

DRAFT

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in-person at Barnet Fire & Rescue Station (151 Bimson Drive) and via GoToMeeting telephone/online conference. This meeting was recorded via GoToMeeting.

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

Other Town officials and employees participating in-person: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: Dawn Holtz, Martha Staskus, and Wallace Thrall.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Jerri Kohl.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held May 9, 2022

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held May 9, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Norwich Technologies regarding proposed solar project on property of Milarepa Center on US Route 5 South
Martha Staskus of Norwich Technologies and Dawn Holtz of Milarepa Center appeared to discuss the proposed project. The Board reviewed an email and a letter with attached preferred site definitions, proposed preferred site letter, site map, and project description. Norwich Technologies proposes to install a solar array with a footprint of approximately 2.5 acres of Milarepa's 272.8-acre parcel, located approximately 0.45 miles north of the center of Barnet Village. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to sign the preferred site designation letter as presented. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Mr. Gates signed the letter.

3. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) regarding grant project for closed landfills

The Board reviewed an email and attached work plan document regarding a proposed grant project that NEKWMD has been working on with New England Waste Management Officials Association. The project involves developing best practices and guidance for towns with closed landfills.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds proposal

The Board reviewed emails and a letter that present a proposal to leverage Town ARPA funds, Vermont Communications Broadband Board funds, and Northeast Kingdom Broadband funds to

build “backbone” infrastructure for fiber broadband in Barnet. Several Town ARPA funding options were presented, including \$38,417 for a 2.75-mile spur, \$9,083 for a 0.55-mile spur, and \$31,833 for a 2.5-mile spur. Jerri Kohl, Barnet’s alternate representative on the Northeast Kingdom Broadband board, appeared remotely and discussed this proposal with the Board.

5. Appearance by McIndoe Falls Academy regarding American Rescue Plan Act funds proposal; take any action

McIndoe Falls Academy Board member Wallace Thrall appeared and presented a letter proposing that the Selectboard consider allocating \$35,000 in Town ARPA funding toward the McIndoe Falls Academy’s project to replace the roof of the Academy building. Discussion ensued.

6. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposal for Church Street paving project

The Board reviewed a proposal from Blaktop, Inc to pave a portion of Church Street after the Fire District #2 water system infrastructure project is complete. Total proposed project cost is \$50,744.96. In 2021, the Board approved a proposal from Blaktop, Inc. for this same project with total costs of \$43,321.60; the project was not performed in 2021.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve Blaktop, Inc.’s proposal to pave a portion of Church Street for a total cost of \$50,744.96. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Mr. Gates signed the proposal.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Bridge#10 inspection finding and repair plan

Mr. Chase reported that he had not received communication from the Agency of Transportation regarding the recommended structure and materials of temporary shoring.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2023 town highway grant applications, etc.

Mr. Chase reported that he had not received communication from the Agency of Transportation regarding the Town’s Structures Grant application.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, sale of over-the-rail mower

Mr. Chase reported on his communications with Shane Stevenson regarding Harvey’s Lake Beach landscaping. Mr. Stevenson, an excavation contractor, proposed to perform necessary work on the beach walkway, including materials, in exchange for the Town’s inactive over-the-rail roadside mower. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to give the Town’s inactive over-the-rail roadside mower to Shane Stevenson in exchange for agreed-upon service and materials to repair/improve the Harvey’s Lake Beach walkway. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Consolidated Communications and the single vehicle application of Donald Moore, Jr.

f. Other business

i. Routine seasonal road maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been spending much of its recent time performing routine spring seasonal road maintenance, including ditching, cleaning culverts, grading, raking, and applying chloride.

ii. Gravel pit stripping

Mr. Chase reported that Mathews Excavating has commenced the 2022 gravel pit stripping project.

8. Consideration of amendment of Ordinance regarding Street Naming and Street Addressing; take any action

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden appeared and discussed the Ordinance regarding Street Naming and Street Addressing. The Board reviewed a copy of the ordinance, which was adopted in 1997. Ms. Warden commented that several sections of the ordinance appear to require revision because they lack clarity or do not reflect the current practices of the Town. Discussion ensued.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden regarding abutter's notice for back lot subdivision of Blue Sky Builders

The Board reviewed an abutters' notice for an approved back lot subdivision permit for property on Campers Lane.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Dam Committee member David Price regarding resignation

The Board reviewed an email indicating that Mr. Price has resigned as a member of the Dam Committee.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the resignation of David Price. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Beach Committee regarding resignation of member and appointment of new member

The Board reviewed an email from Philo Marcotte indicating that Mr. Marcotte has resigned as a member of the Beach Committee.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the resignation of Philo Marcotte. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

The Board reviewed an email from Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson indicating that the Beach Committee recommends Tina Bearce to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Marcotte's resignation.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Tina Bearce as a member of the Beach Committee. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

12. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for delivery of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane

The Board continued their discussion of the bids opened at their previous meeting.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the bid of Dead River Company. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for Memorial Day services

The Board continued their discussion and planning for pre-Memorial Day services to be held Sunday, May 29, 2022.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, complaint regarding dumping of waste off North Monroe Road

Road Foreman Mark Chase reported that there were no further developments in his research of options and pricing for a barrier for the pull-off parking on North Monroe Road.

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, sign for Fire & Rescue Station

Mr. Gates indicated that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

17. Consideration of, and take any action on, memorial for veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Mr. Gates indicated that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

18. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

19. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. West Barnet village speeding

Mr. Jefferson reported that he had received a complaint regarding speeding automobile traffic on West Main Street in West Barnet Village. He indicated that the complainant had suggested that the Town install “children at play” signs to help mitigate the problem.

20. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed zoning permit application involving property with disputed boundaries

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning a proposed zoning permit application involving property with disputed boundaries would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E) to discuss a proposed zoning permit application involving property with disputed boundaries, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:25 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:30 p.m.
- No action taken

21. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for waiver of employee compensation

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss a request for waiver of employee compensation pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a) (3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:31 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:38 p.m.
- No action taken.

22. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in Town Hall project

The Board agreed that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

23. Consideration of, and take any action on, tax appeal to Superior Court submitted by Great River Hydro LLC

The Board agreed that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

24. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk