

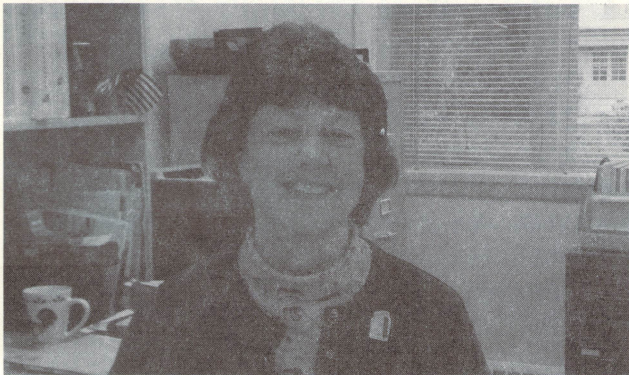
# Barre Town Newsletter

## Municipal News

Vol. 15, No. 4

November 2012

### *Diane Is Retiring!*



The woman who brought you these newsletters, town reports, budget booklets, and weekly website updates is retiring early. Diane Waters has worked for the Town of Barre as executive secretary in the Town Manager's office only since November 12, 1975. Officially, this will be the last newsletter she lays out in camera-ready format and coordinates between the printer and mailing service. She has produced every newsletter since the publication was launched in 1998.

Diane's service isn't limited to publications. She was hired by former town manager Paul McGinley. At that time, and until the late 1980s, the town manager was the zoning administrator. For about 14 years Diane assisted

the public with building permit and subdivision applications when the manager was out of the office or tied up on other town business. Until 1989 the executive secretary also was the daytime police emergency dispatcher. Imagine she could have been typing Selectboard meeting material when someone came to the office with a permit question, but the police emergency phone line rings with the report of a car accident. Then she'd use the radio to dispatch the officer to the scene and later receive radio calls about the officer enroute, on-scene, and maybe a call requesting a wrecker (no cell phones to make the phone call from the field). The Selectboard appointed Diane acting town manager in 1986 when the town manager resigned. She served in that capacity for 3 months until the new manager started work. Her knowledge and capability earned her the Selectboard's trust. For more than 20 years she is the person the Selectboard has designated, per Section 11(e) of the Town Charter, as acting town manager in the event of the manager's absence or disability.

The warm greetings she often hears from office visitors are an indication of the friendly, helpful, competent manner in which she performed her duties.

Over 37 years there will be changes. The police department has grown from 4 full-time officers to 7 and added a full-time clerk. Where once police and fire (there was no Barre Town ambulance service) were dispatched by 3 services, dispatching for all 3 emergency departments is now consolidated with one professional dispatch center. Barre Town bought out a regional ambulance service and improved the service to paramedic care. The recreation area was developed, and bike paths were built. The town agreed to take over 2 private water systems and merged with the East Barre Fire District water system.

Diane says the computer age is one of the biggest changes she has experienced. A PC for word processing was added to the desk in the late 1980s. Budget documents were prepared in word processing at that time. Today she uses a network-linked PC to do almost everything, including entering numbers and explanations in a new (if 13 years is new) budgeting/accounting program. Website announcements and 4-week calendar are updated at least weekly.

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## Thanksgiving 5K

Something will be different in Websterville this Thanksgiving morning. The Barre Congregational Church has held a 5K run and walk in the upper Phelps Road area for 9

years. This year the growing event will start near the Municipal Building.

Race time is set for 9:30 a.m. About 100 runners and walkers will proceed down Websterville Road towards the cemeteries. At Graniteville Road participants will turn left and run or walk out Graniteville Road. If there is no snow, the course will enter the bike path at Rock of Ages and return to the Municipal Building. If there is snow, runners and walkers will turn around near the snowmobile trail crossing and return to the Municipal Building by the same course.

Fastest runners will complete the 3.1 mile race in about 20 minutes. Walkers might need 50-60 minutes.

Traffic will not be prohibited on the course during the event, although traffic at Quarry Hill Road/Websterville Road might be stopped allowing runners to clear the intersection. If you drive through the area on Thanksgiving morning, keep an eye open for runners and walkers. Slow down when you spot a participant.

Interested in earning a second helping of mashed potatoes and gravy and a second slice of pie? Race registration forms can be found at [www.barrecongregational.org](http://www.barrecongregational.org). Race day registration should begin about 8:00 a.m. at the Municipal Building. ■

### TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Thurs., Nov. 22 and Fri., Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving  
Tues., December 25 - Christmas  
Tues., January 1 - New Year's Day

## Small Businesses Health Care Exchange

Vermont Health Connect is the new health care exchange to be launched October 2013. Health insurance policies offered through the Exchange will be in effect January 1, 2014. The Vermont Department of Health Access, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Barre are co-hosting a small business forum on Wednesday, November 28 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Barre Town Municipal Building.

Small business owners and their managers will learn about the exchange (Vermont Health Connect), the choices that small business owners will have, tax credits available now, and more about this important topic.

The forum will focus on what Vermont Health Connect means for small businesses. There will be time for questions. The forum is not limited to Barre Town businesses. ■

## Detour For Bridge Project

Usually news about the Bridge Street bridge project is reported under **PROJECT UPDATES**. This news warrants its own article. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) is seeking construction bids for the project. Bids are due about the time Town residents receive this newsletter. AOT expects to award a construction contract over the winter.

When demolition of the existing 60-year-old bridge begins, Bridge Street will be closed at the bridge construction site requiring a detour. AOT expects work to begin in late March or early April, depending on weather and snow conditions.



Because there will not be a temporary bridge, construction of the new structure will be completed in one season. The new bridge should be open and detour removed in October or November 2013.

Barre Town is responsible for planning and signing the detour. Town staff is meeting with AOT Traffic Operation staff to get suggestions for the detour plan. There will be discussion at Selectboard meetings (which means opportunity for public input) in December or early January. The objective is to describe the detour plan in a February newsletter article. If you, your visitors, or customers use Bridge Street on a regular basis, start preparing now for an alternative route. Most residents know the options for getting around the missing bridge. ■

### Diane Is Retiring *(cont'd. from page 1)*

Her last day of full-time employment is December 28. (She will work part-time to instruct the new executive secretary during the busy budget preparation and Spring bidding seasons.) Her professionalism is evident to the end. She is proactively preparing helpful information for her successor. Diane plans to stay close to Central Vermont and enjoy gardening, craft work, and animals that she could only try making a little weekend time for the last 37 years. We hope she has many bountiful harvests and she earns boxes full of blue ribbons at the Tunbridge World's Fair. ■



## CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

More homes than not have a Christmas tree. All are faced with finding a good disposal option. Loading a dried tree into a car could result in a blanket of needles in the trunk or on the seat and floor. The Department of Public Works (DPW), between snow and ice road maintenance, can help by collecting trees. The DPW would welcome picking up trees in front of homes on a set schedule instead of finding trees along back roads or plugging a drainageway. Trees are hauled by the DPW to the lawn waste site for chipping. The resulting mulch is available for residents free of charge.

The customary collection schedule, albeit a little later than usual, is shown below. If you want your tree taken away (we hope you do), place it along the street/road in front of your house during the week for your area. Remove plastic wire, string, lights, and ornaments first.

<u>Collection Week</u>	<u>Territory</u>
Monday - Friday, January 7-11 -	North of Route 302, includes Richardson Road, Beckley Hill, Cassie Street, Camp Street, Trow Hill, East Hill, Cobble Hill
Monday - Friday, January 14-18 -	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. ~

## Winter Parking



Wintertime is upon us again. With it comes the Town of Barre's parking ordinance which goes into effect from November 1<sup>st</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Our parking restrictions require no parking of motor vehicles, teams, carts, or any other conveyance within the right-of-way of town roads between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Vehicles in violation of this section may be ticketed and/or towed. This violation results in a \$15 fine. If your vehicle is towed, your vehicle will not be released until the fine is paid and storage fees are assessed.

So many times people ask me if it is okay to park their cars on the road or in the right-of-way if there is no snow. Let me make this very clear that the parking ban is in effect even if there is no snow, and you can receive a ticket if you are in violation.

If you do not know where your right-of-way is, please contact the Town Engineer who can help you before you get a ticket. Understanding the ordinance and preparedness is essential to having a worry-free winter parking experience.

If you have any questions on this, please feel free to call me at the Barre Town Police Department - 479-0509. ■

- Chief Michael Stevens

## Tips For Clearing Snow

Each winter residents fight the usual battle of clearing snow from their driveways and around their mailboxes. 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 remove snow after each snow event. The key is to get the snow far enough back from the sides of the driveway and around the mailbox so there is room for the next storm. The further back you can push, plow, or blow snow, the better off you are when it comes to having room for the next storm. 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.

Try to keep your mailbox visible and make sure it has something reflective on it, including your street number. This provides guidance for the snowplow driver so he can see the box and avoid it. It also provides emergency personnel a better means of locating an address when out on a 911 call. Some people also place a snow shield near their mailbox to prevent the curl of snow from ripping the box from the post. ■

- Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

## Railroad Repair Projects



*Dirt 2'-3' deep will be removed from this bank below the railroad switchback and be replaced with large stone and bin-walls.*

The VT Agency of Transportation hired CCS Constructors, of Morrisville, to repair the Sterling Hill railroad switchback. This work will be focused on the 400' area that experienced a slide immediately following the May 2011 storm. The process involved in the project is designed to prevent the side of the hill from continuing to slide away, taking the rail and subgrade material with it.

Work is progressing slowly since the first phase relates mostly to site access. Drainage provisions have included a temporary set of 60" culvert pipes across Sterling Hill Road. Additional piping has been installed in the ditch where a sloped gravel ramp will be placed allowing equipment to gain access to the rail bed. Stone-lined water bars have been installed in several places on the gravel road to minimize erosion from storm run-off. A section of about 500' of track and ties has been removed from the end of the switchback.

The contractor will remove tree stumps and soil material from the embankment. Borings will be placed up near the rail bed with steel pilings to be inserted and grouted into place. Next, diagonal anchors will be drilled into place under the rail bed. A bin-wall retaining structure will be anchored on top of the pilings. Once the pilings and anchors are in place, the contractor will replace some of the soil cover removed from the embankment. The cover material will be replaced with 2'-3' erosion stone to prevent additional soil slippage. AOT's contract with CCS calls for completion in February 2013.

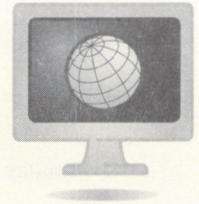
A section of rail bed has also started to slide near the picnic area off Quarry Hill Road and Cherrywood Drive. This slope failure is occurring near a culvert under the tracks. VTRANS hopes to resolve this problem by extending the slope with additional large erosion stone. This work will help to reduce the severity of the slope, as well as better key in the bottom of the slope to keep it from kicking out at the bottom. This project is supposed to be completed during November 2013.

*- Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer*

The next edition of the Barre Town Newsletter will be published in February 2013.

## Where Is The Public Notice Bulletin Board?

State law and the Town Charter currently require certain notices be published in a local newspaper and/or posted at various locations throughout town. In Barre Town, we recognize that many people no longer have home delivery of the local newspaper or visit the places where notices are posted. More and more people choose to use the Internet to obtain information, which includes visiting our website



([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)). To answer this need, we are adding a new page to the website – “Public Notices”. The page is currently under construction and will be unveiled by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The “Public Notices” page will be an electronic bulletin board for Town and State notices. Examples of Town notices include special meetings, public hearings, tax sales, ordinance adoption, and Town Meeting and Election Warnings. There will also be a link to State notices which include: State agency notices (Act 250 hearings, etc.) and other government entities (Washington County, fire districts, and school districts).

Keep informed and know what is happening in your town – visit us on the web!

*- Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

### BARRE TOWN'S ELECTION TURNOUT

November 6, 2012 - General Election

# residents on checklist:	5,900
# residents who voted:	3,955*
% voted:	67%

*\*inc. 1,041 early ballots*

For complete Barre Town election results, visit our website [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org), Home Page Announcements.

## Seeking Budget Committee Members

Five citizens – two appointed by the Selectboard, one appointed by the Town Clerk-Treasurer, and two selected by the three appointees – serve with the Selectboard on the Budget Committee. To be eligible, citizens must be registered to vote in Barre Town. Also, members must be available to meet every Tuesday night from late January through the end of March.

The five citizen members, along with the Selectboard, review the fund budgets (anticipated revenues and expenses associated with operating the Town for the year) presented by the Manager. The Budget Committee sets the final budget for all funds. The General Fund and Highway Fund budgets are presented to the voters for approval in May.

During the course of the budget review, the Committee helps to make difficult decisions that will guide the Town in the coming year. Past years' committees have discussed equipment and vehicle replacement schedules, the Town's energy usage, and recreational venues such as bike paths and playgrounds.

Committee members are expected to offer constructive suggestions and opinions based on their work and life experience as well as their good judgment. If you would like to be considered to join the 2013 Budget Committee, please submit a letter of interest to Barre Town Manager, PO Box 116, 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT 05678 or email your letter to [crogers@barretown.org](mailto:crogers@barretown.org) by December 28. Call 479-9331 or stop by the office if you would like to learn more about this opportunity. ■

- Shawn Benham, Asst. Town Manager

### TIPS FOR SAFE WINTER DRIVING

- ▶ Leave plenty of room between cars.
- ▶ Keep some sand/piece of carpet handy for traction.
- ▶ Be extra mindful of school buses.
- ▶ Always watch for children playing in the road/snow.
- ▶ Snow tires and 4 wheel drive don't protect against excessive speed.
- ▶ Leave early to avoid rushing.
- ▶ Clean ALL the snow off your car before driving, not just the windows.

## Winter Sand Now Available

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. ■

- Shawn Benham, Asst. Town Manager

## Support the Recreation Department

Barre Town has a diverse inventory of recreation facilities. The bike path network continues to grow, the Town Forest is nearing fruition, and there is a playground in each village.

Acquiring, maintaining, and upgrading these facilities is not cheap. Before going to the Budget Committee seeking tax support, the Recreation Board is reaching out to you for donations to help cover some of the larger costs in the coming year.

The biggest upcoming project the Recreation Board is considering is an upgrade to the Websterville Playground on Brook Street in Upper Websterville. Early estimates of costs to purchase new, safe, equipment for the site easily exceed \$40,000. That cost goes up when shipping and installation are considered; even using Town crews to assemble has an associated cost. A donation to the Recreation Department (which is tax deductible) will not only speed the process of upgrading this playground but, without support, the project may not happen at all. Each year, the Budget Committee is forced to make many difficult decisions during their review process, and playground equipment does not always make the cut.

Over the past 18 months, the South Barre Playground on Wilson Street has seen major improvements. Approximately two-thirds of the \$25,000 project was funded by private donations and State grants. With your help (a donation of any size is greatly appreciated) the Websterville Playground can also be completed with very little impact on the overall tax rate.

(Continued on page 6)



**RECREATION DEPARTMENT** *(cont'd. from p. 5)*

To contribute, checks written payable to the Town of Barre can be mailed to Recreation Department, PO Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678. Please note "Recreation Donation" on the memo line. Cash donations would also be accepted at the Town Clerk's Office. As always, the Recreation Board invites you to their meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month if you have thoughts or suggestions to share.

**SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER:**

When clearing snow from your property this winter, please remember that it should not be pushed, plowed, blown, or thrown onto the road. Help us keep the streets clear and safe!

**Project Updates**

□ **TOWN FOREST:** As a result of two critical decisions in early September, the Town of Barre should hold the deeds for the 375-acre Town Forest before January 31, 2013. In September the Town learned it was one of ten grant recipients in the United States Forest Service's (USFS) first-ever Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program. Barre Town was awarded \$400,000. The Trust For Public Land (TPL) prepared the application for the Town. The USFS grant was the last major source of funds needed to buy the forest properties. At about the same time, the Selectboard concluded negotiations of the conservation easement with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). The Selectboard negotiated for numerous changes in the first draft. The most notable changes are allowance for the possibility of an ATV trail through the property and an increase in the Town's decision-making authority for certain uses and improvements on the property.

The Town Forest Management Plan Committee is wrapping up details of the plan. It must be handed off to the Selectboard no later than December so the Board can hold a public hearing and adopt the plan in early January. Plans are being made for a survey crew to post small property boundary signs around the forest.

A small public parking area at the top of Barclay Quarry Road (Upper Graniteville) will be ready for use this winter. After the real estate closing, everyone will have free use of the Town Forest and trails for pedestrian uses – walking, running, snowshoeing. Cross-country skiing and mountain biking will require a pass (day pass or season pass) from the corridor (another word for *trail*) manager operating the x-country and mountain biking trails.

Currently, that manager is Millstone Trails Association. Skiers and bikers can pay a reduced pass fee if they only use trails on the Town Forest.

□ **EAST BARRE BIKE PATH:** The Town secured an easement to cross private property from Websterville Road to the old railroad (r.r.) bed. The owner required a culvert be placed in the deep ditch across his lawn. The culvert is installed and backfilled. Three smaller culverts were installed in the woods because a wooden structure culvert in the r.r. bed was decayed. An old logging operation and an East Barre Fire District water line construction obliterated the r.r. bed and 2 old culverts. Trees have been cut and stumps pulled. Yet this Fall, the DPW will grade and gravel the r.r. bed, build the path base across the lawn, and hire a contractor to build a concrete junction box tying together the large culverts. The path will be useable for x-country skiing, snowshoeing, and walking this winter. Next Spring, the path across the lawn will be paved, signed, and a Mutt-Mitt station installed.

□ **SEMPREBON (Barre Connector) PATH:** Since the last newsletter, two decisions were made and the engineers are busy surveying and using the survey preparing preliminary plans. For the path segment from behind Silver Circle (near the power line right-of-way) to a point below Platinum Plain houses, the Town's Bike Path Committee decided to survey a route away from Middle Road. That survey is completed. Regarding another segment, the engineers showed to the School Board plans for the path to be between the softball field fence and school parking lot and then along the soccer/baseball field. The School Board asked that the path follow the edge of the parking lot next to the wood chip plant and then use the grassy area to reach Websterville Road. The engineers are working on plans for that route. No public meetings or presentations have been held or are scheduled yet. ■

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

*If you wish to receive the Barre Town Newsletter via email, contact the Town Clerk's Office (479-9391) or [dkelty@barretown.org](mailto:dkelty@barretown.org). Your name will be removed from the physical mail list and added to the electronic list.*

## Wheels For Wishes



*By Alexandra Beane, Marketing Asst., Wheels For Wishes*

When you have an old, broken down vehicle to dispose of, you can donate it, and Wheels For Wishes can turn that old car into a wish for a local child. We do our best to make the most of every donation we receive, and we take vehicles in any condition – running or not, and of any year, make, or model.

Wheels For Wishes is a car donation program benefitting Make-A-Wish® Vermont. We are a tax-exempt charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. We are proud to offer an easy way to recycle or donate unwanted cars, trucks, motorcycles, SUVs, RVs, or even boats, by turning them into a wish for a local child. You can help to grant the wish of a child in your very own community, and all you need to do is get rid of that old car taking up space in your driveway or garage.

At no charge to you we will either pick up or tow away your vehicle, anywhere in Vermont. We will then recycle or auction off your old vehicle, with proceeds benefitting your local Make-A-Wish Vermont. You can help make wishes come true for kids right here in Vermont, and it's so easy to do!

We make donating a car as easy as possible. You won't have to worry about selling or trading in your car because we will take care of every detail for you. Donating a car doesn't get any easier than this, and you're participating in an excellent cause that helps local kids. You will even receive a great tax deduction at tax time, so it can't get much better than that.

Since 1989, Make-A-Wish Vermont has been working hard to make wishes come true for kids in Vermont. You can give back to your community and help kids with life-threatening medical conditions by donating your old car to Wheels For Wishes, benefitting Make-A-Wish Vermont. Give us a call when you have a car to donate, and we'll make sure that you help a child right here in Vermont.

For more information or to make your vehicle donation, please visit us online at [www.vermont.wheelsforwishes.org](http://www.vermont.wheelsforwishes.org) or give us a call at 1-877-675-9474. You can easily make your donation by phone or online by using our vehicle donation form (it only takes a few minutes to do so). Those few minutes will not only let you put your old vehicle to good use, but it will also benefit Make-A-Wish Vermont and help a deserving child right here in Vermont. Call us today! ■

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - Summary Report

### TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (D. Newhall, P. White, V. Vallerand, C. Liese, B. Kirby)

**August 2012:** Reviewed street lighting program status and South Barre truck route signs.

**September 2012:** Recommended to Selectboard to adopt on Smokehouse Lane a 25 mph speed limit and stop sign at So. Barre Rd.; recommended pedestrian advance warning signs on Graniteville Rd. @ McLeod Hill Rd. and @ Orchard Ter. and for Baptist St. near playground relative to Quarry Hill Apts. as requested by Barre Housing Authority; recommended 2 temporary speed humps on McLeod Hill Rd. located either side of Lucia St.

**October 2012:** No meeting.

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, G. Richards, J. Valsangiacomo)

**September 2012:** Approved request by H. & A. LaPerle for 10' variance from road right-of-way for proposed construction of 30'x40' detached garage at 370 Donahue Rd.

**October 2012:** Approved 2-lot subdivision by W. & E. Lawrence on Jalbert Rd.; approved 2-lot subdivision by Demas Estates on Middle Rd.; approved 2-lot subdivision for Casella Waste Management on Farwell St. and Mekkesen Hill Rd.; approved boundary line adjustment by M. Dwyer & D. Frattalone on Farwell St.; approved F. Demell for 15' variance from side yard setback on E. Cobble Hill Rd.

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

**August 2012:** Approved request by R. Roberts for allowed use determination for oil and lubricant wholesale business known as R&R Lubes to operate from commercial building owned by R. Hutchins at 179 Mill St.

**September 2012:** No action taken.

**October 2012:** No action taken.

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



**TOWN OF BARRE**  
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