

**Barton Village, Inc.**  
**Regular Trustees Meeting**

Monday, October 9, 2023

6:00pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair) Marilyn Prue, Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), & David Billado, Cindy Delano, Pam Kennedy & Lindy Sargent (Barton Community Giving Garden). Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express). Trisha Ingalls - Barton Chronicle

**Agenda**

- A. Call to Order** – Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:01PM
- B. Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** - None
- C. Privilege of the Floor** – Barton Community Giving Garden – They brought to the Trustees an update of what has transpired over the summer. They held special events over the summer and were able to assist Hardwick and Glover flooding victims along with Barton Village residents with generous donations of plants and food from the gardens. VT Public Radio reached out and they set up a gardening event at the amphitheater and it was a huge hit. The Giving Garden would like to offer the amphitheater to more Barton Village residents and organizations. They continue to struggle with the knotweed that continues to grow but have kept it at bay for the time being. They are asking the Trustees for assistance mowing their garden area for the Spring, Summer & Fall of 2024. As the time comes closer the Trustees can approach this topic once again. They wish to have more of a communication push for getting the word out about their events. Gina Lyon offered to inform herself or Jacqueline Laurion of the events and they can then place it on the Barton Village Facebook page.

Cindy Delano spoke about a grant from AARP for which they are applying. A 4K grant could be awarded to the Garden if selected as recipient and they have a few ideas on how to use the funds for activities and meals over the winter for Seniors. They would like to use the Memorial Hall for the events.

The Trustees were then asked what they would like to see take place in the community, and Gina Lyon mentioned the hill along the tracks before you turn onto Eastern Avenue. Formally there were some flowers in that area, and it would be nice to bring that back, to beautify that area.

Jacqueline Laurion advised the board that NEKO would be suspending their presence in the Memorial Hall for about a month until they regrouped to determine the next steps for future community initiatives. A question about cleaning supplies, buckets and tarps in the hall came up and Jacqueline will approach NEKO to determine if the items belong to them, and if so when they would be moved out of the hall.

## ACTION ITEMS:

- D. Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting September 25, 2023**-After review, Gina Lyon made a motion to approve as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded - All approved.
- E. Village Streets Right-of-Way Permit Policy - (see full breakdown on the agenda on the Barton Village WebPage)** - The Village Streets Right-of-Way Permit Policy has been updated and renamed the Village of Barton Highway Access Policy (“highway” defined as the highway system of the Village. Which includes the public rights-of-way, bridges, drainage structures, signs, guardrails, areas to accommodate utilities authorized by law to locate within highway. limits, areas used to mitigate the impacts of highway construction, vegetation, scenic enhancement, and structures).

Notable changes:

- Clarification on the application process
  - o Application
  - o Consideration
  - o Notice of Permission to Proceed
  - o Notification of completion
  - o Final inspection
  - o Issuance of Permit
  - o Recording of Permit
- Added provisions for damage caused by improper construction, responsibility for culverts, revocation/suspension of Permit and enforcement/penalties for not abiding by the Policy
- Updated VT Agency of Transportation construction standards
- Notice of Permission to Proceed form and Permit to be recorded with the Permittee’s/Owner’s land record

A motion was made by Gina Lyon to approve the Village of Barton Highway Access Policy, to include the written Notice of Permission to Proceed, Access/Right-of-Way Permit, and updated application as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion, all approved.

- F. Letter to the Board:** The Barton Library Fundraising Committee would like use of the Barton Memorial Hall to host their annual Barton Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot & Pie Sale on November 23,2023. They have requested that the Board waive the rental fee. The Board has historically done so.

Motion was made by Gina Lyon to approve the Barton Library Fundraising Committee’s request to use the Barton Memorial Hall and waive the rental fee for the Annual Turkey Trot Marylin Prue seconded the motion, All approved.

- G. Emergency Winter Maintenance Agreement with VTrans:** (additional breakdown located on the agenda located on the Barton Village Website). The Emergency Winter Maintenance Agreement between Barton Village and VTrans is finalized and ready for signature.

**Note: The State will no longer assist with winter maintenance after the 2023-2024 season** (first page, last paragraph) and the Village will need to plan accordingly for 2024-2025 and beyond.

A Motion was made by Gina Lyon to approve the Emergency Winter Maintenance Agreement between Barton Village and VTrans as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion, all approved.

- H. Loan Agreement for WWTF Engineering Project:** The loan agreement from the VT State Revolving Fund is ready for signature. This was signed by Gina Lyon and Marilyn Prue then this will also be sent to Sheila Martin to sign. This loan was applied for in June 2023 and intended to pay for the preliminary engineering portion of the wastewater treatment facility infrastructure improvements (Aldrich & Elliott).

A Motion was made by Gina Lyon to approve the VT State Revolving Fund loan agreement as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion, all approved.

- I. VPPSA Director/Alternate:** Vera LaPorte has been the Business Manager for Barton Village since 8/14/2023, and now that she has become acclimated to the position it may be more appropriate for her to step into the role as the Village's representative on the VPPSA Board of Directors, with Hydro Manager Denis Fortin remaining as alternate.

A Motion was made by Gina Lyon to appoint Vera LaPorte as the Director for the VPPSA Board of Directors, representing Barton Village, with Denis Fortin as alternate. Marilyn Prue seconded, all approved.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- J. Website** – The Website needs to be overhauled, and easier to navigate with more content than what is currently on the site. Vera LaPorte will work with the web developers/designers to start this project.
- K. Property Lien Update** – Several of the liens previously filed have come through with success and the new process is working as intended. At a previous Board of Trustees meetings on 08/28/2023 and 09/25/2023 the Board approved motions to place liens on properties with outstanding balances on their electric, water, and sewer accounts.

The liens have begun to pay off:

- 184 Glover Road recently sold and \$4,318.85 was paid to the electric department, as well as \$198.52 for water and \$198.52 for sewer.
- 341 High Street is closing soon and \$1,411.25 will be collected for electric, as well as \$500.32 for water and \$545.46 for sewer. Additional funds recouped totaled close to 8K in recaptured funds.

- L. Wastewater Operations Update:** The Village received an alleged violations letter from the State of VT. The Village has a few hard dates by which they must respond. A few of the violations have already been addressed to the State as of Friday 10/6/2023. The State would like a timeline from the Village and Vera LaPorte (Village Business Manager) will submit to the State as required.
- M. Winter Maintenance Update:** Barton Town and Village contract needs to be signed by Barton Town Select Board and then it will be sent to the Barton Village Trustees to sign.
- N. Trucks Update:** Andy Sicard inspected the truck that was proposed to him and found it not sufficient for his needs for the Village as well as Winter plowing.
- O. Salt/Sand Shed Update:** Waiting for materials for the roof. The order was recently signed for the salt order. Surprisingly, the price of road salt has not gone up from 2022/2023 winter prices.
- P. Flood Updates:** FEMA has left the Memorial Hall 9/27/2023. If anyone comes in and has any questions or appeals, there are phone numbers that can be offered to the people asking as well as local organizations (NEKO) that can help. A call is scheduled with the State of VT on a property considering the FEMA buyout program. Vera LaPorte and Andy Sicard went around with a representative from USDA to review areas on the Barton River that need to have consideration on rebuilding.
- Q. Management/Staff Report:** A running list of closed & updated items can be located on the Village Websites 10/9 agenda. Currently looking into Wastewater user fees. The Village has been receiving many applications for the DPW Utility Worker position. The job would split their time between DPW and Wastewater job duties.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- R. Other Business** – None currently.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

Gina Lyon made a motion to enter executive session at 7:16PM for the purpose of discussing potential litigation as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) and to further discuss personnel as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). The motion was seconded by Marilyn Prue. The motion was approved.

Gina Lyon made a motion that due to the nature of agenda item S (pending litigation); the premature general public knowledge of the discussion would place the public body, or a person involved, at a substantial disadvantage. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

No action was taken related to the discussion under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) and 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3).

The Board came out of executive session at 8:07pm.

S. Adjourn 8:07pm

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Regular Board Meeting: October 23, 2023**