

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting
Monday, May 8th, 2023
6:00 pm
Barton Village Memorial Hall

Agenda

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair), Ellis Merchant, Dave Billado, Ed Helm (Greater Barton Arts), Ed Barber (Newport Daily News), Denis Fortin -(Manager for BV Hydro), Lindy Sargent, Cindy Delano (Community Garden) Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk)

- A. **Call to Order** - 6:05pm
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** – None. Ellis made a motion to approve and Gina Seconded.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor:** Ed Helm (Greater Barton Arts) discussed the potential for Barton Falls to be used as a backup emergency power for the village. The request is for the trustees to reach out to Jay Boeri to continue a conversation. Denis Fortin added that without a FERC license there was no chance of getting this idea off the ground. An idea that has been floated around for many years.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- D. **Community Garden Guests** - Lindy Sargent, Cindy Delano came to speak about the community garden. The garden project started about 5 years ago and each year it is better and better. It has morphed into a giving garden, and Lindy and Cindy would like more community participation which will foster further garden and food education. They have offered cooking classes and also reached out to the local high school for assistance with the gardens. The intent is to bring more folks out and enjoy time together and create more of a community presence. Current issues at hand are animals eating in the gardens to their heart's content. They have worked with the high school to obtain fencing to keep the animals out. Ellis motioned to approve the giving garden the green light to install the fence and Gina seconded it. The last item for discussion was a larger sign to help improve letting folks know of their location. The giving garden has served local senior centers, food shelves and many families with free food grown in the gardens.

ACTION ITEMS:

- E. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting April 24, 2023** - Ellis motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on 4/24. Gina 2nd.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- F. **Meet Denis - Hydro Manager for the Village of Barton.** Update on plant upkeep and much needed repairs.
- 1) Power in the old DG Building. There is a 2400 VAC in the old building and that sends the power from the powerhouse building directly underground to the substation. The 2400VAC is at arm's length to the switch gear for the old diesel generators and it is an open switch gear and makes it extremely dangerous and needs to be removed. The cost is estimated to be around 8/10K, but Denis is still waiting on bids for that removal.
 - 2) There is an exterior / interior diesel fuel tank. The tank is on the historic preservation list, but we have received notice from the preservation society that it is ok to remove the tank. The tank needs to come down and at a cost of around 10K. Denis is going to cut the ladder used to climb the tower diesel tank, so kids don't climb up there as there is evidence left on the roof indicating many have been up on top.
 - 3) There is also an old caretaker's house that in 3 years will be on the historic preservation list. It is recommended the building comes down before it is placed on the historic preservation list. A state rep came to look at the building for any artifacts or historic significance. We received an all clear on that aspect and can move forward on removal.
 - 4) There are a few generators needing repair and new parts. Finding replacement parts is very difficult on these old generators. Current FERC license is good until 2043. The hydro has more water than we can handle, even if they added a 3rd generator there would still be more water that is not being captured.
 - 5) The discussion then moved to the penstock. We received a 138-page report from Dubois and King for the work needed. Penstock #1 built in 1991 is in great shape and it may have 20 years left on it, although there are recommendations to stabilize the existing structure. The #2 penstock has small and some very large leaks, very unstable and was built in the 40's about an 80 ft section needing to be replaced. Discussion turned to funding of all the repairs. Research must be done for grants and other funding opportunities to assist with paying for it all. If the #2 penstock is not repaired; that portion of the hydro will become inoperable and result in loss revenue to the Village.
 - 6) The great news is the hydro plant continues to make money for the Village in its current status, but how long that will last is uncertain due to the major repairs required to continue successfully.
- G. **Management /Staff Report:** Much of the same as reported at the last trustee meeting. One seasonal person was hired for the Village office and DPW assistance this summer. Still placing ads for more DPW assistance.

OTHER ITEMS:

- H. Gina gave the room an update on how the Green Up Day open house at the Wastewater Treatment plant went. It was a success, and a recommendation was made to host another one, perhaps in the Fall. Our thanks to Tim Degasse, Manager of the Wastewater treatment plant for giving the plant tours and speaking to all that attended.
- I. Discussions started about repairs to stairs and sidewalks around the Memorial Building as well as in front of some Village businesses. A conversation will take place with Andy Sicard to get a better understanding of what can be done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS: - None

Adjourned @ 7:33pm

Date of next meeting: May 22nd, 2023

Submitted by Regina (Gina) Lyon, Board chair.

Attested by Shelia martin, Village Clerk