

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

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 (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Mark Jefferson

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

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: Louis Bushey, Joyce Evans, and Gregory Jackmauh.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Ross Page

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 25, 2023

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 25, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Public Hearing – Town Plan (for public review of and comment on proposed amendment of the Barnet Town Plan, pursuant to 24 VSA Chapter 117 – see separately warned public hearing notice)

The Board held a public hearing for review of the Town Plan pursuant to 24 VSA Chapter 117. They heard public comment from members of the public present, including Louis Bushey, Joyce Evans, Gregory Jackmauh, and Joseph Mangiapane. The Board agreed to make changes to the draft Town Plan as approved by the Planning Commission, as summarized below:

- Page 9: Remove references to McIndoes Academy Library
- Page 10: Change language regarding village commercial enterprises
- Page 17: Remove reference to McIndoes Academy Library
- Page 19: Change language regarding location of large, heavy industry
- Remove reference to McIndoes Academy Library
- Page 33: Add reference to Dam Committee
- Page 35: Remove language regarding “Town Forest” being open to the public
- Page 36: Correct details relating to renovation of Town Hall

3. Annual review of Ordinance Relating to Operation of Snowmobiles Upon Town Roads; take any action

The Board reviewed a request from the Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club for snowmobile access for trail connection purposes during the 2023-2024 season. This request is for access on portions of Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street, as has been granted in previous years. Ross Page, of the snowmobile club, appeared remotely and discussed the access request with

the Board. The Board also discussed requests of previous years from the Waterford Ridge Runners for snowmobile access for trail connection purposes on a portion of Meeting House Hill. Technical difficulties with remote connection with Mr. Page prevented clarification of whether the Waterford Ridge Runners will request access for the 2023-2024 season.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by Dam Committee member Joseph Mangiapane regarding Harvey Lake water level

Mr. Mangiapane reported that the lake is 16 to 18 inches above its usual water level and indicated that a beaver dam in the lake channel is causing the unusual level. He asked for the Board to take action to prevent possible damage to property in the event of a heavy rainstorm. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Jefferson will contact trapper Keith Tillotson regarding the beavers in the channel.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, application for Highway Access Permit of Joseph and Damaris Cote for access on Roy Mountain Road

The Board reviewed an application for a permit for a permanent access across the road from 1750 Roy Mountain Road. Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site and found it to be an existing access with an appropriate culvert; Mr. Chase recommended approval.

- The Board agreed to approve the permit; Ms. Ford signed the permit.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, application for Highway Access Permit of Louis Bushey for access on Harvey Mountain Road

The Board reviewed an application for a permit for a permanent access across the road from 750 Harvey Mountain Road. Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site and found it to be a suitable location for an access. Mr. Chase recommended approval.

- The Board agreed to approve the permit; Mr. Gates signed the permit.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Ethan Morrison/E.C. Morrison Trucking & Excavating LLC.

d. Other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment to fill vacancy on Planning Commission/Zoning Board

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment to fill vacancy on Dam Committee

Ms. Ford indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden regarding permit issued to abutting property owner Blue Sky Builders, Inc.

The Board reviewed a letter and three attached approved permits for two seasonal cabins and a subdivision with existing structures.

9. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates provided an update on project progress, including the following:

- The Town is awaiting the services of a qualified mason to fill the gaps in the foundation that accommodated I-beams during movement of the building.
- The project continues to await approval of State of Vermont Fire and Safety permitting.

b. Other business

Ms. Ford discussed inspection of fire extinguishers in the Town Hall.

- The Board agreed that inspection of fire extinguishers must be postponed until the foundation is backfilled.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Animal Control Officer

Ms. Ford discussed her communications with Peacham Selectboard member Richard Browne regarding a proposed shared Animal Control Officer between Barnet and Peacham, as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Ms. Ford indicated that the proposal remains in an early, tentative, stage.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, replacement of fencing at Barnet Public Library

Ms. Ford indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding rapid inspection report of Harvey's Lake Dam

The Board reviewed a letter and attached report of a post-flooding screening inspection conducted July 21, 2023.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from SRH Law regarding petition of Barnet Solar LLC for Certificate of Public Good

The Board reviewed a letter and attached petition documents. Discussion ensued.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2024 health insurance benefits

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding disability insurance quotes

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

17. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

18. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns PACIF regarding uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage

The Board read a letter and attached coverage direction form requesting that the Town select a coverage option for uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage between a limit of \$250,000 per occurrence, which is less than the standard auto liability limit of coverage, and the standard \$10,000,000 coverage limit.

- Mr. Gates moved to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt compete and sign the coverage direction form selecting uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage with a limit of \$250,000 per occurrence. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

19. Consideration of, and take any action on, zoning permit application for parcel #0014-01-70

- Mr. Gates 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 zoning permit application for parcel #0014-01-70 would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Gates moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E) to discuss a zoning permit application for parcel #0014-01-70, 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 9:27 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, 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 9:56 p.m.

20. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk