

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020**

Meeting convened at 7:06 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk’s Office.

Board members present: Dylan Ford, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials and employees present: Town Agent Steven Adler, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair William Biddle, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Mark Bowen, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Bruce Denio, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Leland Alper, Joseph Despins, Frank Jannarone, Rachel Kittredge, Shawn Larocque, Kathleen Monroe, Kathryn Roosa, and Charles Smith.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 24, 2020

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Organization of the Board:

a. Appoint Chair

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Co-Chairs of Benjamin Gates and Dylan Ford. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Appoint Road Commissioner(s)

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Benjamin Gates as Road Commissioner. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

c. Appoint Tree Warden

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Stanley Robinson as Tree Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

d. Set date and time of meetings

- Ms. Ford moved to continue to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

Joseph Despins and Shawn Larocque appeared as representatives of the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club (Club), the organization requesting highway access. The Board reviewed a list and a map of town highways, or sections thereof, requested. The request is for the same access granted in 2019. Discussion ensued. Mr. Despins indicated that the ATV club had not received any complaints about operation of ATVs on town highways during the 2019 season.

- Ms. Ford moved renew the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as adopted in 2010, with changes only in the modification of specified town highway use permitted; this new permitted use being as requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club at this Board meeting, to include all or a portion of Anderson Street, Barnet Center Road, Bony Woods Road, Brook Hill Road, Chamberlain Road, Cloud Brook Road, Ferguson Road, Garland Hill Road, Gilfillan Road, Goss Hill Road, Joe’s Brook Road, Keyser Hill Road, Knights Lane, Little Scotland Road, McLaren Hill Road, Morse’s Mill Road, Roy Mountain Road, Water

Andric Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Whitehill Rd. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

4. Comment on agenda items, and any other business, by members of the public

a. Charles Smith regarding Church Street heavy traffic

Mr. Smith indicated that he has recently regularly observed tractor trailer trucks loaded with logs traveling on weight-restricted Church Street. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Smith document and report the dates and times of these occurrences, so enforcement efforts can be scheduled.

b. Charles Smith regarding Calais Town Office building

Mr. Smith presented the Board with photographs and documents related to the newly-constructed Calais, Vermont Town Office building, as obtained in his recent visit to that office. Mr. Smith suggested that the Calais Town Office suggests some ideas to consider for Barnet's new town office building.

5. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

a. Equipment and shop maintenance

Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department has spent much of its recent time in the Town Garage, performing routine maintenance to equipment and the shop.

b. Paving pricing

Mr. Chase indicated that he has requested pricing for a number of proposed 2020 paving projects from Pike Industries, Inc. and J. Hutchins, Inc.

c. Condition of newer pavement

A discussion was had about pronounced deterioration of recently paved surfaces observed during the current winter season.

d. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training

Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department is registered for the required annual MSHA training.

e. Vermont League of Cities and Towns training

Mr. Chase requested the Board's approval for day-long training by Vermont League of Cities & Towns for individual Highway Department employees as needed.

- The Board approved the training as requested.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Building Committee

Mr. Gates read two letters addressed from individual members of the Building Committee to the Selectboard.

The first letter, signed by Building Committee members William Biddle, William Graves, Benjamin Heisholt, Stanley Robinson, Catherine Roy, David Warden, and Dana Young, states "As a further phase of municipal building development has begun, we suggest that you select two or three professionals to advise the process and your decisions." The letter then recommends credentials for selection of these advisors, and tasks for these advisers to perform once selected.

The second letter, signed by Building Committee members William Graves, William Biddle, Stanley Robinson, David Warden, and Dana Young, suggests that the necessary work of the current building committee has been completed and that the committee be disbanded and discharged. The letter also expresses hope that the Selectboard will thereafter "follow up with queries and discussions with other towns - to determine the use of advisory committees for the purpose of managing buildings and properties, in Vermont and New Hampshire. Then as a board, you should establish a directive and

mission for an advisory committee, and, we hope, define and designate a committee to serve as buildings and properties advisers to the Selectboard.” The letter then recommends a structure (members and terms) for this committee, and tasks for this committee once formed.

Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

7. Other business presented by other Town officers

No other business was presented by other Town officers.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, letter of resignation of Michael Walsh from positions of Lister and Health Officer

The Board read a letter dated March 2, 2020 stating Mr. Walsh’s resignation from the positions of Lister and Health Officer.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept Mr. Walsh’s resignation from the positions of Lister and Health Officer. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Discussion ensued. It was acknowledged that, as Mr. Walsh’s resignation from the office of Lister occurred before Town Meeting, a new Lister, John Fairchild, was elected at Town Meeting.

The Board reviewed an email from the Vermont Department of Health indicating that the Selectboard will serve as Health Officer until April 1, at which time the Department of Health will appoint a new Health Officer.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) recommendations and resources

The Board reviewed an email discussing preparations and planning for the potential public health emergency. Discussion ensued.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, animal control complaint regarding dog kept at Warden Road

The Board reviewed a report of an incident involving a bite to a UPS driver by a dog owned by Brent and January O’Donnell. The Animal Control Ordinance requirement for a hearing regarding the bite was acknowledged; the Board indicated that a hearing is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding safety inspections of Fifteen Mile Falls Project

The Board reviewed a copy of a mailing sent by FERC to Great River Hydro, LLC.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, Transfer Station/Recycling Station project

The Board discussed the pre-bid site meeting to be held March 18, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Ford suggested that Mr. Jefferson spearhead this project. The Board agreed that Mr. Jefferson will lead the project, with assistance from Mr. Gates.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of N.A. Manosh, Inc., and Stacey Thomson Properties, LP.

14. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

15. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Greeting card for school

Ms. Ford indicated that she would deliver a greeting card to the Town Clerk’s Office, for the Board to sign and send to the Barnet School in appreciation for their hosting of the 2020 Barnet Town Meeting.

b. Town Hall future

Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Bruce Denio asked about the Board’s plans for the Town Hall and former Fire Station building, in light of the recent municipal office borrowing vote.

- The Board indicated that it is making plans for the future of the Town Hall property, but was not at liberty to disclose these at the time of this meeting.

c. Stuart Consulting contract status

Resident Frank Jannarone asked about the current status of the Town’s contract with Stuart Consulting.

- Ms. Ford indicated that she would be meeting with Ms. Stuart to close out the Municipal Planning Grant for Stuart Consulting’s contract, and that this would conclude the contract with Stuart Consulting.

d. Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband representative appointment

Ms. Ford reported that the Selectboard must make an appointment of a representative to the Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband board. Resident Kathleen Monroe indicated that she would be willing to serve as representative. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to include this appointment on the agenda for their next meeting.

16. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk