



# Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

## SELECTBOARD MINUTES

MAY 15, 2024

**Present:** Rock Webster (Chair), Richard Lancaster (Vice Chair), Bob Edmunds

**Also Present:** Rob Ramrath (Town Administrator), Delmar Balch, Dan Leavitt, Tarkin Clark, Dalmar Balch, Megan Fuerst, Ryan Newswanger, Sue Schlabach, Peter Stoddard, Steve Johnson.

### 2024 Town Plan Adoption Hearing

The Hearing was called to order at 7:00 PM. The Selectboard considered the final draft of the 2024 Town Plan with the accompanying maps. A letter from Planning Commission Chair Steve Cota was presented approving the minor clerical edits made by the Selectboard after the final review by the Planning Commission. There were no public comments on the plan. The Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2024 Town Plan with the accompanying maps. The Selectboard signed a letter asking the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to review and approve the 2024 Town Plan as adopted by the Selectboard. The Selectboard signed the Determination of Energy Compliance Resolution to be forwarded to TRORC. The hearing was adjourned at 7:04 PM.

### Regular Meeting Agenda

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

#### 2. Review Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### 3. Public comments

##### A. Letter, 92 Lakota Rd Lawn Damage – Review

A letter dated May 2, 2024 from Erica Smollar was reviewed. The letter described damage to the edge of her lawn due to scraping of the town snowplow blade. The Selectboard discussed the last two snowstorms of the year were heavy with approximately 2 feet of snow each, on top of wet, thawed ground. They commented that these conditions prove extremely difficult for precision with plowing at the edge of the road while still well on the town right of way. The Selectboard pointed out that this type of damage while unfortunate, is unavoidable and typical. The Selectboard took the letter under advisement.

#### 4. Review/Approve Minutes May, 1 2024

The minutes were approved.

#### 5. Old Business

##### A. Stoddard Grove Property Repair – Discuss

Peter Stoddard thanked the town for the great job on the repairs. He commented he was very appreciative.

##### B. Roads Committee Update and Member Nominations – Discuss

Megan Fuerst Offered an update on the activity of the Roads Committee. She mentioned that they had several good meetings. She reported that the committee wanted to seek the

Selectboard's approval for some community listening sessions. The Selectboard approved. There will be a session on June 10, 2024 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Barnard town hall. There will be a session on June 17, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at the East Barnard Community Hall. There will be an online-only session via Zoom at a TBD date prior to July 1, 2024. These meetings will be formally warned in the future. The Selectboard appointed additional members to the committee: Sara Widness, Greyling VanAlstyne and Marty Bell. Rock Webster committed to contact Lance Webster to determine his interest in membership.

**6. Village Trust Initiative Grant Letter of Support, Greg Sanders – Consider**

Greg Sanders was unavailable, and Ryan Newswanger spoke on the topic. Ryan described the details of the Village Trust Initiative. He indicated that there would be three rounds of funding with three to four towns chosen per round. Grant awards would be between \$250,000 and \$450,000. He reported that the East Barnard church and the East Barnard Community Club would be merged into a single nonprofit, and would make the application for the grant. Ryan said that there were significant repairs needed to the Community Hall. Repairs to the roof, building drainage and foundation are necessary. Additionally, he said the building has no insulation and is closed throughout the winter and they would like to make it a year-round facility. Ryan said that the application needs the support of the Selectboard with a future letter of support. The Selectboard said they would be happy to help.

**7. Library Cleaning Contract Approval Request – Consider**

The contract was considered and approved by the Selectboard.

**8. June 12 BEES 6th Grade Graduation/Moving On Ceremony Town Hall Rental Waiver – Consider**

The rental waiver was approved.

**9. Town & Highway Operations – Review**

Town Clerk Diane Rainey, via a letter to the Selectboard reported that she experienced a hostile visit from a delinquent taxpayer. In response the office will always have two clerks on duty during public hours and at all other times the doors will be locked. Delmar reported that they were working on finishing up spring grading operations on the roads. He reported that a few road signs needed replacement. Rob asked if we could move ahead with placing the Welcome to Barnard Village signs. Delmar agreed he would install them. Richard said he would coordinate dig-safe activities. Rob reported that the radar sign by the old fire station was not functional. Tarkin committed to having the battery charged. Rob offered an updated statement on remaining ARPA funds including the latest information from the Barnard Energy Committee. The Selectboard informed Steve Johnson that the one-ton truck was ready for sale and pickup. Steve asked for a reduction of cost of \$3,500 as the truck was several months late in its availability. The Selectboard agreed which made a final cost of \$43,500. Steve asked for a bill of sale. Rob said he would forward one to Steve. Rob reported that the Barnard Fire Department requested a waiver of all fees associated with use of the town hall for their annual barbecue and flea market. This Selectboard approved the waiver.

**10. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 5/7/2024, 5/14/24**

The Town & Highway Orders were approved.

**11. Candidate Employee Interviews and Employee Evaluation Discussion; Executive Session Anticipated. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3).**

The Selectboard went into Executive Session at 8:00 PM. Candidates for the Highway Foreman position were interviewed with no final decision made. Rob Ramrath submitted his letter of

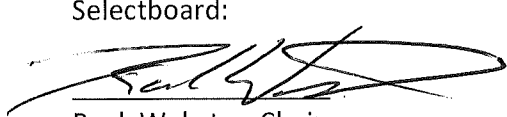
resignation. The Selectboard accepted his resignation. In his letter addressed to Chairman Rock Webster, Rob stated, "It has been my pleasure to work with you and the other Selectmen, and my honor to serve the Barnard community over the last four years. I wish you the best for the future." Rob's final day will be May 28, 2024. He committed to the Selectboard after May 28<sup>th</sup>, he would offer his own time to assist with the smoothest transition possible. The Selectboard came out of Executive Session at 9:45 PM.

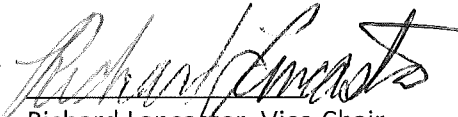
**12. Adjourn**

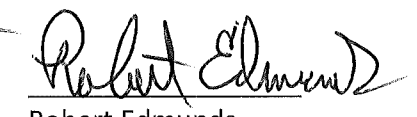
The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Town Administrator. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. The next regular meeting will follow the Road Discontinuance hearings on June 5, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Offices. As previously warned, prior to the Selectboard Meeting there will be a Class 4 Masterson Road site inspection at 6:00 PM and a Cootey Road site inspection at 6:30 PM.

Selectboard:

  
Rock Webster, Chair

  
Richard Lancaster, Vice Chair

  
Robert Edmunds