

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 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, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), and Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Bryan Hooper, Annette Hyder, Ross Page, and Alexandra (Brooksie) Stanton.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Paul Butkiewicz, Ryan Lowell, Mona Marceau, and Jan Parsons.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 27 October 2025

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 27 October 2025. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Annual review of snowmobile travel on town highways; take any action

The Board conducted its annual review of the ordinance. They reviewed a request from the Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club for snowmobile access for trail connection purposes during the 2025-2026 season on portions of Brook Hill Road, Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street, as has been granted in previous years. Ross Page of the Bayley Hazen Road snowmobile club appeared and discussed the request with the Board. Trent Lowell of the Waterford Ridge Runners snowmobile club appeared remotely and requested snowmobile access for trail connection purposes on portions of Meeting House Hill and Bridge Street. The Board reviewed a letter from Laird Road resident Mary Van Steenburgh expressing her and her husband David Epstein's views on snowmobile traffic on Laird Road. Residents Annette Hyder and Alexandra (Brooksie) Stanton appeared and inquired about the trail system on and near Morrison Hill, Laird Road, and Bony Woods Road; Mr. Page answered their questions. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to grant the Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club access as requested for Brook Hill Road, Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, West Main Street, and to grant the Waterford Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club access as requested on Bridge Street and Meeting House Hill. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

- a. Appearance by resident Bryan Hooper regarding suspicious activity on Comerford Dam Road

Mr. Hooper appeared and discussed his observations of activities at a pull-off on the westerly end of Comerford Dam Road, near its crossing of the Passumpsic River. He reported occupied vehicles parking for prolonged periods and at unusual hours, and unusual items found at the location, including the remains of a pig head, a cell phone in a zip lock bag, and a car seat. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

Appearances by Town Officers

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband (NEKBB) regarding request to install and maintain fiber cable/conduit in Kitchel Hill Road right-of-way

The Board reviewed the request. Mr. Chase reported that he had attempted to contact NEKBB to discuss the request but had not yet spoken to their representatives. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the request, contingent on Mr. Chase's assessment and approval of the site for Highway Department considerations. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for change in speed limit on Harvey Mountain Road

Mr. Gates reported that the Board had received a request from resident Wendy Raeder for a decrease in the speed limit of Harvey Mountain Road, from its intersection with West Main Street to its intersection with Aiken Farm Road, from the current limit of 35 m.p.h. to a new limit of 25 m.p.h. Ms. Raeder cites heavy pedestrian use of the road, including many children, as the reason for the proposed change. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to investigate the process for speed limit changes and revisit this matter at their next meeting.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding untraveled portion of Town Highway 87

The Board reviewed an email, including map images, which describes a Class 4 portion Schoolhouse Road (Town Highway #87) which appears to be a) untraveled, and b) not correctly aligned with the State Highway map. The email asks for clarification from the Board about the location of the road and if the Board would like to discontinue it. Mr. Chase confirmed that this portion of a former road does not align with the State Highway map and is neither publicly traveled nor maintained by the Town. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to begin the process of discontinuing this section of road.

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported on the progress in compiling and reporting documentation for reimbursement funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Highway Administration. He indicated there are ongoing delays in receipt of funding due to the shutdown of the federal government.

e. Other business

i. Roy Mountain Road project

Mr. Chase reported that the base pavement coat has been applied and the Highway Department is currently widening the road shoulders. Pike Industries is expected to complete paving of the topcoat in the coming week.

ii. Plows and wings

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has installed plows and wings on plow trucks in anticipation of the coming winter season.

iii. Tractor leaf blower

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has installed the leaf blower on the tractor and will commence blowing leaves out of ditches soon.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed contract with North Danville Pet Hotel (NDPH) for impounded dogs

Ms. Ford discussed her communications with NDPH, a local animal boarding facility, regarding proposed arrangements for NDPH to board dogs taken in by the Barnet Animal Control Officer. NDPH can take dogs under these circumstances for a fee of \$15 per day. After the required holding period has expired, pursuant to the Animal Control Ordinance, dogs would be transferred to Riverside Animal Rescue in Lunenburg. Discussion ensued regarding whether to enter an informal arrangement with NDPH or to ask the Town Attorney to draft a formal contract.

- The Board agreed to enter an informal arrangement with NDPH to board dogs taken by the Animal Control Officer at \$15 per day.

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, 2026 health insurance benefits

The Board continued its review of estimated costs for health insurance benefits, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt based on rates published by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Healthcare. Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that he spoken to Highway Department employees about the proposed change; they request more time to evaluate the differences of network coverage, etc. and provide their input on the proposed change. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table further discussion to the next meeting.

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

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

- No action taken.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, Barnet Historical Society (BHS) storage space at Town Hall

BHS member Jan Parsons appeared remotely and reported that BHS member Richard Carilo had met with Kevin Morrison of Vermont Mechanical at the Town Hall to discuss installation of a

dehumidification system in the basement vault. She indicated that Mr. Morrison is working on a quote for the project.

- No action taken.

Check Warrants

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*