



# Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

## SELECTBOARD MINUTES JANUARY 7, 2026

### REGULAR MEETING

**Selectboard Members Present:** Rock Webster, Richard Lancaster, Kurt Lessard.

**Also Present:** Kassie Hull, Rob Ramrath, Michael Beardsley, Steve Hamsch, Gina Lancaster, Steve Johnson.

1. **Call to Order** at 6:59PM.
2. **Review/Approve Minutes from December 17 & 23, 2025.** The December 17, 2025 minutes were updated to clarify that Richard Lancaster recused himself from the discussions and decisions under Public Comments & Other Business of 4(A) and 4(B). The December 23, 2025 minutes were approved as drafted.
3. **Review Agenda.** Additions of 4(B) and 4(C) and 6(C).
4. **Public Comments & Other Business.**
  - A. **Public Request for Informative Summary about Cootey Road.** Richard Lancaster recused himself from this discussion and moved away from the table. There have been public requests for “explanation” about the issue. Steve Hamsch stated that it is a valid request, but he objects to a summary being drafted. Steve requested a chronological reading file be created and available for public review. Rock stated that everything has always been public information but requires research. Gina Lancaster requested that if a file is created it goes back to at least 2010. Rock asked Kassie to gather documents and put them in a box in the land records available for review upon request when the Town Clerk’s office is open. Steve informed Rock and Kurt that he submitted a request for official investigation related to a list of administrative and procedural items. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
  - B. **Stockbridge Town Corners Project by Richard Lunna.** The Selectboard voted to give the Recovery and Monumentation of the Ancient Corners of Stockbridge, Vermont to the clerk to record and forward to the assessor.
  - C. **PC from resident about being told to put cardboard into trash at the transfer station.** The Selectboard stated that cardboard should be put into the recycling compactor. It needs to be broken down and cut into pieces that are shorter than 4 feet on any side. Kassie will post a sign with this information



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and direct Wes to run the compactor more often and educate residents. The Selectboard also asked Kassie to start working at the transfer station to help.

## 5. New Business.

**A. Town Hall Front Doors Quotes.** The Selectboard accepted the \$16,000 quote from Tom Hasson for the doors + installation. Doors will arrive in 12 weeks.

## 6. Old Business.

**A. Review Redistricting Proposal from the Planning Commission regarding Twin Farms' Property.** The Selectboard reviewed the final materials submitted by the Planning Commission. No members of the public attended the Planning Commission hearing to discuss a proposed amendment to revise the district boundaries in the Stage Road/Twin Farms area. The Selectboard voted to hold a public hearing on February 4, 2026 at 7PM.

**B. Cootey Road Repair Bids.** Richard Lancaster recused himself and moved away from the table. The Selectboard accepted Steve Johnson's quote of \$8,105.00 for bank stabilization on the section of Cootey Road that was compromised by the unauthorized work done in the right of way by the Lancasters. Steve Johnson stated that it will be a 2-day project at most, and there are tree limbs that he will need to remove. Gina Lancaster confirmed that she would attend a Selectboard meeting in the spring to get permission to add soil/seed. Steve Hamsch requested that the Lancasters obtain insurance. Rock noted the request. Steve Hamsch asked if the connector ramp that was installed would also be removed. Gina Lancaster stated that it was a rock garden, not a connector ramp. Steve Johnson said that much of it will be removed in the stabilization process.

**C. Administrative Officer Determination re: request for determination regarding possible unpermitted road.** Rob Ramrath determined that the construction on the Lancaster property does not constitute a driveway, private road, road, or street as the terms are defined in the zoning regulations and finds no zoning violation that requires enforcement action.

**D. Dispatch time report re: East Barnard call.** Dispatch reported that the 911 call was less than one minute before BVFD and WRVA were toned (BVFD



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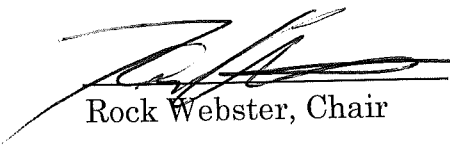
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arrived within 19 minutes, WRVA arrived within 28 minutes). Discussion about Vermont's average EMS response time being 10 minutes, 36 seconds. These response times are longer in less populated areas and all 14 Vermont counties have areas more than 25 minutes from ambulance coverage.

7. **Town & Highway Orders.** The orders were reviewed and approved.
  - A. **Fire Station Building Maintenance.** Clapboards need to be replaced and gutters installed. Kurt will measure and request quotes from local contractors.
  - B. **Excavator Rental Invoice from Barnard Excavation & Logging.** This was for clean-up of the yard waste in the stock yard. The Selectboard gave Kassie permission to sign the invoice.
  - C. **Bridge 33 Update (FEMA).** The engineer is on schedule and has requested to arrange with the Road Foreman to coordinate test pits.
  
8. **FY27 General Budget Review.** Discussion about municipal budget, town building projects, grants, and appropriation requests. Still waiting on a few numbers to complete the budget so the town meeting warning can be drafted and signed.
  - A. FYI: Kurt Lessard plans to run to finish out Bob Edmunds' term (ending 2027).
  - B. FYI: Rock Webster plans to run for another three-year term (ending 2029).
  
9. **Adjourn at 9:23PM.**

Minutes prepared by Kassie Hull, Clerk of the meeting. All votes unanimous unless otherwise noted. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7PM at the Town Offices.

Selectboard:

  
Rock Webster, Chair

  
Richard Lancaster

  
Kurt Lessard

