

Barre Town Newsletter

Vol. 15, No. 2

April 2012

It's Time For Voting and Budgets



Town residents who are registered to vote will give the Town budgets a ye or nay on Tuesday, May 8th – Annual Election Day. The ballot will list questions for approval of the General Fund and the Highway Fund budgets.

Election Day voting is conducted from 7:00 a.m. to

7:00 p.m. at the Barre Town School. **For details about registering to vote and voting by early ballot, see the article on page 5.**

Summed, the proposed General budget and Highway budget (the two budgets financed by property taxes) equal \$5,677,291, which is \$31,960 less than the current budgets. The current budgets are not balanced (expenses exceed revenue). The proposed budgets are balanced; consequently, although spending is decreased and non-tax revenues are essentially unchanged, a tax increase of about one-third of a cent is needed.

Municipal tax bill increases are shown below:

Property Value	Annual Tax Bill Increase
\$100,000	\$3.70
\$150,000	\$5.55
\$200,000	\$7.40
\$300,000	\$11.10
\$400,000	\$14.80

General Fund: The proposed General Fund budget equals \$3,070,951, which is \$65,815 or 2.19% more than the current budget. The GF tax rate would increase 2.19¢. The nine largest spending increases total \$127,185. Three large decreases total \$65,530. The difference between the nine greatest increases and three biggest reductions is \$61,655. The net budget increase is \$65,815. Excluding the 12 accounts, all other General Fund accounts (hundreds of them) have a net increase of \$4,160.

The biggest addition to the General Fund is the proposed construction of the bike path in East Barre. The Town bike path committee, at the Selectboard's request, prepared plans to build the connection from Websterville Road (near Church Street) to the old railroad bed in the wooded area. The project would create an access off of Websterville Road to a path that extends to Millstone Boulevard. In the future, the path would be improved from Millstone Boulevard to the Town Office building. The project, counting Town labor and equipment, would cost \$32,575.

Health insurance premiums are the second largest increase at \$26,870. Planning & Zoning wages are up \$14,240 due to some staff pay being re-assigned from the Highway Fund to the Planning & Zoning Department. Expenses (pay and mileage reimbursement) for the Animal Control Officer (ACO) are next on the list at \$10,620. The ACO is used by and partially paid for by three neighboring towns. This increase is offset by increased non-tax revenue from the three other towns.

A \$10,000 contribution to the Central Vermont Public Safety Consolidation Study is next on the list. This study (led by the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce) will determine if police, fire, ambulance, and dispatch services for Barre Town, Berlin, Montpelier, and Barre City could be improved and made more efficient if combined into one public safety department.

Items 6-9 are all police and fire related. Police and fire equipment rent (rates are rising 5%) paid to the Equipment Fund are going up \$10,425. The Police Department would get a new police dog (\$8,750) and 9 tasers (\$8,705). The account for firefighters' call response is going up \$5,000 based on call volume and number of firefighters responding. All other changes in the business-as-usual budget are less than \$5,000 and reflect changes in prices or volume of business. Services would remain the same. The

(continued on page 2)

CONTENTS

Recreation Areas Are Open	2
Grand Prix Bicycle Race	3
ADA's Tour de Cure	3
Town Forest Plans Continue	3
Board Appointment Application	4
1-888-DIG-SAFE	4
Town Meeting Ballot Information	5
Verifying & Appealing Property Value	5
Spring and Summer Permits	6
Project Updates	7
2012 Road Paving Schedule	7
Boards and Commissions - Summary Report	8

Voting and Budgets (continued from page 1):

number of personnel positions remain the same, except for a 4-hour/month bookkeeper performing a task the independent auditors said the Town Clerk-Treasurer should not do.

The current year budget includes \$30,800 for firefighters' turnout gear (protective coats and pants). That item is not repeated. Neither is the \$18,575 for security cameras installed in the Municipal Building this year. Last, the Town's payment to our Ambulance Fund will be decreased \$16,155.

Highway Fund: The proposed HF budget totals \$2,606,340, which is \$97,775 or 3.6% less than the present budget. The tax rate would decrease 1.82¢. No changes in staffing are proposed except a percent of wages for one clerical position was moved from the HF to the GF. Services remain the same.

A reduction of \$51,280 in the paved road project department is the biggest change in the proposed HF budget. The extra work done on Plainfield Brook Road last summer accounts for \$36,000 of the cut. Minor fluctuation in the amount of road paving and type of work accounts for the rest. The DPW didn't use all the salt the 2011-2012 budget bought. A good supply of road salt is in storage allowing a \$42,500 reduction in next year's salt budget. Payments towards the Town's share of the Bridge Street bridge replacement are reduced \$35,000. Summer maintenance wages are up \$18,295. This account changes noticeably every year because it is host to all DPW wages not assigned to other functions (winter maintenance, water, sewer, etc.) and projects (the bike path connection, paved road projects, etc.).

Equipment charges paid to the Town's Equipment Fund for winter maintenance are reduced \$15,000 to better match actual expenses. Starting next year the Town will guarantee the Equipment Fund the budgeted figure and pay the Equipment Fund more, if equipment charges for winter maintenance exceed the budget. There is a temporary, one-year reduction (\$6,000) in the gravel crushing line item. Streetlight expense is up \$5,815, and extra drainage work along Middle Road is proposed at a cost of \$5,600.

Other Articles: Other than these budget questions, voters will elect two Selectboard members. Both races are contested. Two candidates are running for Constable. No other election of an officer is contested. The 13 not-for-profit agencies that requested a donation last year are back and seeking the same dollar amounts. There is one new article regarding the public safety consolidation study. Per the Chamber of Commerce committee's request, the Selectboard is asking voters if the Town shall reaffirm its commitment to the regionalization study by spending the \$10,000 in the proposed General Fund budget.

More detailed information about the budgets will be presented in budget booklets available at the Municipal Building, Hannaford's, Quarry Hill Quick Stop,

Graniteville General Store, Lawson's Store, East Barre Market, Trow Hill Grocery, and Brookside Country Store. A taped presentation will be played on CVTV cable TV Channel 7 at the following times: April 30 at 12 and 6 p.m.; May 1 at 3 and 10 p.m.; May 2 at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.; May 3 at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 and 9 p.m.; May 4 at 5 and 8 p.m.; and May 5 at 8 and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Budget Committee (citizen members Bill Kirby, Jay Perkins, Tom White, Paul Malone, and Jason Pinard) worked diligently reviewing and revising the budgets. Please do your part by voting on May 8; it takes only a few minutes, and it is a good example for the young people. ■

TAXES DUE!

Property taxes are due Tuesday, May 15. The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Monday, the 14th and Tuesday, the 15th.

Recreation Areas Are Open

This article is a call to all residents who are looking to shake off their winter rust while taking advantage of the Town's public spaces. This is your official invitation to use the Town's recreational facilities!

The main recreation area on Websterville Road provides a wide range of opportunities. There are four tennis courts, two basketball courts, two soccer pitches, baseball and softball diamonds, a large picnic area, and a 1.8 mile (one-way) paved bike path with access to various off-road trails within the Barre Town School forest.

Scattered throughout town, there are a number of neighborhood playgrounds, each with a basketball court and some variation of climbing, swinging, and sliding equipment for the youngsters. These parks can be found in Websterville (Brook Street), Upper Graniteville (Park Street), Lower Graniteville (Baptist Street), East Barre (Pleasant Street and Carnes Road), and on Trow Hill (Hill Street). The basketball court behind the EMS building off of Route 302 is available to all residents. There are also two picnic rest areas – off Quarry Hill Road (below the railroad crossing) and Graniteville Road (near Holden Road) ready for use.

We hope to see you out there. Have a fun and safe summer! ■

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

SWIM LESSON REIMBURSEMENT AVAILABLE

The Town reimburses \$25 per child (per fiscal year) toward swim lessons. Call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 for more information.

PICNIC SHELTER RESERVATIONS

The picnic shelter at the recreation complex is available for group functions. Contact Rec. Supervisor Don Gainey at 476-6174 for availability. The fee is \$50 per group less than 50 people; \$1/person charge for groups over 50.

Grand Prix Bicycle Race

Church Hill in Upper Websterville isn't the French Alps, but bicycle racers might find it is a challenging climb! Jean LaCroix, of Sparta Synergy-Vermont Pro Cycling, organized the criterium bicycle races in Barre City last summer. This year, racing laps around the downtown isn't possible because of the construction project. Mr. LaCroix, with support from Barre Partnership and Barre Heritage Festival & Homecoming Days, approached the Selectboard about conducting a road race in Barre Town. Although a final commitment by all parties has not been made, the Selectboard has added its support to the proposal.



The Barre Town Grand Prix would be held on Sunday, July 29. The staging area would be at the Town's athletic complex and recreation area. The 4.8 mile course would start in front of the school and follow a clockwise route up Church Hill Road, right onto Graniteville Road, through Lower Graniteville, past Rock of Ages, and then back onto Websterville Road at the cemetery. There would be several classes of men's and women's races. Each class would race a different number of laps, with the more skilled competitors racing the most laps. The first race is scheduled to start at 8:00 a.m. Organizers guess the last race would end at about 5:30 p.m.

People who live on or near the course should stay alert for additional information about the proposed race. Traffic will be impacted (not prohibited). Where and when motorists will be stopped and asked to wait will be explained as plans develop. A police car will lead the plenetron (group of racers). Officers will direct traffic at 5 main intersections. Twenty-five, give-or-take, volunteer marshals will be stationed at other intersections along the course. Residents who don't live on the course would be wise to take a route around the race course. People who live on the course, on a street that intersects with the course, or who attend one of the churches along the route should read or listen to traffic information.

Spectators are welcome. People who don't live along the course might want to park at the school to watch the finish line action or walk the bike path to find a good viewing area. ■

ADA's Tour de Cure

The New England Classic 500 is scheduled for July 14-20, 2012 and is one of 80 fundraising cycling events held nationwide to benefit the American Diabetes Association. The Tour is a ride, not a race, with routes designed for everyone from the occasional rider to the experienced cyclist. This year's tour goal is \$250,000 from approximately 150 riders.

The Classic 500 begins and ends in Woburn, MA with overnight stops in Portsmouth, NH, Biddeford, ME, Barlett, NH, Montpelier and Killington, VT, and Keene, NH. The route features full service rest stops, support/gear vehicles, mechanics, and any other needs.

Barre Town EMS has been Rest Stop #4 for 15 years.

The EMS Department provides water, bathrooms, a cool place to rest, and medical care if needed. The Tour Support team sets up on the lawn with food tables and other support services. Riders will be in the area on Route 302 throughout the day of July 17. ■

- Dave Jennings, EMS Director

Town Forest Plans Continue

There are two primary requirements for completion of the Town Forest acquisition: fundraising, and plans and documents. Parties involved

are working on both. Town officials have started preparing for public use of the forest.

When last reported, it was expected the Trust for Public Land (TPL) would apply for a Federal Community Forest Grant in January 2012. The U.S. Forest Service pushed that application to May 2012. TPL is ready to apply for a \$400,000 grant in May; however, two documents are needed. The Town must complete negotiations for a conservation easement and adopt a Town Forest Management Plan.

Funding sources require a conservation easement to provide public access and protect natural resources such as forest values, wildlife habitat, and water quality. The VT Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) requires a conservation easement and contracts with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) to administer it. The Selectboard currently is negotiating conditions of the conservation easement with the VLT and VHCB.

When the conservation easement is approved, the Town Forest Management Plan Committee (consisting of 7 residents) can wrap-up details of the Management Plan, which must be consistent with the conservation easement.

(continued on page 4)



BOARD APPOINTMENT APPLICATION

Terms on boards, commissions, and committees expire at the end of May. Reappointments and new appointments are made by the Selectboard usually by the last Tuesday in May. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve your community! Board and commission members are not responsible for any administrative tasks or scheduling, and each board or commission is supported by town staff. Generally, the citizen board members receive a meeting packet to be reviewed before each meeting. On some occasions, additional review is required. Meetings are held once a month on the same designated day and time. As an appointed member, you are responsible for bringing your ideas and experiences to the table to develop recommendations and suggestions on important Town matters. In choosing to serve your local community, you are an integral part of the local government process – making a difference that matters to you and your neighbors.

Seats are up for reappointment on the following boards: Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (2), Planning Commission (2), Development Review Board (5), Cemetery Commission (1), Housing Advisory Committee (2), and Recreation Board (3). If any of these appointments are of interest, you are encouraged to inquire and apply. Send your letter of intent to the Barre Town Manager, PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or email them to crogers@barretown.org.

APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTEER POSITION ON TOWN BOARD

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____

Interested in serving on:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety Committee (3 rd Wed. 7 p.m.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Commission (4 th Wed. 6:30 p.m.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission (3 rd Wed. 7 p.m.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Advisory Committee (as needed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Review Board (2 nd Wed. 7 p.m.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Board (1 st Mon. 6:30 p.m.) |

TOWN FOREST PLANS *(continued from page 3)*



After the Committee gives the plan its okay and recommends it to the Selectboard, the Selectboard will hold at least one public meeting before voting to adopt the plan.

In anticipation of the purchase the Town applied to Vermont Forests, Parks & Recreation for a Trails Grant. Providing parking

and trail access is an eligible activity; thus the Town applied for a \$20,000 grant to cover 63% of costs to build 2 small parking areas. The Committee had identified one spot along Littlejohn Road and one at the end of Barclay Quarry Road as good parking locations. The locations are on opposite ends of the forest, are adjacent to trails, and could easily be developed for parking.

If the timeline holds this time, the public could be cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the Town Forest next winter.

1-888-DIG-SAFE

The first step to a safe and successful construction project is a call to Dig Safe. 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.

- Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 19 - Central VT Runners 5K race, 8 am, BT rec area and bike path
- May - Flags for Veterans, placing flags in area cemeteries, 9 am, Wilson Cemetery
- June 17 - BTFD BBQ, East Barre fire station, noon-2 pm
- July 14 - Good Samaritan Haven fundraising walk, 8 am, BT rec area and bike path

SOLID WASTE NEWS

SPRING BULK TRASH DAY - May 12, 2012

Got junk? We'll take it! Bulk trash collection is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th. Volunteers will be at the DPW yard on Websterville Road from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Items Accepted

Mattresses
Carpeting
Furniture (wood/plastic)
Plastic toys
Pool liners
Home demolition materials
Porcelain fixtures
Shingles (boxed) - extra fee

Items Not Accepted*

Household trash/recycling
Electronics
Tires
Large metals/appliances
Hazardous materials
Lawn waste
Concrete/bricks
*call 479-9331 for where to take these items

A small fee will be charged based on the size of the load brought in (car, truck, etc.). This service is for residents' personal bulk trash; it is not intended for businesses. Be prepared to verify your Town residency.

Spaulding High School seniors representing Project Graduation will be volunteering to unload cars for the day, so please contribute toward their cause when you arrive.

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 2012

May 5, 2012

Volunteers throughout Vermont will be hitting the roads, parks, and brooks on Saturday, May 5th for Green Up Day. This popular event has gained traction in Town through generous donations from area businesses, diehard volunteer support, and steadfast leadership from Danette and Jeff Gagne. Two local Girl Scout troops have taken the reins for this years event – Troop 30560 and Troop 30568 – leading the charge to secure donations and host the 6th Annual Volunteers BBQ.



There are many ways to support this event. Individuals, groups, or organizations in Barre Town can help by spending time and energy cleaning up our roadsides and/or by donating funds to cover the event expenses such as the BBQ, T-shirts, and postage.

Trash does not discriminate against road type; back roads and main corridors alike accumulate litter and debris throughout the year. There are several areas (for example, Littlejohn Road and the Cobble Hill Roads) which could always use a little Spring cleaning. If you know of a road or an area in Barre Town that needs attention, please call the Town Office at 479-9331 or email offices@barretown.org. You can volunteer to clean it yourself, or just let us know so we can direct other volunteers to the area. Let us know if you would like to help out but don't have an area in mind. The Town will keep a sign-up sheet, which will be updated on the website every Friday for viewing. Collection bags and rubber gloves can be picked up at the Town Office from Monday-Friday. We look forward to seeing you out there!

Lawn Waste Site Open

In case you are a new resident – or you haven't heard about it – the Town provides a place where residents can drop off organic lawn and garden waste. The lawn waste site, as it is known, is located at the top of Holden Road which runs from Graniteville Road (in front of the Rock of Ages Visitors Center) to Route 14 in South Barre.

Organic waste means trees, grass, and plants that grow on the lawn or garden. The site is set up to accept tree branches, hedge clippings, leaves, grass clippings, and flower and vegetable garden plants. Tree branches or logs larger than 5" in diameter must be separated and placed in the designated firewood area.

The site is open now on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon; Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon; and Wednesday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. A Department of Public Works employee works Saturday mornings. Joe and Cliff Coates voluntarily monitor it on Thursday mornings. Ed Relation and grandson Dylan are the Wednesday afternoon volunteers.

Users should expect to unload their own car or truck. The volunteer monitors are not there to do the unloading. Please dump in the designated areas. Take boxes, bags, plastic, and rope home.

Firewood is free for the taking as is the mulch from the tree branches and Christmas trees. Hint: A farmer's hay or silage fork works well. Composted material is available at no charge. The DPW worker is not permitted to load trucks using the Town's loader.

More volunteers are welcome. Call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 to discuss volunteering. ■



KEEP THE BIKE PATH CLEAN



Your dogs are invited to use the bike paths as well. The Millstone West Path has 4 mutt-mitt stations, with a 5th to be installed this summer near the entrance by the tennis courts. Also a mutt-mitt station will be installed at the Bridge Street entrance of the South Barre path. Please clean up after your dogs (and remember to keep them on a leash). Thank you for your consideration!

Solid Waste District Services

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 19 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).

The District is offering a number of other collections this year. Barre Town residents may utilize any of the following collection services (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.):

April 30	Document Shred - Barre City
May 5	Hazardous Waste - Barre City
May 19	HHW - Barre Town DPW garage
June 2	E-waste, Textiles, Books, Document Shred - Hardwick
June 9	HHW - Plainfield
July 14	HHW, E-waste, Textiles, Books - Tunbridge
August 25	HHW - Hardwick
September 8	HHW, E-waste, Textiles, Books - Bradford
September 22	HHW - Montpelier
October 6	E-waste, Textiles, Books - Chelsea
October 13	Document Shred - Montpelier

For more information, call CVSWMD at 229-9383 or check their website: www.cvswwmd.com.

Town Meeting Ballot Information



Between work, family, and taking care of day-to-day business, is your schedule so hectic that you sometimes forget to vote on Election Day? Early voting ballots (formerly known as voting absentee) are available by emailing

dkelty@barretown.org or calling the

Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391. The deadline to request an early ballot is Monday, May 7 at 4:30 p.m.

If you are not on the checklist but would like to vote on Town Meeting issues, the deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, May 2 at 5:00 p.m. Applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

So what will I be voting on? Barre Town has two Town Meetings. The first is for general housekeeping items (on May 2) and the second is by Australian ballot (on May 8).

The **Open Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, May 2 at 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. Items to be voted on include: setting the property tax due dates, how the state tax credit payments will be applied to property tax bills, setting the due dates for the sewer use charges, authorizing the Selectboard to sell real estate, and to present the Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship & Service Award. Immediately following this meeting there will be a brief budget presentation.

The **Annual Election of Officers and Voting By Australian Ballot** will be held on Tuesday, May 8 at the Barre Town Elementary School gymnasium. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The ballot will contain the standard items such as electing individuals to serve as: Selectboard - 3 year term, Selectboard - 2 year term, Town Clerk-Treasurer - 3 year term, Auditor - 3 year term, Auditor - 2 years remaining on a 3 year term, Constable, and Moderator; budget questions (General Operating and Highways); funding for the Town cemeteries; numerous not-for-profit funding questions; stipends for some elected officials; and a non-binding question to determine the interest in further study of public safety regionalization with Berlin, Barre City, and Montpelier.

To view sample ballots, go to the Town website (www.barretown.org) and look under announcements. You can also visit one of the local markets (Hannaford's Market, Lawson's General Store, Trow Hill Grocery) or the Municipal Building.

Voting is quick, easy, and more convenient than ever. Let your voice be heard – VOTE! ■

- Donna J. Kely, Town Clerk-Treasurer

The next issue of the Barre Town Newsletter will be published in August 2012.

Verifying & Appealing Property Value

By State law, properties are assessed for property tax purposes based on the condition of the property as of April 1. 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 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 reasons for their assessed value. The Board assigns an inspection committee which visits the

(continued on page 6)



VERIFYING & APPEALING (continued from page 5) 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 and attorney about this detail.

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

Spring and Summer Permits

Are you planning to repave your driveway, have a fireworks display, construct a shed, or burn that pile of brush? If you answered yes to any, you might need a permit. Read on to find out more information, but keep in mind this is not an entire list of possible permits you might need. It's always best to call first.

Fireworks Permit: The application can be downloaded from our website (www.barretown.org/forms) or by calling the Town Clerk's Office (479-9391). Some of the information required includes: date of display, where you are going to store your fireworks, what type of fireworks you will have, your physical location, and a sketch detailing locations to neighbors, highways, buildings, and overhead telephone lines. Applications must be submitted at least 15 days in advance of the date of the display. The application fee is \$15.00. The Fire Chief, Police Chief,



and Selectboard must approve the permit and have the authority to deny or place restrictions on a permit.

Outdoor Burning: Outdoor burning is popular in Barre Town. Before burning, you need to know a few important things. First, the only legal items to burn are natural untreated wood such as brush. Burning plywood and pressure treated wood is not legal. The second thing you should know is that burning trash is illegal. Most everybody knows what trash is; however, you should be aware paper and cardboard are considered trash and cannot be burned. The penalty for burning trash can be significant. If you would like to burn legal material, a permit from the Town Fire Warden is necessary. You can reach the Fire Warden by calling 498-8694 and leave a message. The Warden will call back to discuss plans and may require a site visit before issuing the permit.

Working In Town Right-Of-Way: Working alongside the road this summer? If so, you may need a Working In Right-Of-Way Permit. This permit is issued by the Town Engineer in an effort to ensure, for example, 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 – as much as 13 feet. How much depends on several factors; but if you are close to the road, you could be in the right-of-way and should contact the Town Engineer at 479-2595 for help.

Driveway Permit: Driveway permits are issued by the Town Engineer to protect the Town's interest in the road. Another purpose is to get the best visibility possible. It is important to note that driveway permits are required for almost anything you may do to your driveway in the vicinity of where it meets the Town road. This includes, but isn't limited to, repaving. If you are having your driveway paved, you likely need a driveway permit and should contact the Zoning Office at 479-2595 to obtain a permit application.

Building Permit: Another building season is upon us. If you are planning an outside building project that is more than 64 s.f. in size, you likely will need a building permit. Building permits carry a State-mandated 15 day waiting period where your property is posted with a big Z. This waiting period offers an interested party the opportunity 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 has gone by, you are good to start building. If you have any questions regarding the possible need for a building permit, you should contact the Zoning Office at 479-2595 and discuss your project. If submitting an application, allow at least 25 days before you plan to begin your project because of the administrative time to review the application and the 15 day appeal period.

Good luck with your summer projects and activities! ■

- Donna Kelty, Town Clerk and
Chris Violette, Zoning Administrator

Project Updates

► **Semprebon Bike Path:** Four engineering firms responded to the Town's and City's joint request for proposals for survey and design services. A selection committee (with members from the Town's and City's bike path committees) evaluated and ranked the proposals. The committee recommended DuBois & King to the Selectboard and Council. The contract was awarded in late February. A kick-off meeting with D&K was held April 9. The surveyor started searching deeds during the week of April 2. Field survey might start during the week of April 23. Survey and preliminary plan preparation will be done over the summer. A public meeting will be held in late summer or early fall. D&K's estimated total cost for Barre Town is \$237,966 which is a little less than the conceptual design consultant predicted. Charles Semprebon gave the Town \$500,000 for this project. After D&K's contract, the Town would have approximately \$265,000 to match a construction grant.

► **Bridge Street Bridge:** Tropical Storm Irene drew the AOT engineers' attention away from this project. The AOT Structures Division is working on the final plans which should be done in June. AOT plans to seek bids early in 2013 with construction to start in Spring 2013. This is planned to be a one-year project.

► **East Barre Sidewalk:** Town staff is talking with owners from whom rights-of-way are needed. Construction this season is doubtful.

► **Rt. 14/Bridge St./Sterling Hill Intersection:** AOT's preliminary plans had to be re-done; the engineers still are working on the plans and stormwater permit plans. AOT would like to hold a public informational meeting with a Selectboard meeting when the preliminary plans are completed this Fall. AOT estimates the signalization and intersection improvement project will be built in 2015.

► **Rt. 14/Quarry St. (Quarry Hill Road):** The intersection is in Barre City, but the adjustments to Quarry Street and the stormwater system cross over into Barre Town. AOT is in the preliminary plan phase. Construction is slated for 2015.

► **Sterling Hill Road:** The Town has received preliminary approval for the \$95,000 HMGP award which, pending final FEMA authorization, will allow the appropriate sized culvert to be purchased and installed on Sterling Hill Road. The road has been closed since the flash floods washed out large sections in May 2011. The majority of the road has been rebuilt, although a channel just downhill of the Cherrywood Drive intersection has been left open in lieu of installing an undersized culvert similar to what had been in

place. The project is on schedule to go out to bid in June, with the majority of the work being completed between August and October of this year. Sterling Hill Road will remain closed for this summer, but it will likely re-open, returning to one-way seasonal use once the mud is gone in Spring 2013.

► **LED Streetlight Conversion:** The internal process is still ongoing regarding the Town's efforts to convert our inventory of leased streetlights, consisting mostly of mercury vapor bulbs, to the cheaper and more energy efficient LED technology. The Transportation Safety Advisory Committee is reviewing the current lighting pattern in Graniteville, Websterville, and East Barre. South Barre and north of Route 302, including Trow Hill, Camp Street, Cassie Street, and the area from Richardson Road to the East Montpelier Road, will be considered in the late Spring. TSAC findings and recommendations will be reviewed by the 3 Town emergency services department heads before being forwarded to the Selectboard for final approval. Town staff hopes to have a full report submitted to Green Mountain Power by mid-summer. ■

2012 Road Paving Schedule

Hot Mix Asphalt Paving Contract #1 (June 11-22):

McHugh Rd., Deerfield Ave., Lisa Dr. (Camp to 1st corner), Owen Dr., Short St., Camp St. (#355 to #440), Ridgewood Ter., Windridge Dr.

Nova Chip Overlay (June 25-July 11): Middle Rd. (Rt. 14 to Hutchins), W. Cobble Hill Rd. (Ridgewood N to Tamarack N), Owen Dr., Barclay Quarry Rd., Short St., Clermont St., Wildersburg Phase 1, Ridgewood Ter., Windridge Dr., McHugh Rd., Park St.

Pavement Reclamation (July 9-20): Farwell St. (Mekkleesen to E. Montpelier town line)

Cold Mix Paving and Chip Seal (July 30- August 10):

4" cold mix paving - Farwell St. (Mekkleesen to E. Montpelier line). Chip seal - Holden Rd. (Rt. 14 to Peloquin), Sunset Rd. (Camp to Windywood), Peloquin Rd., Allen St. (City line to #212), Parker Rd. (Pitman to cul-de-sac), Farwell St. (City line to E. Mont.)

Hot Mix Asphalt Paving Contract #2 (Aug. 27-Sept. 7):

Windywood Rd. (pond to 2nd Sugarwoods entrance), Pine Ridge Rd., Sugarwood Rd., Clark Rd. (Rt. 14 to 1st intersection of Pine Ridge), Cheney Rd. (Rt. 63 to Apple Blossom) ■



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - Summary Report

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

Feb. 2012: Made following recommendations to forward to Selectboard - 1) install Hidden Drive-Left sign 250' north of 212 Allen St.; 2) recommend Middle Rd. for High Risk Rural Road program ; 3) request State AOT install trail blazer signs at Rt. 63/Rt. 14 intersection; 4) request State AOT review speed limit on Rt. 302.

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

Feb. 2012: No meeting.

Mar. 2012: Approved boundary line adjustments for Fecteau Res., Untiedt, JDJ Dev., and Town of Barre at ends of Daniels Dr. and Rudd Farm; amended site plan approval for Northeast Materials asphalt plant in Upper Graniteville; approved site plan and variance for HP Hood/Booth Bros. on Allen St.

Apr. 2012: Approved 4-lot subdivision and road extension for Fecteau Res. off Daniels Dr. and Rudd Farm; re-approved 2-lot subdivision for C. Thygesen off Don Camp Dr.; approved conditional use permit and site plan for Montpelier Church of Christ.

PLANNING COMMISSION (*C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, K. Yearman, C. Duke, D. Wilson, J. Hamelin*)

Feb. 2012: No hearings.

Mar. 2012: No hearings.

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

PRESRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 222 BARRE VT
--