



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DRAFT OCTOBER 6, 2021

BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

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Present: Rock Webster, Bob Edmunds, Tim Johnson

Also Present: Rob Ramrath, Jeff Tracy, Richard Lancaster.

1. Call to order –

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM.

2. Review Agenda

A. September Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator Report – Review.

The Selectboard reviewed the subject report which included briefs on Town Hall and Town Garage energy savings activities.

B. Pam Ahlen School House Rd Stop Sign Complaint – Consider.

Pam Ahlen sent the Selectboard an email, complaining about the stop sign on School House Rd at the intersection with Lakota Rd. The email stated the sign is an eyesore and an infringement of the rural character of the space. The Selectboard considered the complaint and decided to keep the stop sign in place as a matter of public safety and minimizing liability to the town.

C. Review/Approve 9/29/21 Road Reclassification/Discontinuance Hearing Minutes –

The minutes were approved.

D. Title Change for Assistant to Selectboard – Discuss.

Rob Ramrath, Assistant to the Selectboard, discussed that he frequently runs into roadblocks doing administrative work for the town due to his job's title. He stated that frequently, authorized activities done on the town's behalf expect the title of "Town Administrator." The most recent example shared was that he would not be authorized by the State of Vermont to administer the Municipal Planning Grant on their web portal due to lack of the title. Our town attorney confirmed there is no statutory job definition of the title; there is only the requirement that the title be assigned by the Governing Body. The Selectboard voted to change Rob's title to Town Administrator, maintaining present job description and responsibilities.

3. Public comments

There were no public comments.

4. Review/Approve Minutes of 9/15/2021.

The minutes were approved.

5. Old Business –

No old business was discussed.

6. Access Permit AP21-04, Richard Lancaster – Consider.

The Access Permission to Proceed was approved.

7. VT Fish & Wildlife One-Time Silver Lake SP Plowing Request – Consider.

Via email, The Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife requested the town to plow Silver Lake State Park on January 29, 2022, for the annual Ice Fishing Festival. They said the festival typically draws 700 people. The email stated that they would understand if the town declined. The Selectboard discussed the request and had concerns regarding liability with town trucks doing work outside town road rights-of-way. The Selectboard voted to decline the request.

8. Funding Request Policy Update – Consider.

Rob Ramrath proposed updates to Barnard’s Funding Request Policy. The policy defines the town’s rules for requesting appropriations. Barnard Treasurer, Diane Rainey was included in the review process and her inputs were included. The changes proposed were minor in nature to clarify various aspects of the policy. The Selectboard voted to approve the revisions.

9. Replacement of Town Hall Office Entrance Door – Consider.

The back door of the Town Hall, leading to the downstairs offices has deteriorated due to age. It no longer closes properly and needs replacement. The Selectboard voted to have the door replaced.

10. Highway Operations – Review.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation notified Barnard that the annual line-painting refresh of Class 2 town roads may not occur due to a shortage of materials. A notification of was received from Consolidated Communications for overhead line damage in August near the intersection of North & Tower Roads caused by a town truck. Highway Foreman Jeff Tracy and Rob Ramrath will work together on filing an insurance claim. Options for repair of the Broad Brook Rd culvert & bank erosion were discussed.

11. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 9/21/21, 9/28/21, 10/5/21.

The Town & Highway Orders were approved.

12. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Town Administrator. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Next regular meeting October 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard:

Rock Webster, Chair

Timothy Johnson

Robert Edmunds