

**MINUTES – RESCHEDULED REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2026**

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:** Nancy Bishop, John Fairchild, Dennis McLam, Kathleen Monroe, and Janice Parsons.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Robert Blechl and Michael Miller.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 11 May 2026

- Mr. Adams moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 11 May 2026. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Appearance by Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club regarding all-terrain vehicle access on town highways following closure of Bridge #42 on Garland Hill; take any action

The Board noted that this item, requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club, had been withdrawn by the requestor.

- No action taken.

3. Appearance by Barnet Historical Society regarding electrical bill for second floor of library building; take any action

Library Director Ms. Ford discussed electrical service on the second floor of the library building. There is a separate meter box for the second floor, and the power bill had been paid by the previous tenant, as a clause of the lease, until their use of the space ended December 2025. Since that time, the power bill has not been paid, and the power recently was disconnected. Discussion ensued regarding whether future power bills will be the responsibility of the Barnet Historical Society or the Town.

- The Board agreed to inquire with Green Mountain Power about combining the building's two meter boxes into one meter box.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

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

Appearances by Town Officers

5. Appearance by Harvey's Lake Beach Committee regarding beach matters; take any action

Beach Committee member Kathleen Monroe appeared and discussed the below-described matters with the Board:

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, approval of swimming lessons

Ms. Monroe indicated that the Beach Committee is exploring offering swimming lessons. She asked if Board would support this endeavor and asked if the Town's current insurance policies would cover the activity.

- The Board agreed that it will approve the proposed swimming lessons if the Beach Committee is able to procure the necessary services.
- The Board indicated that it believes Town's current insurance coverage would cover swimming lessons.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, joint Beach Committee/Lake Harvey Association event(s) on Lake Harvey Day

Ms. Monroe indicated that the Beach Committee is proposing collaborative functions with Lake Harvey Association on Lake Harvey Day (18 July 2026) and asked the Board will support such a collaboration.

- The Board agreed to approve collaborative functions with Lake Harvey Association on Lake Harvey Day 2026.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, approval to purchase t-shirts from Beach Reserve Fund account

Ms. Monroe indicated that the Beach Committee is proposing a fundraiser selling t-shirts with the beach's logo pictured. She asked if the Board would approve expenditures from the Beach Reserve Fund to initiate this fundraiser.

- The Board agreed to approve expenditures from the Beach Reserve Fund to initiate the Beach Committee's t-shirt sale fundraiser.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, approval of food truck vendor

Ms. Monroe indicated that the Beach Committee is considering inviting a food truck vendor to the Beach one day a week this summer. She reported that the Committee has been in contact with Zoning Administrative Officer Dennis Marquise about permitting. She asked if the Board would approve this proposed use of the Beach. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed it will waive zoning permit fees for this proposed use.
- The Board agreed to approve this proposed use of the Beach.

e. Consideration of, and take any action on, removal of debris remaining from beach house door replacements

Ms. Monroe reported that there is debris at the Beach property remaining from the replacement of beach house doors following 2024 flooding. She asked if the Highway Department will remove and dispose of this debris.

- Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that the Highway Department will remove and dispose of the described debris.

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

Mr. Chase appeared and discussed the below-described matters with the Board:

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation with recommendation of closure of Bridge #42 on Garland Hill

The Board reviewed an email received 15 May 2026 indicating that in an inspection performed 30 April 2026 problems were noted which prompted the re-rating of the bridge and a recommendation to close the bridge. The Board noted that the bridge was closed on 15 May 2026.

i. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for possible temporary bridge

The Board noted that the Town has applied to the State for rental of a temporary bridge at the location of the closed bridge; a response to the application has not yet been received.

- No action taken.

ii. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for repairs or replacement of existing bridge structure

Mr. Chase discussed his preliminary discussions with civil engineer Nate Sicard regarding permanent replacement of the bridge.

- No action taken.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2026 gravel crushing

The Board reviewed bids for 2026 gravel crushing, as summarized below:

- Chief Crushing & Excavation: \$7.56 per cubic yard
- Manchester Brook Materials: \$12.23 per cubic yard plus fuel surcharge

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the bid of Chief Crushing & Excavation. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2026 sand screening

The Board reviewed bids for 2026 sand screening, as summarized below:

- Chief Crushing & Excavation: \$2.49 per cubic yard
- Mathews Excavating: \$2.15 per cubic yard
- Manchester Brook Materials: \$6.73 per cubic yard plus fuel surcharge

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the bid of Mathews Excavating. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2026 overburden removal

The Board reviewed bids for 2026 overburden removal, as summarized below:

- Mathews Excavating: \$1.75 per cubic yard over sand/gravel
\$2.20 per cubic yard over ledge

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the bid of Mathews Excavating. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

e. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for West Barnet Road construction project

The Board reviewed bids for the West Barnet Road construction project, as summarized below:

- KML Excavation: \$134,018.00
- Mathews Excavating: \$181,364.00

- Mr. Adams moved to accept the bid of KML Excavation. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

f. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Joseph DiMarzio for highway access permit on Denio Road

Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site and found it to be suitable for the proposed use with no culvert required and no conditions applied; he recommended approval.

- The Board agreed to approve the highway access permit application without conditions. Mr. Gates signed the permit.

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

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt reported that there were no new developments to report regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

h. Other business

i. Ditching

Mr. Chase reporting that the Highway Department has been working on ditch maintenance in recent weeks.

ii. Backhoe repairs

Mr. Chase reported that the backhoe has returned from the repair shop and is operational.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, estimate for electrical upgrade/repair at Library Building

Library Director Dylan Ford indicated that no estimate has been received to date. She anticipates receiving an estimate soon for upgrades to the panel, etc. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve expenditures for library building electrical upgrades from the Municipal Building Fund in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

8. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town employee mileage reimbursement rate

The Board noted that the Town's current mileage reimbursement rate is \$0.67 per mile, adopted by the Board 25 March 2024. The federal (Internal Revenue Service) standard mileage rate for the use of a car, van, pickup, or panel truck is \$0.725 per mile for business use, as of 1 January 2026. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to tie the Town's mileage reimbursement rate to the Internal Revenue Service's standard mileage rate for business use of a car, van, pickup, or panel truck from this date forward, or until changed by vote of the Selectboard. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from New England Power Company regarding 45-day advance notice letter regarding petition to refurbish its existing 34.5 kV 3386 line

The Board reviewed an email and attached letter and maps describing a project to make minor improvements to an existing transmission line in connection with a Vermont Public Utility Commission certificate of public good permit process. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

11. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Anderson Street parking

Mr. Gates discussed reports of vehicles parked in the traveled portion of Anderson Street. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Gates will call the Sheriff's Department to request that an officer visit the site and advise that vehicles must be removed from the traveled portion of the road.

b. Sale of former Town Clerk's Office at 1743 US Route 5 South

The Board discussed the status of the sales listing for the former Town Clerk's Office. Ms. Ford noted that there is not a "for sale" sign at the property.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Adams will follow up with realtor Tim Scott for an update on sales progress and to request that a "for sale" be placed at the property.

Old Business

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Passumpsic Fire District #1 regarding resignation of Fire District officers

Ms. Ford reported on her discussions regarding this matter with a representative from the Vermont State Drinking Water Program. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, policy for placement of political signs on town property

The Board reviewed a revised version of the policy, as drafted by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt based on the Board's discussion at their previous meeting.

- Ms. Ford moved to adopt the policy as presented at this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the policy.

Check Warrants

14. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

15. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

A true copy. Attest. _____ *Town Clerk*