



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DRAFT SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

Please click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the official Barnard Municipal email service.

Present: Rock Webster, Bob Edmunds, Tim Johnson

Also Present: Rob Ramrath, Steve Johnson, Jim Webster, Ryan Silvestri.

1. Call to order –

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Review Agenda

A. Battery Recycling via Free VT Battery Recycling Program – Consider.

Via a Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VT ANR) referral, Call2Recycle, Inc. contacted Barnard to propose a recycling program for Lithium and other hazardous rechargeable batteries. There would be no cost to Barnard. There would be a collection box placed at the Transfer Station which would be periodically shipped to the recycler rather than transported to the Bethel-Royalton Transfer Station. The program is funded by battery manufacturers. The Selectboard approved the program.

B. Change in State Contact for Transfer Station – Consider.

VT ANR emailed Barnard to update its records on the main contact for the Transfer Station. The Selectboard authorized an update to name Bob Edmunds as the contact for the Transfer Station.

C. Village Scoping Study, Next Steps – Consider.

Selectboard Assistant Rob Ramrath reviewed the preferred alternatives offered at the public hearing on September 14, 2021. After considerable discussion the Selectboard directed Rob to move the program forward to pursue Engineering Design grant money based on the following decisions:

- VT RT 12 School to Barnard General Store: On the east side of the road, install a culvert in the ditch/swale, cover and use the resultant area for a raised, paved, curbed sidewalk. Investigate the possibility of using hatched striping on the northbound lane to encourage traffic slowing. Install push-button flashing lights for a crosswalk from the school across the road. Install a walkway on school grounds to the crosswalk.
- Stage Rd: Proceed with the Advisory Shoulder design from the BGS to the Post Office.
- North Rd: Utilizing necessary space in the town Right of Way, shift the travel lanes to the Town Hall side of the road to allow space for the installation of a paved, shared use path on the lake side of the road from the dam to the State Park. The path should pass on the beach side of the present island to the grass area – where the VAST groomer passes in the winter. The shared use path should be demarcated with painted hatching and removeable ground mount delineators. There should be no changes to the present shape of the island.

- BGS Refuge Island: Demarcate the proposed island with paint only. If allowable by VTrans, demarcate also with removable ground mount delineators.
- Proposed Features to Eliminate from Plan: 1.) Crosswalk from BGS to island at the corner of North Rd; 2.) Crosswalk from North Rd present island towards Library; 3.) New refuge island on library side of corner with North Rd.

Finally, the Selectboard directed Rob to have the elephant grass on the North Rd island cut and removed. The Selectboard noted the height of the grass is a hazard due to blocking sight lines of pedestrians and traffic.

D. Steve Johnson Request to Improve Morgan Rd – Consider.

Steve described the need to improve approximately 650 feet of Class 4 Morgan Rd from the intersection with Bennett Rd for the purposes of logging on a parcel of land up the road. The Selectboard authorized the improvement with the stipulation that any specific requirements for water bars and culverts be followed as specified by Highway Foreman Jeff Tracy. Tim Johnson recused himself from the vote.

3. Public comments –

There were no public comments.

4. Review/Approve Minutes of 9/1/2021.

The minutes were approved.

5. NEMC Ryan Silvestri CAI Tool Acquisition to Correct Tax Mapping Issues – Consider.

Ryan reviewed that the Barnard Axis GIS tax maps contain many historical inaccuracies including ownership and parcel acreage. He proposed an addition to our CAI Technologies software contract that would allow efficient assessment of the inaccuracies, rather than relying on finding them one-by-one as needs arise to consider a particular parcel. Rob Ramrath, Administrative Officer, stated that he frequently must sort through errors when investigating parcels for consideration of zoning matters. The contract change of \$950. was authorized.

6. Municipal Planning Grant Resolution – Consider.

Barnard must renew its Town Plan, due in 2024. The Planning Commission met recently and approved a resolution to apply for a Municipal Planning Grant to cover most of the cost associated with the project. The Selectboard also approved the resolution to apply for the grant. The total project budget will be \$10,934. including \$9,841. from the grant and \$1,093. as Barnard's matching portion. The Selectboard also approved Rob Ramrath, Assistant to the Selectboard as the Municipal Authorizing Official for the Grant Electronic Application and Reporting System (GEARS).

7. Elizabeth Ferry Selectboard Hybrid Meeting Request – Consider.

Elizabeth Ferry and Sonja Withington submitted letters to the Selectboard, advocating for a 'hybrid' approach to Selectboard meetings. In a hybrid approach, both in-person and electronic means of remote attendance (such as Zoom) are allowed. The Selectboard discussed the request. They noted that our Selectboard meeting venue allows appropriate physical distancing and is safe. They also stated that if a particular agenda item drew more people than the downstairs offices could accommodate, the meeting would be move to the hall upstairs where there is much more room. The Selectboard voted to continue with in-person meetings only.

8. James Webster Plowing Request – Consider.

James Webster requested the town to plow Chateauguay Rd up to the end of his driveway. Chateauguay Rd is a Class 3 road at this location. The Selectboard discussed how the snow and plows could be managed in this area, including plow turn-around. The Selectboard granted the request pending any specific requirements that may be levied by our Highway Foreman, Jeff Tracy. Rock Webster recused himself from the vote.

9. Old Business –

A. ARPA – update.

The Selectboard reviewed that no specific spending decisions will be made for the monies until all program requirements are made completely clear, hopefully by the end of the year. The Selectboard also discussed how the Barnard community could provide input on spending ideas as they are considered in the future.

10. Highway Operations – Review.

There were no discussions or decisions on highway operations.

11. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 9/7/21, 9/14/21.

The Town & Highway Orders were approved.

12. Adjourn –

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Assistant to the Selectboard. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Next regular meeting October 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard:

Rock Webster, Chair

Timothy Johnson

Robert Edmunds