

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT**  
**MONDAY, 9 JUNE 2025**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in-person at Barnet Town Hall (154 Church Street) 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 Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

**Other Town officials and employees participating:**

- **In-person:** Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Transfer Station Attendant Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

**Members of the public participating:**

- **In-person:** None.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Approval of Minutes

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of re-scheduled regular meeting held 27 May 2025**

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the re-scheduled regular meeting held 27 May 2025. Seconded by Mr. Adams.

Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson noted that, under Item #4.c., the Board approved that the Beach Committee may move forward with an application for an Arts & Social Cohesion grant from the Vermont Community Foundation, but the draft minutes do not reflect this.

- Mr. Gates moved to amend the minutes to reflect that, under Item #4.c., the Board approved that the Beach Committee may move forward with an application for an Arts & Social Cohesion grant from the Vermont Community Foundation, and to approve the minutes as so amended. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

**2. Appearance by Michael Gibson regarding proposed sale of Town property on Anderson Street; take any action**

Mr. Gibson did not appear at this meeting. Ms. Ford noted that Mr. Gibson had expressed an interest in purchasing the Town-owned property adjacent to his Anderson Street property at a previous Board meeting, and that he has renewed his interest recently. Shirley Warden, former Zoning Administrative Officer, noted that the parcel is not buildable under the Town's Zoning Bylaws. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that they will request a real estate assessment from a qualified realtor.

**3. Appearance by Lake Harvey Association (LHA) regarding purchase of materials and installation of beaver deceiver on Harvey's Lake outlet channel; take any action**

The Lake Harvey Association did not appear at this meeting. Ms. Ford reported that the beaver dam in the channel, discussed in previous meetings, was removed manually as discussed, but the beavers

have re-commenced building a dam. She indicated that local Game Warden Will Seegers has required the implementation of a “beaver deceiver” device be attempted before any other intervention is applied. LHA has approved a donation of \$1,200 for purchase of a metal culvert to construct such a device. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to inquire with Fish & Wildlife management regarding requirements and options for beaver management for this site.

**4. Consideration of, and take any action on renewal of lease of library building space to Karme Choling**

Ms. Ford reported that Karme Choling’s interim director has inquired about amending the proposed lease renewal to include only one-half of the second-floor space rather than the full second-floor space the lease currently includes. Discussion ensued regarding renovations required to achieve the proposed division of space.

- The Board agreed that it is not interested in amending the lease to include a smaller portion of the second floor.

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

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

**6. Other business presented by other town officers**

**a. Appearance by Library Director Dylan Ford regarding outdoor water faucet for library**

Ms. Ford reported that the Library Board of Trustees is interested in installing an outdoor water faucet. She asked if the Board would approve solicitation of estimates for installation.

- The Board agreed to approve the solicitation of estimates.

**Appearances by Town Officers**

**7. Appearance by Beach Committee regarding Harvey’s Lake Beach matters; take any action**

Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson appeared and discussed the following matters with the Board:

**a. Consideration of, and take any action on, authorization for expenditures for repair of damages caused by July 2024 flooding disaster**

The Board reviewed estimates and quotes for various repairs as submitted by Ms. Emerson. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve expenditures for repairs as follows: \$3,100 for fencing, \$3,500 for painting services, \$2,700 for picnic tables, \$5,000 for doors, \$600 for septic pumping, and \$220 for a refrigerator – a total of \$15,120; \$5,000 for doors will be expended from the Municipal Building Fund and the balance from the flood recovery donation funds raised by the Beach Committee and saved in the Beach Reserve Fund. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

**b. Consideration of, and take any action on, addition of internet service at Harvey’s Lake Beach**

Ms. Emerson indicated that she has consulted with a security company regarding security camera installation and learned that extremely high-speed internet is not required; DSL would be sufficient. The Beach Committee will continue to consider this for possible inclusion in their 2026 budget proposal.

**c. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

**8. Appearance by Transfer Station & Recycling Center employees regarding pricing for disposal of tires**

Transfer Station Attendant Shirley Warden appeared and discussed proposed new price categories for smaller tires (e.g., bicycles, wheelbarrows) with the Board. She reported, however, that this does not appear to be necessary because All Metals Recycling will accept smaller tires with metal rims at no cost and Casella Waste Systems will accept a small quantity of smaller tires in the construction dumpster.

- No action taken.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting. In his absence the Board discussed the following matters:

**a. Consideration of, and take any action on, remediation of Patneau Lane bridge**

Mr. Gates reported that work has commenced on temporary installation of a footbridge and the re-setting of the temporary vehicular bridge.

**b. Consideration of, and take any action on, progress report on reimbursement funding for July 2024 flooding disaster**

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt discussed the progress of compiling and reporting documentation for reimbursement funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**c. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

New Business

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Fred's Energy regarding proposal for upgrade to library building oil tank**

The Board reviewed an email and quote, and Library Director Dylan Ford discussed meeting with a Fred's Energy technician. The oil tank at the library building did not pass inspection under current rules effective August 2024. Fred's Energy's quote for upgrades to allow the tank to pass inspection totals \$1,975.08. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to seek quotes from other local plumbing and heating contractors.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding reappraisal order**

The Board reviewed a letter indicating that "based on the results of the 2024 Equalization Study the COD [coefficient of dispersion] in Barnet continues to outside the acceptable parameters, and therefore, an order to reappraise is required." Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Endyne, Inc. regarding laboratory report on annual groundwater monitoring at former landfill**

The Board reviewed results of analyses performed on samples collected in May 2025.

- No action taken.

**13. Other business presented by Selectboard**

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

## **Old/Continuing Business**

### **14. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in Town Hall project**

#### **a. Progress report**

Mr. Gates reported on developments on several final punch list items. The project appears to be substantially complete.

#### **b. Other business**

##### **i. Retainage**

The Board discussed payment of retainage funds to the construction manager, in the context of continuing concern about the HVAC system.

### **15. Consideration of, and take any action on, sale of former Town Clerk's Office at 1743 US Route 5 South**

The Board continued its discussion of the sale of the former Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Adams indicated that he had spoken to realtor Tim Scott, who has offered to assess the property for real estate listing.

- The Board agreed to move forward with listing the property with Tim Scott Real Estate.

## Check Warrants

### **16. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants**

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

## Adjournment

### **17. Adjournment**

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

*A true copy. Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk*