

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020**

**Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference. There was no physical meeting place for this meeting. This meeting was audio recorded via GoToMeeting.**

**Board members participating via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference:** Dylan Ford, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), and Mark Jefferson.

**Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference:** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

**Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference:** Neil Benedict, Jonathan Carpenter, Jane Casavant, Stephen Casavant, Shannon Harvey, Laurie Jefferson, and Mona Marceau.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held June 22, 2020**

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 22, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**2. Consideration of, and take any action on, Animal Control complaint form received from Stephen Casavant regarding incidents involving dogs kept at Anderson Street in Barnet Village**

The Board reviewed a complaint form submitted June 22, 2020 by Stephen Casavant. The complaint indicates that in May and June 2020, four to five hound dogs kept at 205 Anderson Street “are barking and crying most of the day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.” The Board reviewed licensing information indicating that in 2019 two dogs were licensed at 205 Anderson Street, but no dogs have been licensed at that address in 2020. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he was unsuccessful in attempts to contact owners of the dogs licensed in 2019. Constable David Stevenson reported that he had visited the property several time to investigate, but the door was not answered. The owner of the property, Robert Patneau, does not reside at the property; tenant Joshua Patneau dwells at the property with others. Jane and Stephen Casavant appeared remotely at this meeting via GoToMeeting. Jane Casavant indicated that she had spoken to Joshua Patneau, who indicated that the dogs making noise do not belong to him. Ms. Casavant believes that the owner of the dogs does reside at the property, but she does not know the individual’s name. Ms. Casavant also stated that the dogs are kept in an outdoor kennel hear the Casavants’ property line. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to issue a civil penalty of \$50 to Joshua Patneau, finding that the dogs kept at the property are creating excessive noise pursuant to Section 4.a.1. of the Animal Control Ordinance, and to send notice of this penalty via Sheriff’s Department service, and to send a copy of this notice via first-class mail to Robert Patneau. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**3. Other business presented by members of the public**

**a. Neil Benedict regarding zoning permit for Town Hall change of use**

Mr. Benedict noted that permit application fees were waived in the application for a change of use of the Town Hall, wherein the Town of Barnet was the owner and Scott Davis was the applicant. Mr. Benedict asked why the fees waived. Mr. Gates responded that fees were waived because the property owner, the Town, is exempt from zoning fees. Mr. Benedict stated that he believes fees

should have been applied because the applicant, Scott Davis, is not exempt from fees. Discussion ensued.

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

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

There were no applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits.

**b. Other business**

**i. Green Mountain Power projects in Town rights-of-way**

Mr. Chase reported on electrical projects in the Town's rights-of-way on Anderson Street and Kitchel Hill Road. The former is completed and the latter is expected to commence in August.

**ii. Gravel crushing**

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department is currently engaged in gravel crushing work. This project is expected to be completed the week of this meeting.

**iii. Roadside mowing**

Mr. Chase reported that the rented tractor for roadside mowing has arrived and that the Highway Department has commenced mowing.

**iv. Street signs**

Mr. Chase reported that street signs to replace those stolen or vandalized have arrived, but some posts for these signs are yet undelivered.

**v. Cutting trees on Mosquitoville Road**

Mr. Chase reported on a request for the removal of possible hazard maple trees on Mosquitoville Road. He indicated that, based on advice from Tree Warden Stanley Robinson and proximity of the trees to power lines and a house, it was determined that the Highway Department will not cut these trees.

**vi. Jewett Brook Road culvert**

Mr. Jefferson reported on blockage of a culvert on Jewett Brook Road caused by a beaver dam. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to investigate the dam to see if the blockage could be cleared by Town equipment.

**vii. Part-time employees**

Mr. Chase reported that he has employed a few seasonal part-time employees to assist with gravel-pit related projects.

**viii. Grader ditching**

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has started to perform routine ditching work, but that dry weather has slowed progress.

**5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from January O'Donnell regarding compliance with Selectboard order regarding dog bite finding**

The Board reviewed an email and attached photographs evidencing progress in constructing a fence system to contain the O'Donnells' dog per the Board's order. The photographs show building materials and post holes. The email indicates that professional contractors would be required to complete the work. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to require that the O'Donnells' complete construction of the fencing system no later than July 31, 2020.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Planning Commission/Zoning Board regarding application of Scott Davis for change of use of Town Hall property on Church Street owned by Town of Barnet**

The Board reviewed the application and Mr. Gates read the Zoning Board decision indicating that the permit had been approved, with an effective date of July 24, 2020. The approved permit is for conditional use for Scott Davis's commercial enterprise. The permit's comments state that, "The conditions would allow full operation of machinery on weekdays no earlier than 7:30 a.m. to no later than 6 p.m. (except as necessary under special circumstances). Outside lighting will meet the requirements of Section 307F of the Barnet Zoning Bylaw. Up to 6 vehicles are allowed at any one time on the property. The property will be maintained consistently with the character of the neighborhood."

**7. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in process of sale of Town Hall property**

The Board discussed the next steps in the process of a proposed sale of the Town Hall property to Scott Davis. Discussion was had about the determination of boundaries. Leah Benedict, owner of a property abutting the Town Hall, requested that she be notified and allowed to be present when property lines are walked.

- The Board agreed that they would contact Town Attorney Steven Adler to ask for advice on how to resolve any boundary issues involved in the proposed transaction.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston regarding proposed changes in Transfer Station fees**

The Board reviewed an email from Mr. Marston, which proposes to add a \$5.00 fee for disposal of refrigerators and an increase in the per-tire fee for all sizes of tires to the next, nearest whole dollar amount.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to change Transfer Station fees per Mr. Marston's proposal. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**9. Other business presented by other Town officers**

**a. Proposed food truck at Harvey's Lake Beach and West Barnet basketball court**

Mr. Gates reported on a request to use the Harvey's Lake Beach and the West Barnet basketball court area as sites for a food truck sales location.

- The Board agreed that the West Barnet basketball court is owned by the West Barnet Fire District, so any decision regarding that location would be made by the Fire District.
- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will discuss legal, liability and zoning considerations with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Zoning Board.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, bid summary and proposed budget for Town Hall & former Fire Station asbestos abatement**

The Board agreed to table this matter.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) regarding loss control visit to Harvey's Lake Beach**

The Board reviewed an email and attached report detailing VLCT's June 17, 2020 visit to the beach. Included were low priority findings and recommendations regarding the playground (depth of surfacing area and dead/dying branches) and beach house (tree limbs and vegetation near building). Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will discuss this report with the Beach Committee.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Waste Management & Prevention Division regarding closed landfill inspection report and compliance directives**

The Board reviewed a report on an inspection performed June 3, 2020. This included four compliance directives to be addressed within 60 days of the fall 2020 sampling event. The email notes that the Division is aware that the Town is working with VHB to address these directives.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to Great River Hydro LLC regarding 2019-2020 dam safety surveillance and monitoring reports review**

The Board reviewed a letter acknowledging receipt of reports submitted by Great River Hydro to satisfy requirements of the Commission's regulations.

**14. Other business presented by Selectboard**

The was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

**15. Adjournment**

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

*A true copy.*

*Attest:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Town Clerk*