

# Barre Town Newsletter

Municipal News

## Town Forest Plans Continue



At the General Election in November 2010, Barre Town voters authorized borrowing \$100,000 as the Town's contribution of a proposed 372 acre Town Forest. The Trust For Public Lands is seeking \$1.1 million in grant funds to help purchase the necessary land. The Millstone Trails

Association has committed to contributing \$100,000 towards the purchase. A requirement of funding sources (grantors) is an adopted Town Forest Management Plan. The Plan must comply with some grantor requirements.

In April 2011, the Selectboard appointed 7 Town residents – Cynthia Fitzgerald, Stefan Mayr, Tom Koch, John Hameline, Cate Cattier, Marc Bernier, Lionel Cyr – to the Town Forest Management Plan Committee. The Selectboard directed the Committee to hold at least two public hearings. The Committee decided to hold a hearing very early (May 26) to gather public input, concerns, interests, and questions. Over the summer and into the fall, the Committee met almost weekly. They walked areas of the proposed Town Forest; they scouted potential parking areas; and they received input from the Washington County forester, Millstone Trails Association, Audubon Vermont, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns. When a second draft of the Plan was ready, the second hearing was held on September 8.

Although a handful of people attended the hearing, no one offered input or comment.

In May 2011, the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board awarded the Trust For Public Land (TPL) a \$310,500 grant for the land purchase. In September, the TPL prepared and submitted to the Open Space Institute an application for a \$250,000 grant. The last application, to the Federal Community Forest Program for a \$400,000 grant, should be submitted in January 2012.

The Committee suspended meetings at the end of October while final details and attached documents are gathered. The Committee hopes to present the Plan to the Selectboard in December or early January. The TPL estimates the project will be ready for closing (deeds given to the Town) in June 2012.

The Plan will be used to manage the timber resources and various uses of the forest land. Existing permitted recreational uses will be allowed to continue. The Plan allows for the possibility of new recreational uses. Pedestrian use (walking, running, walking a dog, snowshoeing) will be free to everyone. Groups such as Millstone Trails Association may charge trail pass fees for mountain biking and cross-country skiing, but Town residents can buy a discounted pass to use just the trails on the forest property.

The Plan and associated documents are available for reading on the Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)). Links are provided in the Announcements on the homepage. There will be another opportunity to offer input when the Selectboard receives the Plan. ■

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### Town Bridge Project Delayed

The Bridge Street bridge was slated for construction during the 2012 building season. The VT Agency of Transportation (AOT) Structures Division was putting together the final construction drawings and assembling bidding documents when Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont. AOT had to shift its attention to repairing or replacing two dozen State highway bridges.

During September and October, AOT needed all engineers to help with roads and bridges in southern Vermont. The Bridge Street bridge is now planned for construction in 2013. ■

## Selectboard Meetings Offered on Internet

Charter cable television isn't needed any longer to watch Selectboard meetings. Meetings are uploaded live and can be watched at [www.ustreamtv.com](http://www.ustreamtv.com) on Tuesday nights starting at 7:00 p.m. Type "Barre Town Selectboard" in the search box. To watch a meeting at another time, visit the Town website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)), click on Boards & Commissions, and pick Selectboard. A list of meeting dates are links to the ustream recordings.

Charter cable customers still can watch meetings on CTV Channel 7. Meetings are played Friday at 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m. and on Saturday at 8 a.m. and noon.

Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the website on the same Selectboard page. ■

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### OFFICES CLOSED

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving  
 Mon., Dec. 26 - Christmas  
 Mon., Jan. 2 - New Year's

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## Budget Committee Needed

Due to the 2009 Charter amendments, the Budget Committee is one of the most influential committees in Barre Town government. This committee of 10 people decides what General Fund and Highway Fund budgets are presented to voters. The Budget Committee also adopts the budgets for 6 other funds (Water, Sewer, Ambulance, Equipment, Cemetery, and Building).

The committee consists of: 5 members of the Selectboard, a resident appointed by the Town Clerk-Treasurer, 2 people appointed by the Selectboard, and 2 residents picked by the first 3 appointees. Appointments are made in January. Review of the budgets usually starts the last Tuesday of January and continues on a weekly basis until March goes out like a lamb. Normally the committee meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Some additional meeting time usually is required.

Every registered Barre Town voter (and anyone who could register by December 31) is a potential member. Past members have been old-hands of Town government and newbies to government (and even to Barre Town). Men and women, old and young, have served. If you are a sensible person with an interest in learning and are able to attend the committee meetings, express your interest in serving your town.

Letters of interest can be submitted by email ([offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org)) or by mail (Town Manager's Office, PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678). Letters of interest submitted not later than December 30 will be considered. ■

## 2011 David Stefaniak Memorial Holiday Food & Gift Drive

Over 25 years ago, Barre Town parent David Stefaniak brought community attention to the needs of some of our families and friends for food assistance, particularly at Christmas time. Upon David's untimely death, volunteers took up his work and to this day his efforts live on.

Our goal is to provide a winter clothing item and a toy for each child. The donations will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis to Barre Town Middle & Elementary School students. Families register through the nurses's office at the school.

With the help of our generous Barre Town community, we would like to have all of our participating families adopted this year. A family, a business, a class, or individuals may adopt families or individuals. Please contact me if you would like to donate food, money, gifts, or adopt a family.

Thank you for reaching out to families in our community in this wonderful holiday season. This will be my last year coordinating this drive. If you are interested in running the drive in the future, please contact me at 518-250-8736 or email at [btmes@hotmail.com](mailto:btmes@hotmail.com). Thank you. ■

- Kerri Lamb



Barre Town was awarded a "Help America Vote Act" grant earlier this year. The grant paid for labor and materials to install a new semi-automatic door with a motorized push plate opening system, and for a directional sign. The new door is the entrance to the handicap access route in the Municipal Building. A lift just across the lobby from the new door helps people reach the Selectboard meeting room and administrative offices.

## New Assistant Manager Has Barre Roots

Shawn Benham has been hired by the Town of Barre to fill the recently created Assistant Town Manager position. In May, Shawn received his Master of Public Administration degree from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, SUNY University at Albany, as well as gained membership to the Pi Alpha Alpha academic honor society. Shawn received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. As a graduate of Spaulding High School and BTMES, and a native of East Barre, Shawn is excited to become reacquainted with the area while supporting the management efforts of the Town staff.

In addition to his education, Shawn has a unique employment history which includes stops in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. While at Rockefeller, he worked as a graduate assistant to the public administration department chair, as an IT development intern with the Schenectady County Department of Senior & Long Term Care Services, and as a financial assistant with Association Resources, Inc. (a professional association management firm). These posts offered exposure to a diverse range of tasks including research methods, database coordination, financial record keeping, financial reporting, and organizational management.

Prior to graduate school, he worked in Philadelphia as an AmeriCorps National Direct funded site coordinator with Lift, a national not-for-profit organization. As an organization, Lift aims to eliminate cyclical poverty by helping individuals develop the skills necessary to reach sustainable life goals such as regular employment or stable housing. Lift is staffed primarily by college student volunteers, and it is managed locally by recent college graduates interested in public service careers. In this role, Shawn provided direct service to consumers, helped his co-Site Coordinator recruit, train, and support volunteers, and built a referral network of partnering organizations and agencies to enhance the resources available for consumers' needs. His time with AmeriCorps was the catalyst in studying public resource acquisition and allocation on the local level.

As an undergraduate, Shawn was an active campus leader. He served as a Resident Assistant, an Orientation Leader, a Student Ambassador, an Admissions Fellow, and he sat on the President's Senior Advisory Council. He was also a member of the student newspaper, the student programming board, and the local chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a leadership-based honor society. At commencement he was recognized with the Roger W. Babson Award for becoming distinguished on campus for his character, sound judgement, and systematic business habits.

Shawn is looking forward to reconnecting with old friends while catching up on the progress that has occurred in the past few years. Even more so, he is excited to follow

the Sox, the Celts, and the Pats while no longer being in the minority! Since coming back to Vermont, Shawn has been residing in Essex Junction, and until starting with the Town, had filled a short-term vacancy as the Interim Office Manager for McCain Consulting, a Waterbury-based civil engineering and consulting firm. When his current lease expires, he hopes to take advantage of the buyer friendly housing market and find a home which will afford him access to the many hiking, biking, and fishing opportunities nearby. Looking forward, Shawn is thrilled to be back in Central Vermont. ■

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**  
The next Barre Town Newsletter  
is scheduled for publication  
in February 2012.

## Install Your House Numbers!

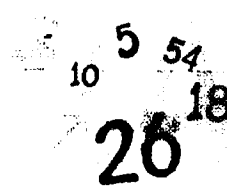
Have you ever tried to find a house, a business, or some other place using a street number (911 address) and not been able to because it isn't there? Whether for personal reasons, as an emergency service, or as a delivery person, it can be extremely frustrating to not be able to find a building number.

Having your house or building numbered can be critical to finding you in the event of an emergency. Not taking the time to put numbers up can add extra time to finding your property if you need police, fire, or emergency medical assistance.

Don't think a few extra minutes are a big deal? Try being in the position of needing help ... adding an extra few minutes (which seems like an eternity if you're waiting) because you didn't put a street number up or it isn't visible and I think you will see the value. In Barre Town, it is required by Town ordinance that every building be numbered with the number assigned by the Town. The number must be at least 4" high and must be clearly visible from the street. Failure to adhere to this requirement could cost you up to \$500.

As an emergency service official, I ask that everybody take the time to comply with this ordinance. It truly can be the difference between life and death. ■

- Fire Chief Chris Violette

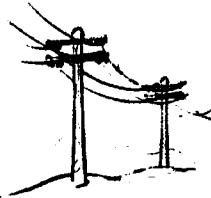




*The Wilson Street playground is being updated. A new 20' x 20' picnic shelter has been built and 4 picnic tables added. A swing set has also been installed, and there are plans for additional playground equipment in the future.*

## Upgrading Town Streetlights

You may have noticed a change going on around town recently, especially if you are driving at night. Starting earlier this year, when an old streetlight burned out Green Mountain Power would exchange the bulb for a new technology rather than with an exact replacement. These new Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights require a fraction of the energy, they have a longer life, and they are a bit whiter than the existing lamps. Currently, most Town streetlights have either a mercury vapor (gray-greenish light) or high pressure sodium (yellowish light) system, both generally needing more than 100 watts to function. Additionally, Federal law now bans the sale of mercury vapor fixtures and components, requiring alternative technologies upon replacement.



The Town of Barre has partnered with Efficiency Vermont and Green Mountain Power Corp. (GMP) to accelerate the conversion of streetlights on Town highways to LEDs. This transition will reduce the Town's monthly electric bill while eliminating the energy wasted to power the less efficient lamps currently in use. This process will occur in two parts. In the first phase, an inventory will be compiled and analyzed to ensure the location of existing streetlights adheres to the Town's Streetlight Policy. In this phase some lights may be relocated or removed, but not until after consideration by at least the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and the Selectboard. In the second phase, GMP will install the LED bulbs.

Under the terms of the partnership, the Town will not be responsible for the cost of conversion. Efficiency Vermont will provide a lighting consultant, as well as cover the fee incurred by GMP for removing existing lights not yet burned out. The lighting consultant will provide technical information regarding comparability of the

different technologies' energy requirements and foot-candle production. Simply speaking, the Town expects to increase the quality of publicly lit areas while reducing the associated costs.

Contact Assistant Town Manager Shawn Benham for more information ([sbenham@barretown.org](mailto:sbenham@barretown.org)).

## Statewide Reapportionment Changing Legislative Districts

Every ten years, Vermont legislative voting districts are reviewed and sometimes changed by the Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB) and VT General Assembly. Using 2010 U.S. Census numbers, LAB determines the ideal single-member population (4,172) and two-member district population (8,344) and proposes district boundary changes. The preliminary findings are forwarded to municipalities for the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) to review, discuss and, if necessary, recommend changes.

In early July 2011, LAB released its preliminary report. The proposal divided Barre Town into three voting districts: 1) a single-member district wholly within Barre Town; 2) a single-member district shared with Barre City™ (Barre Town forming the majority of the district); 3) a single-member district shared with Williamstown (South Barre forming a small minority of the district). The Barre Town BCA did not agree with the proposal.

The BCA met in mid-July to work on its reply. On July 27, the BCA met with the Barre City BCA and finished its response to the LAB. The Barre Town BCA response rejected the idea of dividing Barre Town among three legislative districts and stated the BCA's preference that Barre Town continue as one 2-member district. The BCA asked that if 2-member districts are eliminated, Barre Town should be divided in two districts entirely within Town boundaries. The BCA asked that it be assigned the task of dividing Barre Town in two districts. Finally, the Town's BCA agreed with Barre City's BCA that if any Barre City population is assigned to an "adjoining" district, the population be assigned to a Barre Town district.

The LAB final report to the Legislature did not change the preliminary proposal that Barre Town be divided among three districts. On November 10, the House Government Operations (Gov Ops) Committee held a hearing about the LAB final report. Barre Town BCA chairwoman Pearl Bugbee testified before the Committee. She stated the disadvantages of breaking Barre Town into 3 legislative districts with two other municipalities and restated the BCA's requests. She pointed out that among seven municipalities with a similar population, only Barre Town was not keeping its single 2-member district.

The Gov Ops Committee will adopt its plan for House legislative districts and present it to the full House for adoption next spring.



# Winter Tips



## Winter Sand Is Now Available

by Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

The Department of Public Works has made available a stockpile of sand outside the gate of the DPW yard on Websterville Road. Referring to the Town's [Free Winter Sand Use Policy](#), please remember:

- The public shall not enter the DPW yard without authorization and shall not help themselves to sand or salt from the DPW sand or salt storage buildings.
- The DPW's main mission is maintaining Town highways. Therefore, the DPW cannot be expected to keep a pile of sand available during a snow or ice storm.
- Residents taking pickup truck loads of sand rapidly deplete the supply, denying others an opportunity to obtain sand. Consequently, residents will be limited to a reasonable amount of sand per trip.
- Free winter sand offered by the Town is only for residents and only for use at their homes. Sand is not provided for businesses or commercial use.

Please review the policy in its entirety, available at the DPW garage gate. □

## Plowing Precaution

The Department of Public Works suggests homeowners mark fences, stone walls, or other landscaping that is close to the road. Install a tall painted stick or use a metal post with a reflector. If the fence, wall, or landscaping is in the road right-of-way, the DPW can't guarantee it won't be struck, but the marker can help the DPW avoid the property adornment. Place the marker at the end closest to the plow's approach – facing the road, to the left side. □

## Winter Mailbox Tips

By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

Each winter residents fight the usual battle of clearing ice and snow from their driveways and from around their mailboxes. Last year, the winter brought significant amounts of snow right through the end of March, and people were beginning to wonder where they would put any more snow. Here are some tips for keeping up with the snow as it comes and preparing for the long winter ahead.

Many people don't have snowblowers or plows to help with the job of removing snow after each snow event. The key is to get the snow far enough back from the sides of the

driveway and from around the mailbox so there is room for the next storm. Although it may mean more work, the further back from the driveway you can push, plow or blow snow, the better off you are when it comes to having room for the next storm. I recommend that you remove more snow than you need to at the edges on both sides of the driveway to allow for extra storage. This also allows for the snow that comes off the snowplow to have room rather than just in the end of the driveway or from taking it off the snowbank and dragging half the bank into the drive.

Try to keep the mailbox visible, and make sure it has something reflective on it including the street number for your residence. This type of winter maintenance provides guidance for the plow driver so they can see the box and thus avoid it. (It also provides emergency safety personnel a better means of locating an address when out on a 911 call.)

Some people also place a snow shield or deflector board near the mailbox to prevent the curl of snow from ripping the box from the post. This works, but creates a barrier that hides the number on the side of the box. □

## Clearing Snow From Driveways

By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

Winter time is upon us – which brings the yearly ritual of cleaning the snow out of our sidewalks and driveways. This event has been made easier by the use of snowblowers, snowplows, snow scoops and yes, even better designed shovels. When we clear the snow, we then become somewhat challenged as to where to put the snow, knowing that later on we will probably run out of room. So we push, shovel, plow or blow the snow either into or across the road or sidewalk thinking it will just melt or be plowed away.

What most people forget is that it is a violation of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances which states any snow cleared from driveways, parking lots, roadside parking spaces, lawns or other residential, commercial, agricultural or industrial properties shall not be deposited within the right-of-way of any town road or highway. If this happens, in the judgment of a Barre Town police officer, the property owner shall be cited for a violation.

When you plow across the road, it leaves some snow which will freeze, causing a dangerous situation. Drivers can hit ice spots or lumps left by the snow causing them to lose control of their vehicle and leave the roadway. Also damage can occur to the Town snowplows which can be costly. Try to put snow on the low side of your driveway. That way when the plow goes by it does not get put back in your driveway or walk. You can see up the road better also.

Please remember that if you violate this ordinance you can receive a civil ticket along with a fine of \$60. □

## Safe Winter Driving Tips

Presented by the Barre Town Police Department

Winter is a beautiful time of the year in Vermont, especially when a fresh layer of new snow covers everything. But it can also be a very dangerous time. If you plan to travel during the winter, it will pay to prepare your vehicle for winter driving. Follow some simple safe winter driving tips and use common sense to insure that you make your destination safely. However, being prepared for the unexpected is necessary. Know what to do in case you are stranded.

### Prepare Your Vehicle for Winter Driving

Having reliable transportation is especially important in the winter. Not only should you keep your vehicle in top operational form all year (for safety and fuel economy), it is especially important to get it winterized to avoid any unpleasant or dangerous situation while traveling in frigid weather. Remember to check the following: ignition system, fuel system, belts, fuel levels, brakes, exhaust system, wiper blades and windshield washer fluid, snow tires, tire tread and air pressure, defroster, proper grade oil, cooling system, battery, lights, and antifreeze.

Always fill the gasoline tank. Stop to fill up long before the tank begins to run low. Keeping your tank as full as possible will minimize condensation, providing the maximum advantage in case of trouble.

Carrying a cellular phone can be very useful to you or another motorist if stranded.

Clear all windows and your lights of all snow and ice, and drive with your headlights on.

Keeping winter supplies in your car will also assist you in case of an emergency. Here is what we recommend: booster cables; two or more blankets; snow shovel and scraper; flashlight and extra batteries; extra warm clothing such as a cap or hat, mittens or gloves, parka and snow boots in case you have to walk; high calorie, non-perishable food; tow chain; sand, cat litter, or strips of carpet for traction; road flares; a piece of bright clothing for visibility.

### Driving In Winter

Remember when driving in the winter you need to leave plenty of room for stopping. Pay attention; do not try to out-drive the conditions. Remember that the posted speed limit is for dry pavement. Use your brakes carefully, and brake early; it will take more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions. Remember bridges freeze first, before the road.

Be very careful if using the cruise control option when driving in wintery conditions. Roads can appear clear and dry, but can have slippery spots where even the lightest touch of the brakes to deactivate the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

Look further ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions by cars and trucks will alert you quicker to potential problems and will give you a split second of extra time to react safely.

Remember trucks are heavier than cars and take longer to safely respond and come to a complete stop. Avoid cutting quickly in front of them.

Please leave room for road maintenance trucks and plows. Stay back at least 200 feet, and do not pass on the right.

Most importantly, remember to slow down. Seat belts must be worn at all times – “Remember, it’s the law”.

### In Case You Become Stranded While Driving in Winter

Call 911, describe the location of where you are, your condition and your companions, and the trouble you are experiencing. Listen for questions the 911 operator will ask you and follow any instructions given to you. Do not hang up until instructed to do so by the 911 operator.

Stay in your vehicle if safe to do so. Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You can lose your way, wander into oncoming traffic, or you can become exhausted. The vehicle is a good shelter if it is in a safe location. Avoid over-exertion.

Keep fresh air in your vehicle. Freezing wet or windblown snow can plug your exhaust system causing deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter your vehicle. Don't run your engine unless you are certain the exhaust pipe is clear of snow or other objects. Also keep the radiator free of snow to prevent overheating of the engine. Run the engine at 10-minute intervals for heat.

Make yourself visible to rescuers by tying a bright piece of cloth to the antenna or door handle. □

## Winter Parking Ban in Effect

By Police Chief Michael Stevens

Barre Town has an established winter ban parking ordinance. The ordinance states:

“The parking of vehicles within the right-of-way of public roads between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited between November 1 and April 1 of each and every year. The public shall be notified of this section each year by news releases issued to the local news media by the town manager’s office; said news releases to commence in October of each year. The town manager may, by executive order, prohibit parking at any other times of the year if emergency road conditions exist. (Ord. No. 1-13-98, § 2).”

This ordinance is in effect from November 1 through April 1. It does not say that cars must be moved on snowy days or just when streets need to be cleared. This ban states cars cannot be parked on streets and roads during the specified times.

So please remember that if your vehicle is parked in violation (even if it is dry and clear) you can receive a parking ticket and your vehicle can even be towed. Please make other arrangements during the winter weather months for parking your vehicles. □



## CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION



After shrieks and exclamations of joy have faded, after holiday food and spirits are consumed, after family have safely returned home, the Christmas tree still stands. It, too, has a turn to move on – but to be re-used after having served its purpose.

The Public Works Department collects Christmas trees in early January. Trees are taken to the lawn waste site and chipped with tree limbs to make wood mulch. Residents may take the mulch (no charge). Your tree can serve you twice. Please use this service in lieu of dumping the tree along a road or over a bank. Don't burn the tree.

Trees will be collected on the tried-and-true schedule shown below. If you want your tree taken away, place it along the street/road in front of your house during the week for your area. Remove plastic, wire, string, lights, and ornaments before setting out the tree for collection.

<u>Collection Week</u>	-	<u>Territory</u>
Tuesday - Friday, January 3-6	-	North of Route 302, includes Richardson Road, Beckley Hill, Cassie St., Camp St., Trow Hill, East Hill, Cobble Hill
Monday - Friday, January 9-13	-	South of Route 302, includes East Barre, Websterville, Graniteville, Quarry Hill, Sterling Hill, South Barre, West Hill

~ Collection will be delayed by snow and ice storms. ~

## Bike Path Committee Plans

The Selectboard has created a 7-member Bike Path committee. The Charles Semprebton bequest of \$500,000 for construction a path connecting Barre City precipitated revival of the committee. (In the past, a committee helped complete the South Barre path, gave guidance to the Town's segment of the C.V. Regional Path conceptual alignment, and helped plan the school-Graniteville path.) The committee is charged with preparing plans for the Semprebton and East Barre paths.

There is one vacancy on the committee. Meetings typically are held on Tuesday evenings. Interested residents may send their letter of interest by email or postal mail to [office@barretown.org](mailto:office@barretown.org) or to PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678.

The committee, in cooperation with the Barre City committee, is preparing a request for proposals (RFP) for the survey and preliminary design of the Semprebton path. The plan is to hire one engineering firm that will contract with the City and Town separately but coordinate the plans. The survey and preliminary design work will include public meetings and input.

In East Barre, the committee currently is preparing a budget proposal for building the 310 ft. path needed to connect Websterville Road to the cleared, graveled old railroad bed in the wooded area off the road. Eventually the off-road path will connect East Barre to the Town offices and sidewalk near the school. ■

## Winter Bike Path & Recreation Field Opportunities

While the gate to the Town's main recreation park off Websterville Road is closed for the winter, the fields remain available for use year round. Snowshoers and cross-country skiers are welcome to blaze trails through the facility, including the bike path which connects the school parking lot to Graniteville. Novice skiers and shoers may especially find the recreation fields attractive because obstacles such as trees and hills are sparse.

For those adventurous souls taking advantage of these wintertime activities, keep in mind the same courtesies asked during the summer months. Additional dog waste mitt stations have been installed along the bike path, and they will be maintained throughout the winter. It is important to respect existing pathways, as snowshoes can easily damage cross-country ski tracks and vice-versa.

Also, note the on-site restroom facility has been closed for the year, so please plan accordingly. ■



-Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager

## May Flood Recovery Work

On May 26, the Town Forest Committee's public hearing ended quickly after the Fire Chief came in and announced a tornado had been spotted near Roxbury and was headed toward Barre. The tornado wasn't seen in or near Barre Town, but the excitement wasn't over. Before darkness set in, tremendous thunder and lightning storms to the north were observed from the Municipal Building.



Around 9:30 p.m., the culvert in Sterling Hill Road was handling the stormwater surge, even though there was road damage on the north side of town. The rain would fall heavily for a short time and then ease up. However, the train of thunderstorms following a south-

west to northeast track through Central Vermont had not ended. Pounding rain returned before midnight, and shortly after midnight the Fire Department advised Sterling Hill was washed out. Town staff realized it was facing a situation similar to the July 2007 flashflooding.

DPW crews barricaded washed out roads until the early morning hours. The damage survey begun at 5:30 a.m. the next morning (May 27) revealed about 44 roads in all four corners of town suffered some damage. The DPW, assisted by 4 contractors and 5 trucking companies, went to work filling roadbeds that had been erased by the storm surge. Road damage that cut residents off from road access was targeted first, along with the Sterling Hill sewer line. Damage to Town property was almost entirely limited to roads and associated culverts. The sewer line in Sterling Hill Road was washed away. There was no damage to buildings or the water system.

On private properties, driveways were washed out, there was some basement and garage flooding, brooks and streams eroded land, and one bank slide damaged a house. A Federal disaster declaration for the storm event was issued. The declaration made FEMA assistance possible. Towns and cities receive public assistance from FEMA, which pays 75% of eligible expenses. The State chips in 12½% in most cases. Eligible expenses include town labor, equipment, materials, and contractor fees. As this newsletter is being prepared, Town staff is organizing expenses by location. Expenses are estimated close to \$300,000.

Most repairs were completed in June. Pavement patching wasn't done until Fall. As this newsletter is completed, construction of a bridge on Hunt Road (to replace a culvert washed away in May and again in August) is nearing completion. Final restoration of the Sterling Hill brook is underway.

Damage on Sterling Hill Road starts with the culvert that carries the brook under the road. When all stormwater can't flow through the culvert, it starts

running down the roadside ditch, eroding the ditch and then the road. The culvert needed would cost about \$90,000 to buy and have installed. Several grant applications for the culvert (including in 2011) have been denied.

As a precautionary measure, the Selectboard approved removing the existing culvert and building a stone reinforced open channel, effectively closing Sterling Hill Road. The contractor also widened several pinch or narrow points in the brook channel that could force water into the road. The Town has an opportunity to apply again for a grant. In coming weeks, the Selectboard must decide if it will apply for the FEMA grant and re-open the road if the grant is awarded.

## Free Electronics Recycling Program

Free year-round electronics recycling facilities are now available throughout Vermont. Vermont e-cycles, a program of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the Northeast Resource Recovery Association, is hosted by dozens of sites which will accept computers, monitors, televisions, printers, and computer peripherals (mouse, keyboards, etc.) at no cost. Some other devices may be accepted for a fee.

The program is open to households, not-for-profit organizations, school districts, and small businesses with fewer than 10 employees. As of November 2011, the following Vermont e-cycles facilities exist in our area:

- Computer Barn LTD, 921 Route 302, Berlin (476-6800)
- Wilson Depot, 109 Pitman Road, Barre Town (775-7722)
- ReStore Barre: A Program of Resource, 28 Granite Street, Barre City (477-7800)
- Casella's Montpelier Residential Drop-Off, 378 East Montpelier Road, Montpelier (399-7090)
- Northfield Transfer Station, 31 Dog River Drive, Northfield Center (775-7722)

Visit [www.vtecycles.org](http://www.vtecycles.org) or call 1-855-6ecycle for complete details including a list of all participating sites and tips on how to remove personal information from devices.

- Shawn Benham, Assistant Town Manager





## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - SUMMARY REPORT

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

**Apr. 2011:** Referred parking on shoulder at East Barre Auto Sales and East Barre Tire to VTRANS; received report on status of High Risk Rural Roads sign installation program and High Hazard Locations.

**May 2011:** Met with DeWolfe Engineering for site visit at Washington County Mental Health Services to review driveway access; met with DRB to consider traffic safety and access of WCMHS.

**June 2011:** Reviewed the Regional Planning Commission's Traffic Volume & Speed Study on Beckley Hill Rd. for WCMHS; reviewed RSG report regarding access and traffic impacts for Beckley Hill Rd.; Arick Miller was introduced as new member, Chauncey Liese was reappointed as Chairman, and Dan Newhall selected as Vice-Chair; recommended installing right turn only arrow in right lane and a left turn straight arrow for left lane with lane assignment sign on left side of Middle Rd.; discussed having passing lane for portion of Quarry Hill Rd. be used for left turn lane into Fisher Rd. for special events at Thunder Rd.

**July 2011:** Reviewed RPC's Traffic Study for Sierra Lavin Rd.; set public hearing dates for Aug. 17 for speed review on Sierra-Lavin Rd., Lague Lane and Woodland Drive; set public hearing dates for Aug. 17 for stop sign installations for Granview Dr. @ Richardson Rd., Sunnyside Dr. (each end), and Barclay Rd. @ Sunset Rd.; reviewed Roger Dickinson's review of RSG's Traffic Impact Study and recommended advance warning signs for school zone S1-1 and S4 at project cost and curve warning signs with side delineators from DPW.

**Aug. 2011:** No meeting.

**Sept. 2011:** Reviewed HRRR report on E. Cobble Hill Rd. and forwarded to Selectboard.

**Oct. 2011:** Recommended gate posting a second stop sign at end of Phelps Rd., relocation of existing sign further back from corner, and replacing stop sign at Barclay & Sunset with curve ahead with side road warning sign on each road with 25 mph speed advisory signs.

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

**Apr. 2011:** Request by Hutchins & Perreault for boundary line adjustment w/Cairns Irrevocable Trust on East Barre Rd. continued until May 11; request by North East Materials for site plan approval to allow construction of asphalt plant at Rock of Ages on Graniteville Rd. continued until May 11; request by Washington County Mental Health Services for major site plan on Beckley Hill Rd. - site plan conducted on May 9.

**May 2011:** Approved request by Hutchins & Perreault for boundary line adjustment w/Cairns Irr. Trust on East Barre Rd.; approved request by G. Booth for boundary line adjustment with HP Hood on Allen St.; approved request by HP Hood for boundary line adjustment with G. Booth on Bridge St.; approved request by M. Bilodeau for revised final approval/plat not filed in timely manner; request by North East Materials for site plan to allow construction of asphalt plant at Rock of Ages on Graniteville Rd. continued until June 8; approved request by Harris Ent. for minor site plan for construction of 4,500 sf addition on Pitman Rd.; approved request by L. Morgan for conditional use to operate grocery store at 130 Mill St.; request by WCMHS for conditional use approval to operate pre-school-grade 12 school on Beckley Hill Rd. continued until June 8; request by WCMHS for major site plan approval for construction of 14,450 sf building w/associated parking, drainage, playground on Beckley Hill Rd. continued until June 1.

**June 2011:** Approved request by WCMHS for major site plan approval for construction of 14,450 sf building w/associated parking, drainage, playground on Beckley Hill Rd.; approved request by T. Tofani for 6-lot s.d. off West Rd./Snowbridge Rd.; approved request by D Harding for boundary line adjustment with C & A Harding on Cutler Corner Rd.; approved request by G & K Parrott for 2-lot s.d. on Taplin; request by North East Materials for site plan approval to allow construction of asphalt plant at Rock of Ages on Graniteville Rd. continued until July 13; request by WCMHS for conditional use approval to operate pre-school-grade 12 school on Beckley Hill Rd. continued until July 13.

**July 2011:** Approved request by G. Booth for 2-lot s.d. w/deferral on Bridge St.; request by North East Materials for site plan approval to allow construction of asphalt plant at Rock of Ages on Graniteville Rd. continued until August 10; request by WCMHS for conditional use approval to operate pre-school-grade 12 school on Beckley Hill Rd. continued until August 10.

**Aug. 2011:** Approved request by W & E Lawrence for 2-lot s.d. on Jalbert Rd.; denied request by North East Materials for site plan approval to allow construction of asphalt plant at Rock of Ages on Graniteville Rd.; approved request by WCMHS for conditional use approval to operate pre-school-grade 12 school/daycare on Beckley Hill Rd..

**Sept. 2011:** Approved request by Althea McLeod Estate for 2-lot s.d. w/deferral on Farwell St.; approved request by F Hollyer for 2-lot s.d. on E. Cobble Hill Rd.; approved request by VT Butter & Cheese for minor site plan approval for installation of air handler unit, construction of truck bay, expansion of parking lot, improved drainage on Pitman Rd.; approved request by M. Collins for conditional use to change from single-family dwelling to 2-family on Littlejohn Rd.; approved request by T & T Thurston for conditional use to change from single-family dwelling to 2-family on Websterville Rd.

**Oct. 2011:** Approved request by T Tofani for revised final approval of previously approved s.d. on West Rd./Snowbridge Rd.; approved request by M Booth for conditional use to construct 2-family dwelling in low density residential on Allen St.; request by CV Community Land Trust on behalf of Phoenix House to change existing multi-family dwelling to shelter for operating transitional housing for substance abuse offenders on So. Barre Rd. continued until Nov. 9.

**Nov. 2011:** Approved request by W Rieger for 2-lot merger off Camp St./Sunset Rd.; approved request by North East Materials for site plan approval to allow construction of asphalt plant at Rock of Ages on Graniteville Rd.; approved request by CVCLT on behalf of Phoenix House to change existing multi-family dwelling to shelter for operating transitional housing for substance abuse offenders on So. Barre Rd.

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

**Apr. 2011:** Approved request by R Stanford for allowed use determination to operate fly tying business, classes, production and retail sales on Farwell St.

(Continued on page 8)

**Boards and Commissions** (cont'd. from p. 7)

**May 2011:** Approved request by Washington County Mental Health Services for additional curb-cut on Beckley Hill Rd.

**June 2011:** No meeting

**July 2011:** Approved request by W & C Tucker for allowed use determination to allow selling of late model cars on Quarry Hill Rd.

**Aug. 2011:** No meeting

**Sept. 2011:** Approved request by C Brown for allowed use determination to allow minor motor vehicle repair on Old Quarry Hill Rd.

**Oct. 2011:** No meeting



**DID YOU KNOW .....**

..... that another World's Record was set on the Barre Town baseball field? On July 31, at the end of the 200<sup>th</sup> inning, the game was called. Two days had passed since it began. After 48 hours, 32 minutes, and 45 seconds, the longest baseball marathon concluded – have surpassed the previous record by about 23 minutes. The 27 players (each having played roughly 40 hours) representing the Rutland Country Store's Red Team and Blue Team could finally go home. A representative of the event, Bobby DeAngelis, of Guidance, Involvement, Development & Education, formally thanked the Town at the September 27<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting while displaying the official Guinness World Record certificate. Mr. DeAngelis expressed his sincere gratitude after receiving many rejections from other communities when searching for a host for this endurance attempt. In appreciation, event organizers donated proceeds of \$1,200 to the Town Recreation Department. The record will be included in next year's print edition of the Guinness Book of World Records, and will name specifically the Michael E. Gibson Field of Barre Town as the host location.

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

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