



# Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

P.O. Box 274  
Barnard, Vermont 05031  
(802) 234-9211

## SELECTBOARD MINUTES APRIL 1, 2026

### REGULAR MEETING

**Selectboard Members Present:** Rock Webster, Richard Lancaster, Kurt Lessard.  
**Also Present:** Kassie Hull, Nick Stone, Steve Hamsch.

1. **Call to Order** at 7:01PM. Rock reads statement about audio recording requirement.
2. **Review/Approve Minutes from March 18, 2026.** Approved.
3. **Review Agenda.** No additions.
4. **Public Comments & Other Business.**
  - A. **Four emails from Steve Hamsch about the March meeting minutes.** Steve Hamsch stated that the “problem” is that the minutes do not “summarize important intent.” Discussion. Richard Lancaster recused himself from the discussion due to a perceived conflict of interest and left the table. Rock stated that meeting minutes are a summarization. Kassie stated that the meeting recordings and submitted documents are part of the record and that meeting minutes are not supposed to be a transcription, just address the nature of the business. Kurt stated that the recording is where the context will be. Steve asked if there are recordings as far back as the Cootey Road discontinuance hearing (from June 2024). Kassie replied that they do not. Rock stated that the minutes will not be edited but the following was confirmed again for the written record: Nick Stone confirmed that Steve Johnson removed the connector as part of the Cootey Road repair work the town hired him to do. Rock confirmed that the Selectboard is not planning to give the Lancasters permission to reinstall any new connector to Cootey Farm Road.

Discussion about a fifth email from Steve Hamsch that requests the Selectboard to adopt formal findings and issue a definitive statement regarding the construction of, followed by removal of, the connector to Cootey Farm Road. Steve asked them to “document in one place the entirety of this scenario and what’s happened.” Rock asked Kassie to email Attorney Safar to ask if this is a reasonable request.

Steve Hamsch asked the Selectboard if they plan to take the Development Review Board’s advice in their March 26, 2026 findings and direct the AO to take appropriate follow-up action. Rock and Kurt stated that they do not actually have the authority to direct the AO to act. Kurt asked Kassie to connect with the AO to discuss if/how to correct the statement in the findings.



# Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

P.O. Box 274  
Barnard, Vermont 05031  
(802) 234-9211

## 5. New Business.

- A. **Review Access Permit for Matthew Brown.** The request is to put in an access on Masterson Road. Nick visited the site and talked with the applicant. Rock signed the Notice of Permission to Proceed with Construction.
- B. **Development Review Board Fee Structure.** The Selectboard voted to raise the flat fee from \$150 to \$300 for a conditional use permit application.
- C. **Green Up Day 2026.** The Selectboard voted to accept 4 tires per household at no cost at the transfer station on May 2, 2026.
- D. **FYI Household Hazardous Waste Day on April 18, 2026, 9am-1pm.** Noted.

## 6. Old Business.

- A. **Appoint George Keller as Auditor.** George worked in accounting for 50 years. The Selectboard voted to appoint him as the third auditor.

## 7. Town & Highway Orders. Approved to date.

### A. Road Foreman Report.

- i. The highway crew is going to start some repair work to the salt shed.
- ii. The crew will also repair the drain in the Barnard Academy driveway.

### B. Grants.

- i. **FY27 Grant Applications.** Discussion about the proposed scope of work and detailed cost estimates for (1) the class 2 roadway grant to address drainage and restore the surface of Broad Brook Road and (2) Bridge 24.
- ii. **Letter of Intent for Better Roads Erosion Inventory Grant.** The Selectboard voted to sign and submit the letter of intent.

### C. Town Property Maintenance.

- i. **School Mowing Update.** The Selectboard is in discussion with Buildings and Grounds at MVSU about them taking over mowing of the Barnard Academy grounds starting summer 2027. The Selectboard voted to extend Dean Edmunds, LLC's current contract for one additional year.
- ii. **Town Property Mowing Bids.** Three 3-year bids were received. Kassie opened them in the order they were received:
  - 1. JB Webster Construction, Inc. \$4,100/year
  - 2. Olmstead Property Services, LLC \$10,000/year
  - 3. Dean Edmunds, LLC \$4,500/year

Rock stated that there could be a perceived conflict of interest because James Webster is a relative. Richard made the motion to award the contract to the lowest bidder. Kurt seconded the motion. Kassie will notify bidders.

- iii. **Request for Proposals for Library Roof.** Bids will be due by 5PM on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Work to be completed this year.
- iv. **Request for Proposals for Striping.** Moved to next meeting.
- v. **Timelines for Clapboards (Fire Station), Trash Cover, and Barrier/Fence (Transfer Station).** April/May start dates for all.



# Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

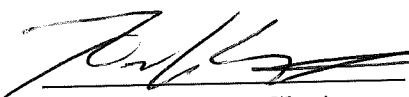
P.O. Box 274  
Barnard, Vermont 05031  
(802) 234-9211

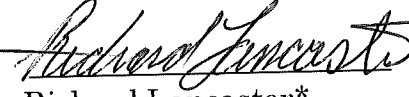
- vi. **Resource Center at Town Hall.** Discussion about leaving the town office stairwell unlocked during a certain period each day so that various resources would be available even when no staff is in the office. Discussion about a drop box. Kassie will have more info/ideas next mtg.

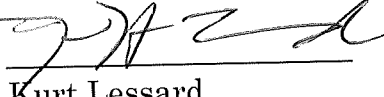
## 8. Adjourn at 8:20PM.

Minutes prepared by Kassie Hull, Clerk of the meeting. All votes unanimous unless otherwise noted. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 7PM at the Town Offices.

Selectboard:

  
Rock Webster, Chair

  
Richard Lancaster\*

  
Kurt Lessard

*\*Signature excludes  
action taken on  
Article 4(A)*