



Barre Town Newsletter

Municipal News

Landfill Update

The Quarry Hill landfill proposal must successfully navigate through several decision-making processes before receiving all permits necessary for construction. The Town and Solid Waste District (SWD) processes have begun. There is no activity at the State level yet.

The landfill site is in both the Town’s industrial and residential C zoning districts. Landfills are a permitted conditional use (CU) in both districts -- at least until the Selectboard adopted an interim zoning amendment deleting landfills as CU in residential C zones. As the interim zoning decision process was starting, the landfill owners submitted a CU permit application. The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), which decides if CU will be permitted, met in October and heard testimony regarding the validity of the interim zoning in regards to the landfill CU application. On November 14, the ZBA met in deliberative session and later released its decision that the interim zoning was effective in regards to the Quarry Hill landfill application, and the application, as submitted, could not be considered. The Quarry Hill applicants could appeal to the State environmental court.

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The Town Planning Commission (PC) has been busy responding to two voter petitions mandating consideration of a Town Plan revision and of a zoning ordinance amendment. At its October 10 meeting, the PC voted to forward the petitioned zoning amendment to the Selectboard for action. The Selectboard, having adopted an interim order, has decided to study the matter before acting on the zoning amendment.

The PC's public hearing on the Town Plan amendment is scheduled for Thursday, December 13. If the PC forwards the amendment to the Selectboard, the Selectboard could decide to amend the Town Plan in late January.

In preparation of anticipated ZBA hearings about the

Town Reports Available



Town reports for fiscal year 2000-2001 are now available at the following locations:

- Howard's Market
- Brookside General Store
 - Lawson's Store
- Quarry Hill Quick Stop
 - Trow Hill Grocery
- Graniteville General Store
 - Municipal Building
 - East Barre Market.

conditional use application, Act 250 application hearings, and negotiations of a host town agreement, the Selectboard held a public hearing on November 8. The Town's landfill consultant is categorizing the public input for the Selectboard's review before possible ZBA, Act 250 hearings, and host town agreement negotiations.

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) has been active also. Barre Town questioned whether the CVSWMD's provision for host town veto applied to private landfills such as the Quarry Hill proposal. The CVSWMD's attorney does not believe it applies. The Selectboard and CVSWMD board have agreed to let the Washington County Superior Court decide by seeking a declaratory judgment from the court. The attorneys are preparing their filings at this time.

The CVSWMD is also involved because, if it receives an application, the SWD board must decide if the application complies with the CVSWMD's plan. Compliance would be determined by comparing the Quarry Hill landfill to landfill siting criteria established by the CVSWMD in the late 1980s. In preparation of a request for a statement of compliance, the SWD decided to take comments about amending its siting criteria. Deadline to submit comments was October 26. The SWD has now decided to receive rebuttal comments until November 30. The SWD board will meet in December to discuss and possibly decide how, if at all, the siting criteria will be changed.

Winter Parking Ban

The Town of Barre's winter parking ban is in effect from November 1st until April 1st during the hours from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. This parking ban is in effect even if it is *not* snowing. Please make sure that you tell your guests as well, so there will be no surprises to anyone.

Not only is parking on the street prohibited but also parking vehicles within the right-of-way of public roads.

This ordinance is strictly enforced, and violators will receive a \$15.00 fine for each occurrence.

Committee Members Needed

The Cemetery Commission and the Housing Advisory Committee presently each have an opening. The Selectboard is also accepting letters of interest from Barre

Town residents for appointment to the 2002-2003 Budget Committee.

If interested, submit a letter by December 28 to the Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or e-mail (offices@barretown.org) stating your address, telephone numbers, and pertinent background information such as work experience, education, and organization involvement.

For more information, contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 or a member of the Selectboard.

Recycling Depot's New Sorting Requirements

Recyclables are now comingled at the Wilson Depot. The change to comingling reduces the amount of sorting required by depot users, and is necessary due to new industry technology. Recyclables will be sorted by the following:

- Fibers -- boxboard, office paper, newspaper, magazines;
- Containers -- clear, green, and brown glass, and the plastic #1 PETE and plastic #2 HDPE containers currently accepted;
- Metals -- tin and aluminum;
- Cardboard -- includes brown paper bags.

The Wilson Depot is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will be closed on the following holidays: November 22 (Thanksgiving Day), December 25 (Christmas Day), and January 1 (New Year's Day).

Free Winter Sand Policy

Free Winter Sand Policy *(cont'd.)*

busy with its true mission: road maintenance. Consequently, the policy grants the DPW leniency for not always having a pile of sand available during a snow or ice event.

The policy states the sand is provided for Barre Town residents' home use only. Businesses have greater need for winter maintenance, including spreading sand. Commercial enterprises can provide spreading service. Moreover, these enterprises have private sources for sand. The Town's free winter sand is meant to be used by residents who occasionally need a couple buckets to protect against slipping on their driveway or sidewalk.

For many years the Barre Town Department of Public Works made winter sand (sand for snow and ice maintenance) available for Town residents. Until



OFFICES CLOSED

The municipal offices will be closed on the following days:
Thursday & Friday, November 8 & 9, 2001
Tuesday, December 11, 2001
Tuesday, January 2, 2002



November 6, 2001, there was no clear understanding of the expectations on the DPW nor of who could help themselves to sand and to how much. A couple freezing rain and icing events on weekends last winter highlighted the need for a clear policy.

On November 6 the Selectboard adopted a policy regarding the free winter sand the DPW makes available outside the gate to the DPW yard on Websterville Road. The policy states the DPW shall make the sand available from approximately November 15 to April 1. However, as illustrated by last winter's weekend ice storms, when Town residents need and use sand the most, the DPW is
(continued on page 3)

The policy is less strict and states residents are limited to "reasonable amounts of sand per trip".

The public's cooperation in taking only what sand is absolutely necessary would be appreciated by everyone. Remember, when you need sand so does everyone else. Try keeping a couple buckets of sand in your garage, basement, or on your porch. During the ice storm you will be sure to have sand, and you won't add to the congestion at the DPW gate. Give your elderly neighbors a helping hand with their sand.

BUYING/SELLING PROPERTY IN TOWN?



Are you buying or selling property in Barre Town? Confused about property taxes? Town services? You are not alone! Here are a few tips to make that purchase or sale go smoothly.

PROPERTY TAXES: In Barre Town there is only one tax -- property tax. It is calculated on the assessed value of your real property (land and house) and/or personal property (business-owned equipment). Each fiscal year (July 1-June 30) the Town Treasurer mails the property owner their property tax bill(s). It has four tear-off coupons, one for each of the due dates -- August 15, November 15, February 15, and May 15. **Seller:** If the taxes become delinquent during the same fiscal year as the sale, your name will appear on the delinquent property tax list. Talk with the buyer at the closing to ensure each of you knows exactly which tax installment(s) you are responsible for. If an installment become delinquent and you receive a bill, forward it to the buyer with a note reminding them of their obligation.

SEWER USE TAXES: If the property is connected to the municipal sewer system, there will be a sewer use charge. The sewer use charge is NOT a tax. Most financial institutions who escrow money for property taxes DO NOT pay your sewer bill as it is not a tax. The sewer charge is determined by the type of dwelling (single family or multi-family) and the amount of water consumed by the household during the prior year. The Town Treasurer sends out only one sewer bill each fiscal year. The bill has two tear-off coupons, one for each of the due dates -- August 15 and February 15.

WATER: Water is probably one of the most confusing services in Barre Town. Where you live determines where you get your water. In Barre Town, water is supplied by Barre Town, Barre City, several fire districts, or you have a well.

FIRE DISTRICTS: The fire districts in Town are privately-owned businesses. To obtain water or tax information from the fire district, you must contact them directly. The Town has a list of telephone numbers for your convenience.

THINGS YOU NEED FROM THE TOWN TO BUY OR SELL PROPERTY: (1) A duplicate property tax bill; (2) A duplicate sewer use bill, if you are connected to the municipal sewer system; and (3) A water bill for your usage up to the date of purchase/sale, if you have metered water. Duplicate bills can be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk's Office. To obtain fire district bills, you must contact your fire district representative.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The duplicate property tax and sewer bills must be given to the new owner at the time of closing. Make sure to keep a copy of the property tax bill (buyer and seller) as there is important Act 60 information printed on the top. The bank/realtor/attorney will prepare your closing statement, which contains financial information for the pro-rating (sharing) of bills relating to the property such as taxes, sewer charges, oil remaining in the fuel tank, water bills, etc. Please take the time during the closing to review each transaction. Buyer: Your attorney will also provide you with a copy of a report called a "Title Opinion" containing important information such as tax due dates, etc. This is "must reading" for first time property owners. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the sale or purchase of property, don't hesitate to contact your realtor, banker, attorney, or Town Clerk. The Town Clerk's office hours are 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 479-9391 or e-mail me at dkelty@barretown.org.

- Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

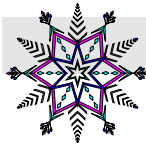
CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

The Public Works Department will provide curbside collection of Christmas trees between January 7-18, 2002. The town will be split into two collection areas. If you want your tree collected, place it along the road before the first day of collection in your area. The areas and dates are:

Mon.. - Fri., Jan. 7-11 - North of Rt. 302 (inc. Beckley Hill, Richardson Road, Aljen Acres, Camp Street, Trow Hill, East Hill, Cobble Hill)

Mon. - Fri., Jan. 14-18 - South of Rt. 302 (inc. East Barre, Websterville, Graniteville, Quarry Hill, Sterling Hill, Middle Road, South Barre, West Hill)

Be sure the tree is free of wire and plastic because the trees will be mulched. Collection will be delayed in the event of snow or ice storms.



Sidewalk Project Awaits State



Approval

The Vermont Agency of Transportation will allocate approximately \$3.45 million during fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003) to enhance transportation-related quality of life activities. The Town of Barre has applied for an amount equal to \$268,880 to facilitate sidewalk construction in the villages of Lower Websterville and Lower Graniteville.

This reimbursement program compensates the Town up to 80% of the total project cost (\$336,100) including planning and design, administration, construction materials and labor, and various other expenses. The Town's 20% share (\$67,220) will be provided from General Fund revenues.

Both sidewalks will be 5 foot concrete walkways with either 5 inch granite or concrete curbing and handicap accessible. One, in Lower Websterville, will run along Websterville Road from the Barre Town Elementary School to the town municipal office building, while the one in Lower Graniteville will run along Graniteville Road connecting the Baptist Street park with McLeod

Winter Survival

When traveling in winter weather, be sure to carry a winter survival kit in your car that contains first-aid supplies, blankets, a compass, a flashlight with extra

Hill Road. Both will provide a safe means of pedestrian travel for children and residents walking along side these busy streets, and both will facilitate access to the Town's recently approved bike

path and local facilities.

Formal application for assistance was submitted to the Vermont Agency of Transportation on October 30, 2001, and is currently under review. Notification of award is expected in late February or mid-March. If chosen, the Town will solicit bids for a project manager who will administer and manage the project and ensure compliance with the State contract. Under supervision of the project manager, bids will also be accepted for an engineering firm to plan and design the walkways and a contractor for their construction. As always, this application is open to the public and available at the Town Manager's Office.

- Aaron Brodeur, Management Intern

Skating Rink

The Town Recreation Board is planning a 100' x 130' outdoor skating rink that would open for use this winter. On Saturday, December 1, beginning at 10:30 a.m., a community work session is planned to finalize site preparation and to assemble the rink. Volunteers are needed. If you or your family will use the rink, please turn out on December 1st to help build the rink. For more information, call Recreation Board Chair Beth Hulbert at 476-5170. The rink will be behind the town school. When finished, it will be used exclusively for open skating.



Two people have volunteered to maintain the ice, using the new ice finisher (a Zambini) the Recreation Board purchased. More volunteers are welcome.

batteries, flares, a shovel, and quick-energy foods such as dried fruits and nuts. Also, take a bag of salt, sand, or cat litter to use for traction in case your car gets stuck in ice or snow.

Follow basic safety measures: Always buckle up. Don't drive if you are tired. Drive slower than usual if the conditions are bad. If you are driving in the rain, ice or snow, increase your following distance.

If you get stranded, stay inside the vehicle, tie a bright colored cloth on the antenna, move anything you

need from the trunk, and wrap your body (including your head) in extra clothing, blankets, or a newspaper.



Run the motor and heater for about 10 minutes every hour while opening a window slightly to let in air. Make sure snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe to

reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

You must stay awake as you will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems. Move your arms and legs to improve circulation and stay warm. Do not eat unmelted snow because it will lower your body temperature.

- Reprinted from *The Nevada Milepost*

City-Town Services Study

In 1999 the Selectboard and the City Council decided to seek their respective voters' authorization to form a committee that would study how to improve cooperative services, including possible merger. The question was approved by both municipalities in November, 2000. Last May the nine members from each community were appointed. The Selectboard and Council held an orientation meeting with the committee in July; and in September, 2001 the committee held its organizational meeting.

At the organizational meeting, the following officers were elected: Chairperson - Barry Driscoll; Vice-Chairperson - Alex McHenry; Secretary - Dawna Attig. The committee established some ground rules or bylaws for the conduct of its business. The second Thursday of the month meeting schedule and the Aldrich Library's community room location were re-confirmed.

Wayne Pelkey presented a survey form as a suggestion for kicking off the data collection phase. The survey requests Town and City department information such as amount of budget, number of employees, type and number of pieces of equipment/vehicles, number of road miles, etc. The committee decided to use it, and both the Town and City have given their data to the

Barre Town has had a "Depositing of Snow in the Road Right-of-Way Ordinance" for years. An amendment is being considered now and could be adopted by the end of November.

Snow deposited in the road creates hazards for motorists. Besides the obvious hazard of snow on the road, motorists driving on clear roads would not expect to hit a snowy patch of road. Even when the snow melts it

committee. At the September meeting, the Committee decided it would interview department heads. Members were asked to submit questions before the October meeting. Finally, at the September meeting the committee re-named itself the Greater Barre Services Study Committee.

At the October 11th meeting, six interview committees were formed for these functions: (1) Administration, (2) Police, (3) Fire and Ambulance, (4) Water and Sewer, (5) Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries, and (6) Highways. Three members were assigned to each committee. The committees are using a standard set of questions and will interview the department heads in both the Town and City. During the interviews, the department heads will be asked, among other things: What is their biggest need? How is the budget created? Are there any projects which would benefit from the two departments working together? When asked, where would you increase spending?

At the November 8th meeting, the committees began giving reports. When the interviews are completed, the department heads will be invited to a GBSSC meeting for a question-answer period with the full committee.

Meetings will continue on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Aldrich Library. The meetings are open to the public.

Placing Snow in Road Rights-Of-Way

Vermont law makes selectboards responsible for local roads, and grants selectboards broad authority to ensure protection of roads and safety of travelers. Vermont statutes specifically authorize selectboards to regulate the deposit of snow in road rights-of-way, that is the full width of area the town may work in (normally 3 rods or 49½ feet).



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Placing Snow in Road (cont'd.)

may not dry before nightfall when the water could freeze -- creating a slippery, icy condition.

The Selectboard has introduced (the first step) an ordinance that would make violation of the snow deposit ordinance a civil penalty. (See related article below.) The amendment continues the Police Department's role as enforcers. However, it states that for first offenses property owners (not the plow driver or other person

shoveling snow) will receive a written warning. For subsequent offenses during the same winter, the fines and waiver fees are:

- 2nd offense - \$60/\$35;
- 3rd offense - \$110/\$60;
- each additional offense - \$210/\$110.

The proposed amendment would make another noteworthy revision. The word “deposit” is defined to include the unintentional leaving of snow on the road or in the right-of-way. Plow drivers who push across a road cannot leave “tailings” off the sides of the plow.

To recap, property owners could be fined if snow is pushed, shoveled, blown, or otherwise deposited, intentionally or not, in the street or road right-of-way from their residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural driveway, sidewalk, parking lot, lawn, or roadside parking space. The right-of-way usually is 49½ feet wide, and pushing snow up against the roadside snowbank is leaving snow in the right-of-way.

Civil Enforcement & The Municipal Ordinance Bureau

The Selectboard has recently approved several Town ordinances for enforcement through the Vermont Municipal Ordinance Bureau, and several more are under revision. The Municipal Ordinance Bureau (M.O.B.) was created by the Legislature to impartially resolve disputes pertaining to municipal ordinance violations. Parties to the dispute present their arguments to the presiding hearing officer who determines whether a violation occurred and the penalty to be assessed. The forum was established to be less costly and more efficient by allowing the individual parties involved to present their case without the need for an attorney. However, you may provide your own should you choose. The following example illustrates the procedures and options involved should a formal complaint be issued.

Should you receive a written complaint for violation of a Town ordinance, you have three options: (1) pay the waiver fee; (2) ignore the complaint; or (3) contest the complaint. The M.O.B. provides 20 days from the receipt date to notify them of your decision. The waiver fee is listed on the ticket and is ALWAYS less than the penalty fee (usually half).

If you do not respond to the M.O.B. within 20 days, you will receive default judgement rendered against you



and be held liable for the full penalty amount. This amount is always more (usually twice as much) than the waiver fee but can never exceed \$500 per non-continuous offense.

If you choose to contest the violation, a hearing will be held before the M.O.B. hearing officer. You may bring witnesses and submit evidence to present your case.

If the hearing officer finds in your favor, you will be assessed no penalty. However, if you are deemed in violation, you will be penalized an amount greater than the waiver fee but not more than the penalty fee.

Violations which remain unabated after formal complaint issuance may be cited on a daily or weekly basis depending upon the ordinance in question. Continuous offenses incur progressively larger penalty and waiver fees. Exercising any of the options listed above does not relieve you from correcting the situation for which you have been cited unless you are found not to be in violation of the ordinance or the ordinance is rendered null/void by a court of competent jurisdiction.

New topics could be addressed for Selectboard consideration as requested by the Town Manager and/or the department heads. Topics for future exploration include general public nuisances such as abandoned, dilapidated structures and excessive noise.

The Town’s Management Intern will be attending a VLCT seminar on ordinance formation, adoption, and enforcement to work with these issues.

Any comments, questions, or future suggestions are encouraged. Please feel free to contact the Town Manager’s Office anytime during regular business hours.

- Aaron Brodeur, Management Intern

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS -- SUMMARY REPORT

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (P. Malone, N. Akley, P. Badger, M. Greenwood, M. Reeves)

August, 2001: Approved variance for rear yard setback - Quarry Hill Mini Storage (Quarry Hill Road). Denied appeal of Zoning Administrator's decision to issue a building permit - Barbara Morse (Cogswell Street). Approved variance for right-of-way setback - Edward Salls (Grace Ave.).

September, 2001: Approved variance for lot size and road frontage - Robert & Sylvia Miller (West Road). Approved conditional use permit for multi-family dwelling in Res. C zone - Ronald & Gloria Abare (Richardson Road).

October, 2001: Approved conditional use permit for horses in Res. A zone - Debra Davidson (Richardson Road). Approved variance for sign size - Brad Tubbs (East Barre Road). Approved variance for rear setback - George LaRose (Phelps Road). Approved variance for side yard setback - Peter Maurice (Brook Street). Closed a public hearing for conditional use determination, sanitary landfill in Res. C zone - Auto Trek, LLC (Fisher Road).

PLANNING COMMISSION (M. Nicholson, H. Miller, C. Thygesen, E. Buntin, C. Sanborn, T. Ackerman, E. Bancroft)

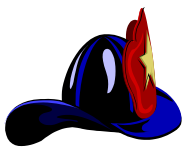
September, 2001: Approved 2-lot subdivisions for Roger Houle & Debbie Goulet (Mitchell Road), for Beverly Diemer (Partridge Road), and for Clifford Jarvis (Farwell Street). Approved 4-lot subdivision for Chris & Lisa Hard (Cassie Street). Re-approved 5-lot subdivision for Barre Town Investors (Camire Road).

October, 2001: Forwarded zoning amendment to eliminate sanitary landfills as conditional uses to the Selectboard - by petition of voters. Approved revised subdivision "Riendeau" for Pierre & Carmen Ducharme (McLeod Road).

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (D. Newhall, P. White, J. Blow, D. Allen, C. Liese)

September, 2001: Approved equestrian sign policy and form. Voted to not change stop sign arrangement at Camp Street/Higuera Road intersection. Recommended the Town apply center line on Sunset Road asphalt from Camire Hill Road to Melvin's driveway. Recommended 25 mph speed limit in both directions on Mekkesen Road from Farwell Road to LePage Road. Voted to take no action on request to change "stop" sign to "yield" sign at Cherrywood Drive/Quarry Hill Road intersection. Recommended installation of a "no outlet" sign and denied request for "watch for children" sign on Sterling Hill Road. Recommended installation of "hidden drives" sign at 78 and 80 Church Hill Road.

October, 2001: Recommended to gate post top and bottom of Middle Road with "axle signs" or "no through trucks" signs attached to same post as the legal load limit signs. Recommended to change the speed limit on Beckley Hill Road from 50 mph to 35 mph. Recommended to ordain a speed limit of 35 mph on School Road and LePage Road. Recommended a speed study be done on Richardson Road. Decided to take no action on streetlight request on Lowery Road.



Fire Department Fund Raising Campaign - *Thermal Imager*

Soon the Fire Department will be conducting a fund raising campaign to purchase a relatively new and important component of firefighting -- a thermal imaging camera. These cameras, which sense heat, are expensive. However, the cameras offer many benefits in many ways. It is hard to overlook the contribution to the fire service and our ability to save lives and reduce property damage that these cameras offer.

A thermal imaging camera has many uses. When

visibility is impaired (if non-existent) it allows firefighters to see bodies of victims or even fallen firefighters that before would have been very difficult or impossible to find. It can be used for search and rescue when looking for a missing person in the woods. It can save water, save property by narrowing fire extension probes, and save time. The uses are many; the lifesaving potential immeasurable.

The fund raising campaign is likely to be geared toward local businesses. However, many individuals have approached us as well about donating to this cause. Please look for future information from the Fire Department regarding this campaign. For information, contact me at the Town Municipal Office Building.

- Assistant Chief Chris Violette

(All meetings are open to the public)
COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

SELECTBOARD:

Pilot Session - 6:30 P.M.
Regular Session - 7:00 P.M.
Every Tuesday evening
Meetings aired on CVTV, Ch. 7,
Fri. 8 P.M., Sat. 9 A.M., Noon

PLANNING BOARD:

2nd Wednesday - 7:00 P.M.

TRAFFIC SAFETY:

3rd Wednesday - 7:00 P.M.

CEMETERY COMMISSION:

4th Wednesday - 6:30 P.M.

ZONING BOARD:

3rd Wednesday - 7:00 P.M.

RECREATION BOARD:

2nd Tuesday - 7:00 P.M.

All meetings are held in

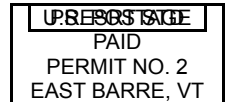
Municipal Building.

the

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TOWN OF BARRE

P.O. Box 116
Websterville, VT 05678-0116



Selectboard:

Francis M. McFaun, Chair
W. John Mitchell II, Vice Chair
Douglas C. Farnham
Charles W. Castle
Richard N. Jensen

Town Manager: Carl R. Rogers
Town Clerk-Treasurer: Donna J. Kelty
Layout & Design: Diane W. Galway
Copying: Accura Printing, South Barre
Mailing: The Mailing Center, East Barre