

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 13 JULY 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 (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** None.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Robert Blechl and Michael Miller.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 22 June 2026

Appearances by Members of the Public

- Mr. Adams moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 22 June 2026. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

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

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, proposals received for 2026 flood recovery projects design and construction oversight services (for replacement of structures damaged or destroyed: Bridge #34, Bridge #41, and Bridge #44)**

The Board reviewed technical and cost proposals received from two engineering firms: DuBois & King, Inc. and Ruggles Engineering Services, Inc. Mr. Gates spoke on behalf of the Selection Committee, which consisted of himself and Road Foreman Mark Chase. He discussed the merits of the two proposals and indicated that the Committee believed both firms were qualified to perform the work. The Committee evaluated the technical proposals on ten criteria with 100-point weighted scale. The total scores for each were 93 for Ruggles Engineering Services, Inc. and 89 for DuBois & King, Inc. Mr. Gates also discussed the cost proposals; the total cost for DuBois & King, Inc. is \$785,957; the total cost for Ruggles Engineering Services, Inc. is \$121,162. Mr. Gates indicated that the Selection Committee recommends that the Board accept the proposal of Ruggles Engineering Services, Inc. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board accept the proposal of Ruggles Engineering Services, Inc. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
- b. **Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation with recommendation of closure of Bridge #42 on Garland Hill**
 - i. **Consideration of, and take any action on, installation of temporary bridge**
Mr. Chase reported he is in the process of investigating pricing for installation and rental of a temporary bridge. Discussion ensued.
 - ii. **Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for repairs or replacement of existing bridge structure**
Mr. Chase discussed the early stages of the project of replacing the existing bridge structure, to begin with seeking engineering services.
 - c. **Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits**
 - The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Manchester Brook Materials.
 - d. **Consideration of, and take any action on, progress report on reimbursement funding for July 2024 flooding disaster**
The Board reviewed an updated project tracking spreadsheet presented by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt. This reflects that the Town has received \$1.956 million of anticipated \$1.978 million federal Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project reimbursements. None of the anticipated \$330,000 state FEMA projects reimbursements or \$1.16 million Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects reimbursements have been received to date. Mr. Heisholt discussed ongoing communications with FEMA and FHWA representatives.
 - No action taken.
 - e. **Other business**
No other business was discussed.
4. **Other business presented by other town officers**
 - a. **Consideration of, and take any action taken on, appearance of Justices of the Peace election the back of 3 November 2026 General Election ballot**
Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board if they would approve the addition of the Justice of the Peace election to the back of the 3 November 2026 General Election ballot. This is a longstanding practice in Barnet, but now must be approved by the Selectboard because the ballots will be mailed to each active voter by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office. Discussion ensued.
 - Mr. Gates moved to approve the appearance of the Justice of the Peace election on the back of the 3 November 2026 General Election ballot. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
 - b. **Appearance by Harvey's Lake Beach Committee member Kathleen Monroe regarding Lake Harvey Day activities**
Ms. Monroe appeared and asked the Board regarding the following matters:
 - i. Approval of purchase of food and other items for fundraisers.

- The Board indicated that the Beach Committee may purchase items as needed within the bounds of the Beach budget and the purchasing policy without Board approval.
- ii. Traffic control for Beach events, particularly fireworks.
 - The Board requested that the Beach Committee encourage Lake Harvey Association to contact the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department regarding traffic control.

New Business

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding requirement to reappraise Education Grand List properties

The Board reviewed a letter notifying the Town that it must reappraise Education Grand List properties. Discussion ensued.

- The Board noted that it has already contracted with New England Municipal Resource Center for townwide reappraisal.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding communications network infrastructure Grand List valuation and tax appeal process

The Board reviewed an email from Property Valuation and Review (PVR) District Advisor Barbara Schlesinger, information from the PVR website, and a tax appeal from Vermont Telephone Company from the decision of the Listers to the Board of Civil Authority, which includes a proposed stipulation agreement between the Vermont Telephone Company and the Town. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Town Attorney James Barlow review and advise regarding the proposed stipulation agreement with Vermont Telephone Company.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation regarding forest fire and fire prevention statute changes

The Board reviewed an email detailing changes to forest fire laws resulting from the enactment of Act 162 of 2026. These changes went into effect 1 July 2026. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and discussed the changes with the Board.

- No action taken.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Harvey's Lake Beach Committee member Jen Kierstead regarding resignation

The Board reviewed an email indicating that Ms. Kierstead has resigned from the Beach Committee effective 7 July 2026. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept Ms. Kierstead's resignation. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, library use of Town Hall on July 30th for opening speaker talk by Peggy Pearl on importance of Ben's Mill in local timeline of innovation

Library Director Ms. Ford discussed the upcoming Smithsonian exhibition at the library, which will include a talk by Peggy Pearl on July 30. Ms. Ford requested permission to host the talk at the Town Hall.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the use of the Town Hall for the library event described by Ms. Ford. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) regarding adoption and state approval process for 2026 regional plan

The Board reviewed an email and attachments notifying the Town that NVDA's 2026 Regional Plan was submitted to the Land Use Review Board on May 26 for pre-application review. On July 29 a public hearing will be held.

- No action taken.

11. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, approval of licensing for substitute tobacco products at West Barnet Quick Stop

Mr. Adams reported that West Barnet Quick Stop had inquired if the Board would consider approval of the sale of "Zyn" pouches under the store's tobacco license. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed not to consider approval of the sale of the proposed products at this time.

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 that there was no information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, library electrical upgrades

The Board reviewed an estimate from Ash Electric for upgrades as discussed at previous Board meetings. Total estimate of \$15,717.00 for four separate projects. Library Director Ms. Ford reported that she had instructed Ash Electric to commence work essential to an upcoming library exhibit, which will not exceed the \$5,000 previously approved by the Board. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to inquire into the availability of the St. Johnsbury Academy electrical program to perform some of the work in the estimate.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed change of speed limit on Harvey Mountain Road

Ms. Ford reported that in the coming weeks Constable David Stevenson periodically will be in the field at the site of the proposed speed limit change to perform a speed study. Once the study is completed, he will report back to the Board.

- No action taken.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed adoption of Parking Ordinance

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that the ordinance, first considered and voted on in principle on 8 June 2026, is now in its final form and prepared for signature. The Board read the final draft of the ordinance.

- Mr. Gates moved to adopt the ordinance as presented at this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the ordinance. A copy of the approved ordinance is attached to the end of these minutes.

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 7:53 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk

Town of Barnet PARKING ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. This civil ordinance is adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Barnet under the authority granted in 4 V.S.A. § 32(c)(11); 19 V.S.A. §§ 304(a)(6), 1105; 23 V.S.A. §§ 1008, 1102; 2151 et seq.; 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59; 24 V.S.A. § 2291(4), (26); and Vermont Rule of Civil Procedure 80.9.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare of the Town, promote the flow of vehicular traffic, enhance accessibility for all users, support local businesses, and to preserve residents' rights to the quiet enjoyment of their homes and properties by regulating the time, manner, and location of parking within the Town.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following words and/or phrases will be defined as follows:

- A. "Enforcement Officer" means any Town Constable, Police Officer, or any other person designated as an Enforcement Officer by the Selectboard.
- B. "Law Enforcement Officer" means any law enforcement officer certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council.
- C. "Motor vehicle" or "vehicle" includes all vehicles propelled or drawn by power other than by muscular power.
- D. "Park" or "parking" is the stopping or standing of any motor vehicle, whether occupied or unoccupied, attended or unattended, otherwise than temporarily as prescribed by this Ordinance for the purpose and while actually engaged in loading or unloading persons or property.

SECTION 4. WINTER PARKING. It is unlawful to park a motor vehicle on any Town highway right-of-way between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 9:00 A.M. from December 1st until April 1st.

SECTION 5. NO PARKING AREAS.

- A. It is unlawful to park in a manner that obstructs or impedes the flow of traffic or to park in excess of 15 minutes on the travelled portion of any town road or highway in the Town without the express consent of the Selectboard, Road Foreman, Fire Department Chief, any Law Enforcement Officer, or others designated by the Selectboard;
- B. It is unlawful to leave a vehicle parked on property owned, leased, or maintained by the Town for more than 12 hours continuously without written consent from the Selectboard, Road Foreman, or Fire Department Chief;
- C. It is unlawful to park less than 50 feet from an intersection;
- D. It is unlawful to park in any area marked "NO PARKING" and/or where official "NO PARKING" signs

are posted;

- E. It is unlawful to park in any area that is designated as a fire lane and/or where official "FIRE LANE" signs are posted;
- F. It is unlawful to park outside of designated parking places in areas where parking places are designated by lines or markings that are painted or placed upon the curb and/or upon the street;
- G. It is unlawful to park a vehicle which blocks or otherwise obstructs the use of any fire hydrant or emergency vehicle(s).
- H. It is unlawful for any motor vehicle to park in a space designated as parking for persons with disabilities except when the motor vehicle is equipped with a valid handicapped registration plate(s) or a properly displayed handicap permit from the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 304a, or as otherwise provided by the law of the state in which the vehicle is registered, and an occupant is a person with a disability.
- I. It is unlawful to park a motor vehicle:
 - 1. In the town right of way for a period of more than 72 consecutive hours.
 - 2. In the town owned "Park-N-Rides" for more than 48 consecutive hours. Specifically, the park-n-ride to the north west of the intersection of I-91 and West Barnet Road, and the park-n-ride at the intersection of Church Street and Bimson Drive.

SECTION 6. SIGNAGE. Signs conspicuously printed with the words "No Parking" and indicating that vehicles may be towed away at the expense of the owner will be erected and maintained at all such areas where parking is prohibited by Section 5, above.

SECTION 7. PENALTY.

- A. An Enforcement Officer is authorized to recover civil penalties for violations of this Ordinance in the following amounts for each violation:

First offense:	\$50 full penalty / \$25 waiver penalty
Second offense:	\$100 full penalty / \$50 waiver penalty
Third offense:	\$200 full penalty / \$100 waiver penalty
Subsequent offense(s):	\$250 full penalty / \$125 waiver penalty

- B. The Enforcement Officer is authorized to recover a waiver fee in lieu of a civil penalty, in the stated amount, from any person who declines to contest a municipal complaint and pays the waiver fee.
- C. Determining the sequences of offenses for violations of this Ordinance will be as follows: a subsequent violation that is identical to, and that occurs within six months of, a previous violation will be considered a higher offense (i.e., second, third, or subsequent offense). Any subsequent identical violation that occurs after six months of a previous identical violation will be considered a new first offense.
- D. In addition to any penalty, a motor vehicle parked in violation of this Ordinance may be removed ("towed") by order of a Law Enforcement Officer. The motor vehicle's owner will be charged the cost of its storage and removal. The motor vehicle will not be released to the owner until all

removal and storage costs have been paid.

1. Upon removal of a motor vehicle by the Town, the Town will send notice by first class mail, to:
 - a. the registered owner of the stored vehicle to the address on file with the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); and
 - b. to any holder(s) of a security interest therein (if the identity of same can be readily ascertained), each within five (5) business days of the removal and storage of said vehicle.
2. The notice will be tendered on forms prescribed and provided by the Town and must:
 - a. describe the year, make and serial number of the stored vehicle;
 - b. identify the vehicle's storage location;
 - c. define the requirements for the vehicle's release; and
 - d. outline the process to reclaim the vehicle.

SECTION 8. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL AND ENFORCEMENT.

- A. Within fifteen (15) business days, a person receiving a parking ticket may appeal the violation by submitting a statement of objections to the Selectboard. The Selectboard, will review the objections and respond in writing within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the statement of objections.
- B. The Selectboard will have the discretionary authority to uphold the parking ticket, to overturn the parking ticket, or to reduce the amount of the fine. If, after exhausting this administrative appeal process, the violator has not paid the penalty assessed for the violation of this Ordinance, the Town attorney, at the discretion of the Selectboard, may institute an action on behalf of the Town against the violator in District Court in accordance with Rule 80.9 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

SECTION 9. OTHER LAWS. This Ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances of the Town and all applicable laws of the State of Vermont. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, resolutions, regulations, policies, or other documents inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY. If any section of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such findings will not invalidate any other part of this Ordinance. If any statute referred to in this Ordinance is amended, this Ordinance will be deemed to refer to such amended statute.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance will become effective sixty (60) days after its adoption by the Selectboard. If a petition is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, that statute will govern the taking effect of this Ordinance.

Adopted this 13 day of July, 2026

SIGNATURES:



The image shows a section of lined paper with three handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is at the top, followed by a second signature, and a third signature below it. There are two more empty lines below the third signature.

Adoption History

1. Agenda item at Selectboard meeting held on 6/8/2026 & 7/13/2026
2. Read and approved at Selectboard meeting on 7/13/2026 and entered in the minutes of that meeting.
3. Posted in public places on 7/24/2026.
4. Notice of adoption published in the CALEDONIAN-RECORD newspaper on 7/25/2026 with a notice of the right to petition.
5. Other actions [*petitions, etc.*].