



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

INFORMATIONAL PRE-TOWN MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Selectboard Members Present: Rock Webster, Richard Lancaster, Robert Edmunds.

Meeting Attendees: Diane Rainey, Nick Stone, Stuart Hull, Ed Jodice, Carin Park, Justin Park, Margaret Edwards, Beth Finlayson, Michael Lackey, Patty Hasson, Fadia Williamson, Tammy Gerdes, Linda Treash, Eben Farinas, Randal Vaughn, Peter Kahn, Elyse Robichaud, August Doughy, and Kassie Hull (Clerk of the Meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER at 7:05PM by Selectboard Chair Rock Webster and opened to public comments about the Town Meeting Notice, Warning, and Articles.

Discussion, Article 7: *Shall the Town lease the old Barnard Fire Department building to BarnArts Center for the Arts for a period of fifteen years with an annual rent of \$1?*

Linda Treash, BarnArts Executive Director, asked for the reasoning behind the decision of the 15-year term in the draft lease agreement. The Selectboard stated that this is a standard timeframe; as an example, it is the lease term the Fire Department has at the new building. Linda stated that this timeframe might impact the organization's funding opportunities. She shared a sketch of what BarnArts' general goals are with the space, although BarnArts will not begin improvements until all project funds are raised. Further discussion included ideas about rollover provisions, renewal options, escape clauses, assurances, and why selling the building to BarnArts is not an option.

Discussion, Article 10: *General Budget, Municipal Expenses, Recreation Committee*

On behalf of the Barnard Recreation Committee, Justin Park (chair) and Tammy Gerdes (member) asked to discuss the proposed allocation for FY26, which went from \$8,000 to \$5,000, reported to Justin in an email from the Town Administrator on behalf of the Selectboard. The recreation committee's main task is the maintenance of the town property that surrounds Barnard Academy, which includes the ballfield, tennis and pickleball court, shed, open spaces, and the Many Hearts Trail. Justin stated that the regular, annual maintenance and upkeep cost of the property is \$3,700.00.

Tammy read a mission statement written in 2015 by then-committee members that states: *To enhance the lives of others through quality programs and events, designed and developed so that Barnard Residents of all ages, abilities, and income levels have the chance to participate in excellent and wholesome recreational activities. Further, to promote the fundamental element of skill in sports for the Barnard Academy children, while learning respect, cooperation determination, and hard work.*



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Tammy stated that right now there are not enough children in town to create full sports teams because many have joined teams/organizations in Woodstock. Thus, the Barnard Recreation Committee has donated funds to Woodstock organizations that have at least three Barnard children on the team. Justin asked the Selectboard if they had made any recent decisions about what the recreation committee can spend their allocated town funds on – specifically, if the recreation committee can continue to donate funds to other community organizations and/or to Barnard Academy to fund field trips – and the Selectboard confirmed that no recent decisions had been made. Further discussion included expense oversight, future budget submission requests, volunteer hours, and the process for requesting the line item be adjusted at Town Meeting.


Discussion, Article 10: General Budget, Municipal Expenses, Planning Commission

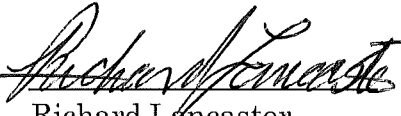
Carin Park asked the Selectboard to explain why there are no proposed funds for 'consulting' in the Planning Commission's FY26 budget. The Selectboard explained that any expenses would either be posted in the Zoning FY26 budget or Major Projects. Kassie stated that she would gather additional information and get back to her.

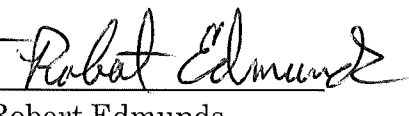
MEETING CLOSED at 7:55PM.

Minutes prepared by Kassie Hull, Clerk of the meeting.

Selectboard:


Rock Webster, Chair


Richard Lancaster


Robert Edmunds