

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JULY 11, 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, Lister John Fairchild, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: Karla Cornelius, Dennis Watkins, and Joanne Watkins.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Alan Boye, John Cook, Sarah Cook, Harry Cornelius, and Karen Kotecki.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held June 27, 2022

- Ms. Ford moved to approved as presented the minutes of the special meeting held June 27, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held June 27, 2022

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that it had been brought to his attention that although Item 9.b., accurately reflects the motion approved by the Selectboard, the appointment of Dawn Holtz as Planning Commission/Zoning Board (PC/ZB) secretary was invalid because this appointment is outside the scope of the Selectboard's authority; the PC/ZB secretary is appointed by the PC/ZB itself. The approved motion was valid as regards Dawn Holtz's appointment as a member of the PC/ZB, as reflected in the draft minutes.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve, with the addition of a note under Item 9.b. indicating that the portion of the approved motion relating to the appointment of Dawn Holtz as PC/ZB secretary is invalid, the minutes of the regular meeting held June 27, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Appearance by resident Karla Cornelius regarding proposed pickleball court siting and boat-restriction signage at Harvey's Lake Beach

Ms. Cornelius appeared and discussed several of matters with the Board, as summarized below:

a. Pickleball court site

Ms. Cornelius indicated that she had intended to inquire about possible use of the Harvey's Lake Beach as site for a pickleball court; however, she indicated, at this time she is inquiring into the possible use of West Barnet Fire District property (basketball court area).

b. Boat restriction signage at Harvey's Lake Beach

Ms. Cornelius indicated that a sign at the Beach advising of regulation against boat access at the Beach has been stolen. She inquired about installing a larger, more permanent sign at the beach house. She presented proposed language for the sign.

- The Board agreed to approve the installation of a sign at the beach house as proposed.

c. Playground at Harvey's Lake Beach

Ms. Cornelius inquired about the status of the planned acquisition and installation of a playground at the Beach.

- The Board indicated that the playground has been ordered and installation is scheduled. Delays on the part of the vendor, and safety considerations advising against mid-summer installation, have postponed the installation to September 2022.

d. Buoys at Harvey's Lake Beach

Ms. Cornelius inquired about the status of installation of buoys at the Beach.

- The Board indicated that new buoys have been received but delays in acquisition of other key components have postponed installation. The buoys are expected to be installed soon, possibly within the next week.

4. Appearance by residents Joanne and Dennis Watkins regarding proposed change of speed limit on West Main Street; take any action

The Board read a letter from Ms. Watkins requesting that the 25 miles per hour speed limit on West Main Street be extending beyond its current terminus near McKinley Drive to the end of West Main Street at the town's boundary with Peacham. Ms. Watkins and her husband Dennis Watkins appeared at this meeting and discussed their observation of motorists traveling at excessive speeds and resulting near-collisions in the area in question, which is in the vicinity of the Watkins' residence. The Board reviewed the current speed limit ordinance and noted that the area in question is a part of the West Main Street 25 miles per hour speed zone.

- The Board agreed to begin the process of consideration of changing the speed limit signs in the area in question.

5. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Barnet Historical Society regarding space for historical artifacts at renovated Town Hall

Alan Boye of the Barnet Historical Society appeared remotely and requested that the Board consider incorporating into the plans for the renovated Town Hall archival-quality space for historical records and artifacts currently in the possession of at the Barnet Historical Society.

- The Board affirmed that it will make efforts to accommodate the request of the Barnet Historical Society.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband regarding proposed optical line terminal (OLT) site on Town property

The Board reviewed a proposal to use the Town-owned property at the corner of Gilfillan Road and West Barnet Road as the site for an OLT. Karen Kotecki of Northeast Kingdom Broadband appeared remotely and discussed the proposal with the Board.

- The Board agreed to meet with Northeast Kingdom Broadband at the site to inspect and discuss the site.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, animal control complaint regarding dog kept at West Main Street

The Board reviewed a letter received from Terri Morgan and a complaint form completed by Constable Steve Mosher describing incidents occurring July 2, 2022 and July 4, 2022 involving a dog owned by Josh Robinson and kept at West Main Street. The letter and report allege that the dog was witnessed running at large on West Main Street and harassing persons passing by on foot or on bicycles. The complaint form also notes that the dog is unlicensed. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Constable Steve Mosher to deliver to Josh Robinson a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance to give Mr. Robinson verbal instruction that, 1) the subject dog must be licensed no later than August 1, 2022, 2) the subject dog must not be the subject of further complaints, and 3) failure to comply with either of these instructions will result in civil penalties.

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

a. 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 there was no new activity to report or discuss regarding this matter.

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

Mr. Chase reported that delineator posts, which had been ordered based on discussion at the previous meeting, had been received and will soon be installed.

c. Other business

i. Blasting/crushing at gravel pit

Mr. Chase reported that blasting at the gravel pit has been completed and that gravel crushing will commence soon.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from resident Susan Wright regarding Roy Mountain Road yield sign

The Board reviewed 23 V.S.A. § 1008, which gives municipalities authority to “make special regulations as to the operation, use, and parking of motor vehicles.” These special regulations may include “stop” and “yield right of way” signs at intersections. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported on his conversation with Deputy Sheriff James Hemond regarding the process to change a “yield” sign to a “stop” sign. Mr. Hemond had indicated that he would perform further research and report back with his findings. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2023 municipal park-and-ride grant program

The Board reviewed an email and attached application documents relating to a grant program to fund development of municipally-owned and maintained park-and-ride facilities. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to apply for a grant for the construction of a new parking lot on the parcel at the corner of Church Street and Bimson Drive, which is currently owned by Wells River Savings Bank.

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

The Board reviewed the process to adopt or amend a municipal ordinance. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and recommended amendments to the ordinance in addition to those recommended by Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden and approved by the Board. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt suggested that he draft a new version of the ordinance incorporating the

approved amendments and those recommended by Mr. Morse and present this draft for the Board's adoption as per the ordinance adoption process.

- The Board agreed to request that Mr. Heisholt draft an amended version of the ordinance.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposal from rb Technologies to migrate Town software and email to Microsoft 365

The Board reviewed a proposal for to migrate email and desktop productivity applications to Microsoft 365. Total quoted cost for eight computers is \$3,200 plus monthly service fees of \$75.00.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the proposal. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

13. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) regarding proposed amendment to NEKWMD charter

The Board reviewed a letter indicating proposed changes to the NEKWMD charter, the purpose of which is, "To replace the Australian Ballot method of approving the District's annual budget."

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, regarding planning for American Rescue Plan Act funds expenditures

The Board discussed their decision at their previous meeting regarding funds designated for non-municipal entities.

- The Board agreed to advertise on social media the availability of funds for non-municipal entities and deadline for applications of September 12, 2022.

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

Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and indicated that he had recently received communication regarding the Board's request that he contact Signarama for a quote. He indicated that he intends to request a quote.

17. Appearance by resident John Fairchild regarding actions to mitigate spread of Japanese knotweed; take any action

Mr. Fairchild asked if the Town has policies or protocols regarding cutting Japanese knotweed on Town Highway roadsides. He suggested that the Board consider possible mitigation strategies. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there was no new activity to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

19. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

20. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Health officer report

Health Officer Ms. Ford indicated that a situation on which she is reporting may require the appointment of a Town Safety Officer. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to authorize Ms. Ford's use of Sheriff's Department services in lieu of a Town Safety Officer.

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

The Board noted that there was no new activity to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

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

Ms. Ford reported that she plans to meet with Town Attorney Steven Adler on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. The Board reviewed a letter from Great River Hydro, LLC to the Board of Listers, which indicates that the Great River Hydro, LLC has rescinded its 2022 grievance filing and is requesting a meeting with the Board of Listers to discuss setting a multi-year fixed valuation agreement. Discussion ensued.

23. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

A true copy. Attest. _____ *Town Clerk*