pages/boards/interest.pdf. The quick application or LOI could be emailed to crogers@barretown.org or mailed to Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. Applications and LOI are due before 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 17.

Application for Board or Commission

(Clip and Mail)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

Interested in serving on:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety Committee (3 rd Wednesday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Commission (4 th Wednesday) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission (3 rd Wednesday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Advisory Commission (as needed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Review Board (2 nd Wednesday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Board (1 st Monday) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Public Safety Study Committee (every other Thursday) | |