

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024**

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 and Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair).
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Benjamin Adams, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Dennis McLam, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Daniel Deatruck and Christopher Hahr.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Chase, Jan P, Jon, and Mona.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 23, 2024

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 23, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by resident Christopher Hahr regarding Bridge Street driveway

Mr. Hahr appeared and described a recurring problem with washouts of the roadway near his mailbox and his driveway. He indicated that a change in drainage has redirected road run-off water, causing this problem. He suggested solutions, including adding a paved swale.

- The Board instructed Road Foreman Mark Chase to inspect the site and report back to the Board.

Appearances by Town Officers

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, road repairs in connection with July 2024 flooding event

Mr. Chase reported that progress on repairs continues to be made. Areas of recent progress include McLaren Hill Road and Comerford Dam Road. Crusher-run gravel continues to be applied to rough areas of previous temporary repairs.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding bridge inspection finding and closure notification for Bridge #44 over Stevens River on Patneau Lane (TH #56)

The Board read a letter indicating that VTrans had performed a routine inspection on Bridge #44 and found critical undermining to both abutments. The finding recommends that the structure be closed due to this undermining. The letter requires that the Board certify their response to the letter, to indicate whether the bridge would be closed or, if not, the reason(s) for non-compliance. Mr. Chase reported that the bridge had been closed on the day of the inspection and the process for a temporary bridge installation was initiated. The temporary bridge has been delivered to the site and will be constructed and opened to traffic within about a week. Discussion ensued.

- The Board signed the certification, indicating that the bridge had been closed per VTrans's recommendation.

c. Other business

i. Paving projects

Mr. Chase reported that Church Street is prepared for paving, which is scheduled to be performed sometime in the next several weeks. The final level of the road will be approximately three and one-half inches higher than the current level.

ii. Crushing gravel and screening winter sand

Mr. Chase reported on progress of annual gravel crushing and sand screening projects.

iii. Winter preparations

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department recently installed winter plow frames and winter tires on trucks in preparation for winter.

iv. Anderson Street all-terrain vehicles

Mr. Gates reported that he had received complaints regarding all-terrain vehicle use on Town-owned property on Anderson Street. Discussion ensued.

v. Park-and-Ride

Mr. Chase reported that the Park-and-Ride project on Church Street has been completed.

4. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Correspondence from Board of Listers regarding Errors and Omissions Certificate

The Board reviewed an Errors and Omissions Certificate listing one proposed Grand List correction, to remove the taxable value of a charitable organization that should be exempted. The total effect on the Grand List would be to decrease total value by \$279,900.

- The Board agreed to sign the certificate; the Board signed the certificate.

New Business

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Selectboard member Mark Jefferson regarding resignation; any appointment to fill vacancy

The Board read a letter indicating that Mr. Jefferson is resigning as a Selectboard member effective after October 14, 2024. The letter also indicates that Mr. Jefferson recommends Benjamin Adams to fill the rest of Mr. Jefferson's term on the Board. Discussion ensued.

- The Board thanked Mr. Jefferson for his service to the Board and to the Town.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Benjamin Adams as a member of the Selectboard to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Jefferson's resignation. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Dawn Holtz regarding resignation; any appointment to fill vacancy

The Board read a letter indicating that Ms. Holtz is resigning as a member of the Planning Commission/Zoning Board effective October 8, 2024. Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair Dennis McLam appeared and reported that the Planning Commission/Zoning Board nominates Daniel Deatruck to fill the vacancy created by Ms. Holtz's resignation. Discussion ensued.

- The Board thanked Ms. Holtz for her service to the Board and to the Town.
- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Daniel Deatruck as a member of the Planning Commission/Zoning Board to fill the vacancy created by Ms. Holtz's resignation. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

7. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

Old/Continuing Business

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates provided a report on recent progress. The parking lot is prepared for paving, which will be done at the same time as Church Street is paved. Progress has been made regarding fire suppression and installation of the granite front steps.

b. Other business

There was no other business discussed.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of assistant/acting Zoning Administrative Officer

Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair Dennis McLam reported that the Planning Commission/Zoning Board has been in communication with an interested party regarding the regular Zoning Administrative Officer position. The candidate is Dennis Marquise, who is also Zoning Administrative Officer for several other local towns.

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden reported that the Planning Commission/Zoning Board has agreed to not hire an assistant Zoning Administrative Officer. The Planning Commission/Zoning Board will discuss this further at their next meeting.

- No action was taken.

Check Warrants

10. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Executive Session(s)

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, Zoning Bylaw enforcement for parcel #0024-01-63

- 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 Zoning Bylaw

enforcement for parcel #0024-01-63 would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

- Mr. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E) to discuss Zoning Bylaw enforcement for parcel #0024-01-63, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:43 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Benjamin Adams, Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Daniel Deatrick, Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Dennis McLam, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:54 p.m.
- No action taken.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk