



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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November 2016
www.barretown.org

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All Town Offices Will Be Closed on...
November 24th & 25th
December 26th
January 2, 2017

Upcoming Dates & Events

- 11/24 - 5K Run/Walk
- 12/30 - Budget Comm. Letters Due
- January - Budget Comm. Appointed
- 1/3-13 - Christmas Tree Collection
- 1/25 - T.S.A.C. Public Hearing
- February - Budget Review Begins
- 2/15 - Property & Sewer Taxes Due

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Dedication Ceremony of Bridge St. Bridge to Gordon Booth. September 24, 2016

New Ambulances & Stretcher Load Systems

In October the Department of EMS put in service 2 new ambulances. These ambulances replaced 2 purchased in 2012 each of which had over 130,000 miles on them. The new ambulances are Frontline Ford v10 gas trucks. The town was forced to switch to gas because the truck industry stopped making van cutaway chassis that ambulance boxes could be mounted on. However, with easier, lower-cost maintenance, lower cost chassis, and fewer emissions, we are excited for the change.

Also, in this new purchase EMS has added a top of the line stretcher and load system in each truck. This system is power-based verse manual lifting. The stretcher is hydraulically powered to lift 600 lbs. This stretcher is coupled with a loading system that not only secures it in the ambulance but lifts the stretcher into the ambulance, helping avoid the injuries that come from lifting older stretchers. This system provides extra safety also for the patients while the ambulance is moving, and when loading and unloading.



To put this in perspective, it is estimated that the stretcher was moved up/down and in/out of the ambulance over 6000 times last year, plus another 6000 times without patients during cleaning, training, and on no-transport calls.

Feel free to stop by the station if you would like to see the new ambulances or stretchers. However, I would recommend calling first. We are getting busier every day and wouldn't want to miss you.

By Chris LaMonda, EMS Director

Winter Parking



The Town of Barre's winter night-time on-street parking ban goes into effect November 1st to April 1st of each year.

Our winter parking ban restriction states, "The parking of vehicles within the right-of-way of public roads between the hours of 11:00 p.m and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited between November 1st and April 1st of each year."

Vehicles in violation of this ordinance may be ticketed or towed. This violation results in a \$15.00 fine. If your vehicle is towed your vehicle will not be released until the fine and storage fees are paid.

The winter ban is in effect whether there is snow or no snow. The Town plow trucks need to have access to all roadways to plow, remove snow or salt/sand the roadway.

If you have any questions regarding the winter ban, call the Barre Town Police Department at 479-0509.

By Nicole Poulin, Police Dispatcher

Winter Sand Policy

Did you know that from November 15th to April 1st, Barre Town residents can access sand for free outside of the Public Works fence? This service is for residential use only; businesses need to make alternative arrangements. Town residents are allowed to take a reasonable amount (much less than a pickup truck load) for personal use. Do plan ahead - the Public Works crew, which replenishes the free winter sand pile, is very busy maintaining public roads during storms, i.e. the same times residents would most need sand. If you do find the pile depleted, please come back later. Follow instructions posted at the sand pile, and for everyone's safety, do not enter the public works facility.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Winter Driving Tips

Winter driving is challenging to both you and your car. Icy, snowy conditions test your abilities as a driver and cold weather tests the limits of your car's mechanical abilities so being prepared could end up being a life saver.

To help ensure your car is in top condition before the snow flies, have your car inspected. You should check fluids, battery, wipers, brakes, exhaust system, oil level, lights, heater and defroster at least. Also if you are scheduled for regular service try to get this done before it snows.

Another thing to pay close attention to is the tires. A lot of people opt for winter tires in this region due to the amount and frequency of snow we get. No matter if you choose winter tires or all season tires make sure you check the tread and tire pressure. Tire pressure drops by about one pound per ten



degrees of temperature which means what was good in July's heat isn't good in January's zero temperatures.

It is also a good idea to have an emergency kit in your car. This will help you be prepared in case you get stuck. Things to have in your emergency kit are: snowbrush, ice scraper, shovel, a bag of sand or kitty litter (to help with traction), blankets or a sleeping bag, flash light with batteries, flares, plastic bags, first aid kit, jumper cables, extra hats, gloves, boots, food and water. Also throw in a book or something that will help keep you busy and calm in the event you get stuck. Having a cell phone and charger is also helpful when you need to call for help.

Keep your fuel tank at least half full at all times. It is one thing to run on fumes on a beautiful summer day while it is another in the cold freezing temperatures. If you get stuck you want to have enough fuel to heat your car until help arrives.

One key thing when it comes to driving in the winter is to pay attention to the weather forecast and road conditions. If the weather or roads are bad the best thing to do is stay home if possible. If you must go out and about, make sure to travel during daylight hours and on well traveled roads. Before you leave take the extra time to clean off your car. Remove all snow and ice from every part of your car to ensure everyone's safety. Also keep in mind that if snow or ice from your car hits another car and causes damage you could be liable.

Know your car. If your car is new take it for a test run in a snowy parking lot to see how it handles before going out on the road. Also know what features your car has. Traction control and antilock brakes can be beneficial in bad weather.

Drive slowly and take your time. It is better to arrive late than to get yourself in an emergency situation because you were rushing. Also don't tailgate and make sure to leave plenty of space between you and the car in front of you. What is a safe distance on nice clear roads isn't a safe distance on icy, snowy days. Be careful while turning, stopping and accelerating because this is the time when sliding and skidding usually happens.

In the event that your car gets stuck put up the hood and tie some bright cloth to the antennae so you can be seen better. Make sure to keep the windows, air grill and tail pipe clear of snow to reduce the risk of dangerous gasses. Stay in your vehicle when you're not checking the windows, grill and tail pipe. Being in your car is the safest place to be while you wait. Wrap yourself and any passengers in a blanket to keep warm. Huddle up together to share body heat. Run the engine intermittently. Run your engine for 10 to 15 minutes every hour to keep the car sufficiently warm and also melt some of the ice and snow. Also keep moving to avoid frostbite.

Following these guidelines will ensure a safe winter season of travel.

By Nicole Poulin, Police Dispatcher



Clearing Snow From Driveways



Winter time is upon us – which brings the yearly ritual of cleaning the snow out of our sidewalks and driveways. This event has been made easier by the use of snowblowers, snowplows, snow scoops and even better designed shovels. When we clear the snow, we then

become somewhat challenged as to where to put the snow. So we push, shovel, plow or blow it either into or across the road or sidewalk thinking it will just melt or be plowed away.

People sometimes forget it is a violation of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances which states *any snow cleared from driveways, parking lots, roadside parking spaces, lawns or other residential, commercial, agricultural or industrial properties shall not be deposited within the right-of-way of any town road or highway*. If this happens, in the judgment of a Town police officer, the property owner shall be cited for a violation.

When you plow across the road, it leaves some snow which will freeze, causing a dangerous situation. Drivers can hit ice spots or lumps left by the snow causing them to lose control of their vehicle and leave the roadway. Also damage can occur to the Town snowplows which can be costly. Try to put snow on the low side of your driveway. That way when the plow goes by it does not get put back in your driveway or walk. You can see up the road better also.

Please remember that if you violate this ordinance you can receive a civil ticket along with a fine of \$60.

By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer

FYI...

DEAR BARRE TOWN RESIDENTS, we at the Barre Area Senior Center are looking for ways to move our programming outside of our space and into the community. Please share your ideas with us! Perhaps there is a class or workshop we offer that we could deliver to you at a site in Barre Town? Please take a look at our current program offerings—whether an established program we can bring to you, or something new—and contact us! Also, watch for a BASC community potluck coming soon to Barre Town!

For news and a calendar of current programs, pick up a current BASC newsletter at one of the following locations: Barre Town Clerk's Office, Barre Area Senior Center, Wayside Restaurant, Rehab Gym, Aldrich Libraries, Quality Market, Lawson's Store, CVMC and Morgan's Store. Reach us by phone at (802) 479-9512; by email, for programming information at activities@barreseniors.org. Or visit us online at www.barreseniors.org and www.facebook.com/barreseniors or in person at 131 South Main Street, #4, Barre, VT, 05641.

*By Cathy Hartshorn, Executive Director,
Barre Area Senior Center*

Ambulance Crew in South Barre Fire Station

Starting this past July, Barre Town EMS's weekday auxiliary crew is working out of the South Barre Station. The auxiliary crew works Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. It had been working out of the East Barre Station, the department's headquarters. Assigning the auxiliary crew to South Barre better serves our community by spacing out our resources more evenly, thereby decreasing some response times. Also, we now will have much quicker and easier access to I-89 and parts of Berlin.

By Chris LaMonda, EMS Director



Winter Trails

Last winter Millstone Trails Association (MTA) purchased a new snowmobile for towing a trail groomer. Too bad that the poor snow season meant MTA didn't get to use the new machine and groomer!

MTA is again planning to groom trails this year. Snow conditions allowing, MTA will groom certain trails in the town forest, the Millstone Hill West bike path (from the school to Lower Graniteville), and a trail between and around the ballfields in the town recreation area.

Use of the trails in the town forest, on the bike path, and in the recreation area is free. The groomed trails can be used for walking, fat tire mountain biking, snow-shoeing and cross country skiing. The trail through the recreation area will be less hilly and easier to use than town forest trails, and so may be of interest to families with children and beginners.

Although use of the groomed trails is free, consider making a donation to MTA for its expenses. Fat tire mountain bike use of snowmobile trails is discouraged.

Montessori School of Central Vermont

At the start of the 2016-2017 school year, the Montessori School of Central Vermont (MSCVT) opened its new location in the former Knights of Columbus building. The MSCVT had been located on Rt. 2 in Berlin near the Montpelier city line.

After purchasing the property, in late spring of this year MSCVT began extensive renovations of the building. The ground level floor was gutted and renovated to create classrooms and office spaces; an alarm system was installed; a sprinkler system with two 5,000 gallon buried water storage tanks was installed; and an elevator was installed for handicap access to the basement level. Outside, a small section of the parking lot was re-graded, and fencing was erected.

Most of the money for the project came from other sources, but Barre Town did secure a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant on behalf of the MSCVT. The grant funds were used for the handicap accessibility elevator, clerk of the works expenses, grant administration (Town's

(Continued on p.7)

What Are “Zoning Setbacks” and Why Do We Have Them?



Ever driven through Upper Websterville or Graniteville and noticed how close the houses are to the road or even to each other? These houses were built when the granite industry was booming in the late 1800's when convenience was a bigger concern than safety. Zoning hadn't even been thought

of during that time period so buildings were built close to roads (remember cars were barely around if at all) and very close to each other.

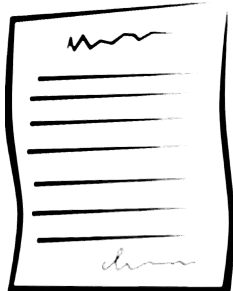
Over time as cars became more widely used and as speeds increased and roads were improved it wasn't unheard of that accidents would occur involving cars running into houses. It also made it harder to maintain better roads when houses were so close. Houses built close to each other became safety hazards as these houses were known to burn on occasion and take many other houses with it.

Zoning was first introduced in larger cities to help take care of safety problems like those mentioned. Gradually zoning spread around the country and is in place in most towns. One of the main components of zoning is a requirement that buildings be “setback” from the road and property lines. Setback is a measurement from a property line or the road right-of-way to a structure. In Barre Town our setback requirements vary by what zone a property is in. For a primary structure, the road right-of-way set back is either 15', 25', or 50', depending on the zoning district. Property line setbacks for primary structures are either 10', 15', or 25', depending on the zone. The road right-of-way setback requirement for an accessory building (shed or garage) is the same as a primary building. The property line setbacks for an accessory building are less than the primary structure setbacks.

The best way to understand what setback is and how it applies to you is to contact the Zoning Office at 479-2595.

By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director

Proposed Amendments to Town Plan



After holding a public hearing in April of this year regarding amending the energy section of the Town Plan, the Planning Commission (PC) decided to hold off suggesting the changes to the Selectboard. The PC made this decision based on input gathered at the public hearing and so that it could determine what new legislation (Act 174) would do to a Town's

say in the siting of solar projects. After looking at the Act 174 language and knowing Barre Town is likely a prime location for solar development, the PC went back to work on amending the Plan so that hopefully the Plan would be given more consideration when a solar project is going through the permitting process with the State.

On October 19, 2016 the Planning Commission held a public hearing on proposed changes to chapter 3, transportation, chapter 5, preservation, and chapter 8, energy. A total of five people attended the public hearing. At the end of the meeting, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to forward the proposed amendments to the Selectboard for their consideration.

The proposed amendments to the transportation chapter are minor, mostly encouraging the reduction of fossil fuel use when possible. Proposed changes to the preservation section include language to protect views from one section of town to another across the “way”. Barre Town's views are noted in the Plan for being a large part of our vitality and one reason people live here and as such are important.

The energy chapter likely has the largest potential for change. Most towns in Vermont are struggling to find the right balance between being supportive of renewable energy and the siting of it and how to work within the confines of the limited amount of input available during the permitting process. The content of a Town Plan can be critical during Public Service Board proceedings and the energy section is a big part of that.

The Town Plan is careful to continue to support renewable energy. However, because the Plan is a town's only voice, it has to have content that is clear on where you think siting is appropriate or not appropriate.

The following are a few of the proposed changes to chapter 8, energy. A full version of the proposed changes can be found at www.barretown.org on the Planning & Zoning page.

- That the most appropriate location for solar arrays is on roof tops and existing impervious surfaces. Also to encourage the use of existing topography and vegetation to help mitigate views of solar arrays and to avoid the use of agricultural lands for solar development
- Creates siting requirements for solar projects less than 15kw and projects larger than 15kw
- Prohibits solar projects larger than 500kw
- Requires a decommissioning plan
- Prohibits private solar development in the Wilson Industrial Park

The Selectboard will hold public hearings shortly on the proposed changes and ultimately have the final say on whether to make these amendments. Watch for upcoming announcements for the hearings. Upcoming agendas can be viewed on the Town website and are posted in stores around Town.

By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Director

LOOK FOR THE NEXT EDITION..... of the Barre Town Newsletter in February, 2017!

Fire Department Fundraising Efforts



Four years ago the Barre Town Fire Department began a fundraising raffle that has been enormously successful raising money to purchase equipment that helps the department perform its job without any taxpayer funds. The 52 gun raffle is simple in that 1,000 tickets are sold for \$50.00. The ticket holder then has a chance to win a rifle or shotgun every week for an entire year. The Vermont Lottery pick 3 Monday evening drawing is used to determine the winner. The winner is notified and can pick up their winnings at R&L Archery in Barre as long as they pass a background check. The winning ticket is never removed from the drawing and can win again and again.

To date the raffle has paid for the purchase of an all-terrain utility vehicle (UTV side-by-side), tracks for winter use, a medical skid for the back of the UTV, and an enclosed trailer to house it all. In addition, the raffle just paid for the purchase of a 2017 Ford F-250 that replaces engine 32 (the Hummer) and will be used for a variety of things including wildland firefighting. On order and slated to arrive in the next month or so is a wildland skid unit that will be placed in the bed of the pickup during dry periods. All of the purchased items become property of the Town of Barre but so far the department's fundraising has saved taxpayers about \$70,000.

You can buy a 2017 raffle ticket from any Barre Town Firefighter, the Town Planning & Zoning Office, and R & L Archery on Smith Street in Barre.

The 1997 Humvee replaced by the new pickup truck will be sold in the near future.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief

Town Staffing Changes

EMS: The Barre Town EMS Department said a reluctant goodbye to Sheila Brown, who retired on September 30, 2016 after over 15 years of service. Sheila was not only an excellent AEMT, she played a key role managing the office affairs of the EMS Department. This included scheduling two crews of two staff to cover the department's service area 24/7 year round, and reviewing pre-billing paperwork for over 3,000 calls a year.

EMS is, however, pleased to welcome two new full-time staff. Leanne Hatch is an AEMT who is on track to complete her paramedic certification by late winter. She has joined the shift just vacated by Sheila. Jonathan Cullen started part-time with the Town in May 2016, and became full time in October.

With Leanne and Jonathan, the Town strengthens its emergency medical services with even more medic-level resources, unusually high among Vermont EMS.

Police: Karie Tucker, who became a Barre Town Police Officer in April 2013, and Diane Mathews, who became a Barre Town Police Officer in March 2014, have both resigned for positions with the Berlin and Montpelier Police Departments, respectively. They were important members of the team and we wish them the best in these new opportunities.

Project Updates

South Barre Sidewalk Project: The seven owners of the three properties abutting this sidewalk have all signed off on easements allowing this sidewalk to be built. Paperwork to conclude the right-of-way phase will be completed soon, with construction anticipated for 2017. Funds are 80% from the state and 20% from the town.

East Barre Sidewalk Project: The 2005 grant agreement for this project required, but did not fund, a feasibility study. The town completed a feasibility study and the conceptual phase of the project, and has been attempting to obtain easements from abutting property owners since 2010. Parking concerns combined with staffing challenges stalled acquisitions; with recent changes in both areas, the project is moving again. A grant application to close the gap between current estimated total project costs and the existing grant award was approved by the Selectboard on Oct 18 and submitted the next day. Construction is anticipated in 2018, though the town is working towards 2017.

For more on either sidewalk, contact Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager, at 477-1356.



Paving: The paving of Rt. 63, managed by the state, is delayed until early summer 2017.

Peloquin Road Culvert: This town project to upgrade the culvert on Peloquin Rd at Holden Rd to handle more water was planned for this fall. It is now delayed until the spring. A state grant will cover 80% of project costs up to \$175,000. The town share will be a bit over 20% based on current estimates.

Rt. 14/Bridge St. Intersection: This state-led project was planned for construction in spring 2017. Due to state budget constraints, this project will not be constructed until 2018.

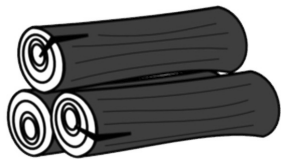
Rt. 110/Mill St./Bianchi St. Intersection in East Barre: This project is being paid for and managed by VTrans. The engineering design firm contracted for this intersection improvement project is currently revising the preliminary plans based on comments from VTrans. In parallel, VTrans is working through the permitting process. The project is on schedule; construction is still planned for 2019.

For more information on the above projects, contact Harry Hinrichsen, Town Engineer, at 479-2595.

Rt. 14/Quarry Hill Rd intersection: This state-led project, to reconstruct this intersection for better visibility, straddles the border between Barre Town and Barre City. Work scheduled for 2017 includes vegetation clearing and cutting back the bank from the intersection to the railroad crossing in order to facilitate relocating utility poles prior to the next phase of the contract. The rest of the work is scheduled for construction in 2021 and includes signaling the intersection at VT Route 14/ Quarry Street, widening Quarry Street to add an additional westbound lane, reconstructing the railroad crossing, adding a sidewalk to the north side of Quarry Street, and new signs, pavement markings and other items throughout the intersection. For more information, contact Erin Lewis, VTrans Project Manager, at erin.lewis@vermont.gov.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Town Forest Logging



Logging in the town forest was suspended March 1, 2016 due to the mild winter. Timber harvesting will resume this winter, possibly even this fall, weather and ground conditions permitting.

During the fall of 2015, the town and its consulting forester (Jeff Smith of Butternut Hollow Forestry) advertised for logging bids. Five loggers submitted bids. George deNagy was awarded the contract.

The first logging contract for the town forest covered a 55-acre area near Littlejohn Road. One section of 13 acres lies between Littlejohn Road and East Barre. The remaining 42 acres are in the Littlejohn Road/Donahue Road corner of the forest.

Following a recommendation from Smith, the Select-board voted to suspend logging and extend deNagy's contract to April 1, 2017. At the time deNagy said he would start as soon as possible in the fall or winter.

When logging begins, announcements will be made. Forest users should stay out of the north-east corner (near the intersection of Donahue and Littlejohn Roads) of the forest until the logging is finished. Trails in that area include: Heifer Pasture, Littlejohn, Rambler and Scrambler. The VAST snowmobile trail will stay open during logging. The 42 acres to be logged are about 1/9th the total forest, so there are many other trails that may be used. The trails north of Littlejohn Road (between Littlejohn and East Barre) are open and can be used all winter.

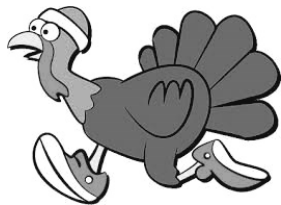
Timbering the 13 acres last winter earned the town \$1,628. That area was 1/4th of the territory yet to be logged. The remaining area, south of Littlejohn Road, has more timber, and more valuable timber. Smith indicated the \$1,628 was right on his projection; the town could still see \$11,000 from the total contract.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Thanksgiving 5K

Thanksgiving (Nov 24) morning, the Barre Congregational Church will conduct its 14th annual 5K (3.1 miles) run/walk. The event is known as the Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot. 2016 will be the fifth year the event will have been held out of the Town Municipal Building (149 Websterville Rd).

More than 150 participants have been flocking to the Gobble Wobble because it is a run and walk, and is family and pet friendly, meaning strollers and dogs on leashes are welcome. Prizes are awarded to overall female and male winners, as well as the first male and female finishers in each age category. Registration fee is \$25.



Race day registration begins at 8:00am in the Municipal Building and must be completed by 9:15am. The race starts at 9:30am. Parking is available at the Municipal Building and at the Department of Public Works yard, 129 Websterville Rd.

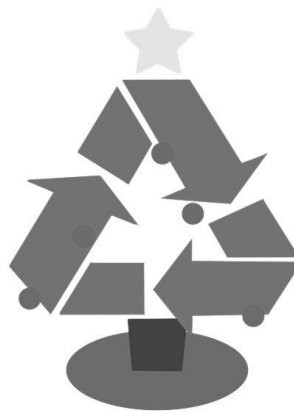
The starting line is on Bolster Rd next to the back entrance to the Municipal Building parking lot. From Bolster Rd, the course turns right and continues down Websterville Rd to the 4-way intersection with Quarry Hill/Graniteville Rds. At the intersection the course turns left. If there is not too much snow to use the Millstone Hill West bikepath, the course extends out Graniteville Rd to Rock of Ages' driveway. Participants would return to the school parking lot via the bike path. The finish line would be in front of the school. If there is too much snow on the path, halfway out Graniteville Rd, participants will retrace their steps. On Websterville Rd the course turns left for an out-and-back on Pitman Rd. Back on Websterville Rd the course finishes very close to the starting line on Bolster Rd.

Residents are advised to avoid driving through the course area from 9:30-10:45am. If travel through the course is necessary, please be on the look-out for participants, especially children.

For more information about the Gobble Wobble, visit www.barrecongregational.org.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Christmas Tree Collection



The Department of Public Works will provide Christmas tree collection the first two weeks of January. The dates and areas served are noted below.

When done enjoying the decorated tree, and the lights, ornaments, garland, and any other decorations have been removed, place the tree by the street or road. The DPW will pick it up. Snow, ice and freezing rain storms require the department's attention. In the event of winter storms, please be patient. DPW will collect all the trees placed out by the road.

The trees are dumped at the Holden Road lawn waste site, where, next October, they will be ground up with brush into mulch. Residents are not required to use the tree collection service, but please do not: burn the tree, send it to a landfill, or throw it into a waterway or drainage way.

January 3-6: North of Rt. 302, including Richardson Rd, Beckley Hill Rd, Camp St., Windywood Rd, East Hill, Trow Hill, Cobble Hill

January 9-13: South of Rt. 302, including East Barre, Websterville, Graniteville, Quarry Hill, Sterling Hill, South Barre, West Hill

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Recruiting Budget Committee Members

The Town Charter provides a way for a few town residents to be directly involved in setting the budgets. The Charter mandates a Budget committee review the town manager's proposed budgets; approve the General Fund and Highway Fund budgets submitted to voters at May's election; and set the budgets for the seven other funds. The Committee has ten members: the five Selectboard members and five citizens. The Selectboard appoints two of the five citizen members. The Town Clerk-Treasurer appoints one member, and those three appointees name two more citizens to fill out the Committee.

The Selectboard is accepting letters or emails from town residents who want to be considered for appointment by the board. The only required qualification is Committee members must be a registered voter in Barre Town. Letters or emails will be accepted until 4:00pm, Friday, December 30. Information about work history and service to other organizations is helpful. Emails could be sent to offices@barretown.org. Letters can be mailed to Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678.

Service on the Budget Committee is a bit different than other town volunteer service. Other boards, commissions or committees meet monthly. The Budget Committee meets weekly for about two months, starting the last Tuesday of January. Meetings are held from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. A few Tuesdays, the Committee holds double sessions, before and after a brief 8:00pm Selectboard meeting. The Committee also tours town facilities one Saturday morning in February.

During the approximate eight weeks of meeting time, the Committee will review the General Fund, Highway Fund, Sewer Fund, Sewer Capital Improvement Fund, Water Fund, Equipment Fund, Cemetery Fund, Ambulance Fund and Building Fund budgets. The Committee receives and hears an explanation of several 5-year plans and other finance-related appendices to the budget. Requests and discussion inevitably leads to making decisions about other finance or budget issues.

Serving on this vital committee is the single best way to learn about town operations. For more information, contact Carl Rogers at 479-9331.

Tax and Utility Rates

Preparing for the new fiscal year (which starts July 1), the Selectboard set the fiscal year (FY) sewer and water rates on June 14, and the property tax rates on July 5.

The Budget Committee sets the amount of the budgets. The General and Highway Fund budgets, the two supported by property taxes, are voted on at the May election. The FY '16-'17 Sewer Fund budget decreased less than 2% from the previous year. On June 14, on the Budget Committee's recommendation, the Selectboard voted to keep the sewer bill rate at \$316 per unit (basic



household). The Selectboard also voted to designate another \$50,000 of Sewer Fund cash balance for purchase of a new sewer flushing/vacuum truck.

The Water Fund budget approved by the Committee increased 6.7%. It was recommended the \$55 quarterly base charge remain the same and the water consumption charge increase from \$6.46 per unit (100 cubic feet, or 748 gallons) to \$6.55. The Selectboard adopted those rates.

The property tax rate is set after receiving the two education tax rates from the state. The board is required to set the education rate as supplied by the Vermont Department of Taxes. The education tax rates, compared to last fiscal year, are shown below:

For the municipal government, the Selectboard sets three

Classification	Last FY	Current FY	% Diff.
Homestead education	\$1.4056	\$1.4073	+0.12%
Non-residential education	\$1.7341	\$1.7178	-0.93%

tax rates: General Fund, Highway Fund and Local Agreement Rate. The General Fund tax rate covers the General Fund budget, voter approved donations (\$110,450 or 1.76¢ on the tax rate) and the anticipated delinquent taxes. The Highway Fund rate is only for the Highway Fund budget. The Local Agreement Rate compensates for the amount of state education taxes waived by action of the voters. At this time, the disabled military veterans exemption is the only factor and amounts to approximately an one-third of a cent tax rate. The Selectboard applied \$100,000 of cash balance to the General Fund, reducing the tax rate increase by about 1.6¢.

Last year's and current year's tax rates are shown below.

For FY '16-'17 the total residential tax rate (education +

Classification/Use	Last FY	Current FY	% Diff.
General	\$0.4990	\$0.5142	+3.00%
Highway	\$0.4069	\$0.4071	+0.049%
Local Agreement	\$0.0039	\$0.0035	-10.25%

municipal) increased \$0.0167 or 0.72%. The total non-residential tax rate decreased \$0.0013 or 0.04%.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

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expenses), program management and program delivery. On October 25, the Selectboard adopted a resolution accepting a grant agreement with the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP), approved a sub-grant agreement with MSCVT and accepted a mortgage deed from the school. (The mortgage provides financial security in the event the school can't meet certain grant-required benefits.) After two grant payment requisitions this fall and winter, the town should be able to close out the grant.

The Saturday after the Selectboard's grant actions, the school held an open house.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

Development Review Board – *By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Admin. (M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, S. Driscoll, G. Richards, J. Valsangiacomo, J. Fecteau, J. Hameline)*

August 2016 - Approved 2 lot subdivision, Booth Living Trust, Jensen Road.

September 2016 - Approved 16.5 ft. variance from K&L Bailey, West Cobble Hill Road.

October 2016 - No public hearing held, discussed only preliminary applications.

Planning Commission – *By Chris Violette, Planning & Zoning Admin. (C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Pierce, C. Duke, J. Hameline, G. Clain)*

August 2016 - Continued work on Town Plan amendments.

September 2016 - Finalized work on Town Plan amendments.

October 2016 - Held public hearing on proposed Town Plan Amendment related to transportation, preservation, and energy; Approved amendments and sent to Selectboard.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - *By Harry Hinrichsen, Town Eng. (C. Liese, D. Newall, J. Blow, W. Kirby, V. Vallerand)*

July 2016: No meeting held.

August 2016: Recommended street name and ordinance upgrade to include a 25 MPH speed limit and stop sign for Hickory Way; Ordained speed limit for 25 MPH for Apple Blossom; Recommended posting 30 MPH sign at intersection with Rte. 63 and Cheney Road; Reviewed and recommended safety improvements on Windy Wood Road; Discussed Route 110/302 signs at Websterville Road intersection at Waterman Street; Reviewed request for “No Outlet” sign on Tanglewood Drive.

September 2016: Recommending reducing speed limit on Osborne Road around Cutler Corner Road; Scheduled Public Hearing for 1/25/17; Reviewed request for “Hidden Drive Right” on Drury Road; requested Police Department set out speed radar on Drury Hill near corner coming out of Graniteville; Review CVRPC Traffic Study; Discussed considering Morrison Road for a speed reduction near Allen Street; Schedule Public Hearing for speed change along Upper Prospect, Allen and Morrison Road

October 2016: Recommended weight limit sign on West Road; Considered options to improve pedestrian safety along roadway of West Cobble Hill Road; Considered line striping request for Miller Road Ext., no action; Discussed mailing Notices to residents on Osborne and Cutler Corner Road; Discussed budgeting issues; Discussed request for advanced warning signs for Montessori School; Voted to move the November 23 meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday.