

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.

Board members present: Selectmen Theodore Faris, Jeremy Roberts, and Gary Bunnell.

Meeting Chair: Co-Chair Theodore Faris presiding as Chair for this meeting.

Others present: Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Tammi Davis, Steven Mosher, Ashley Raulet (Lyndon State College News 7), David Warden, and Jessica Walsh (Lyndon State College News 7).

Note: Numbered headings correspond to agenda printed in advance of meeting. Items appear in minutes in order discussed at meeting. Order of discussion is occasionally out of sequence with agenda numbers.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held February 27, 2012

Motion made by Roberts to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 27, 2012. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

3. Organization of the Board:

- a. **Appoint Chairman.** Co-Chairs Theodore Faris and Jeremy Roberts nominated by Gary Bunnell. Motion made that nominations cease. Theodore Faris and Jeremy Roberts appointed by voice vote.
- b. **Appoint Road Commissioners.** Gary Bunnell nominated by Jeremy Roberts. Motion made that nominations cease. Gary Bunnell appointed by voice vote.
- c. **Appoint Tree Warden.** Stanley Robinson nominated by Jeremy Roberts. Motion made that nominations cease. Stanley Robinson appointed by voice vote.
- d. **Set date and time of meetings.** Motion made by Roberts to continue to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the conference room of the Town Clerk's Office. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

4. Annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

- Board reviewed copy of Ordinance as adopted in 2010, which requires the annual review of Section IV.C., pertaining to Town Highways and dates on which ATV travel is permitted.
- Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club President Steven Mosher and Secretary Tammi Davis discussed portions of several Town Highways that the ATV club requests the use of for connecting trails in 2012. Board reviewed maps of these trails as prepared by Ms. Davis and Town Clerk Heisholt.
- Mr. Mosher discussed difficulty the Club has had in obtaining permission from landowners for use of off-road land; although the Club does not wish to use public roads for its trails this has proved to be necessary.
- Roberts asked if there have been any complaints with regard to ATVs on Town Highways in 2011.
 - o A minor problem regarding a misunderstanding about the trail near Ferguson Road was discussed. Also, some complaints were lodged regarding non-Club illegal ATV use on Keyser Hill. Mr. Mosher, Selectmen, Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, and Town Clerk Heisholt all reported that they received no other complaints in 2011.
- Mr. Mosher inquired regarding the Club hosting a barbeque at Harvey's Lake Beach during the summer.
 - o The Board instructed Mr. Mosher to inquire with Beach Committee Chair Robert Zita.

- Mr. Mosher and Ms. Davis asked the Board for permission for ATVs to use all Town Highways for collection of litter on Green-Up Day, May 5, 2012.
 - o The Board agreed to grant this requested access, provided that the Club gives the town a list of the members who will be participating, including proof of driver's license, vehicle registration, and insurance. Numbered tickets will be issued to confirm receipt of this information, without which access will be denied.
- The Board agreed to postpone a decision regarding the annual review of the ordinance until the next regularly-scheduled Board meeting, March 26, 2012. The Board requested that the Club report to that meeting with the total mileage of Town Highway usage requested, and a map indicating off-road trails for which the Club is planning to request landowner access.

5. Resolution regarding 2012 Town Meeting Article 24

Faris read letter as prepared by Town Clerk Heisholt to be sent to Vermont State and Federal representatives regarding passage of town meeting article. Brief discussion followed.

- Board agreed to instruct Town Clerk Heisholt to sign these letters and mail to representatives.

6. Correspondence from Vermont Department for Children and Families regarding Town Service Officer appointment

Faris read cover letter advising the Board that the term of office of the present Town Service Officer expires April 14, 2012, and that Vermont law provides for the appointment of such an officer on or before April 15th of each year.

- Motion made by Faris to re-appoint Stanley Robinson as Town Service Officer. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

7. Discussion regarding 2012 mowing of town properties

Town Clerk Heisholt requested that the Board indicate whether they wish to solicit bids for 2012 mowing services or request the services of the contractor hired in 2011 (J & B Property Maintenance). Brief discussion followed.

- Board agreed forego the bidding process and to offer 2012 mowing of Town properties to J & B Property Maintenance, if the contractor is willing to perform the work at the same price as 2011. If the price has increased, the Board requested that Heisholt report back to the Board at the next regular meeting with the updated price.

8. Correspondence from Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) regarding Emergency Watershed Protection program

Faris read email indicating that funding is currently available for May 2011 flooding sites originally determined to be eligible but non-existent. Two sites in Barnet were the Smith residence in Passumpsic and the Stuart apartment building in East Barnet. Roberts indicated that the Smith repair has already been completed. Town Clerk Heisholt indicated that a portion of the Stuart repair has been completed, but the Stuarts are interested in inquiring whether the remainder of the project may be eligible.

- Board agreed that Roberts will inquire with NRCS regarding the Stuart site.

9. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding Highway Safety Improvement Projects

Faris read letter regarding details of project as discussed at previous Board meetings. Letter indicates that a Maintenance Agreement must be signed to allow for the VTrans to advertize the project. No Maintenance Agreement was included with the correspondence.

- Town Clerk Heisholt will request that VTrans forward the Maintenance Agreement.

10. Correspondence from Agency of Natural Resources regarding Act 250 permit application of David Bogie

The Board reviewed email and attached Entry of Appearance of the Agency of Natural Resources in the permit application.

11. Other business

- **Library furnace.** Resident David Warden inquired whether the Board has scheduled replacement of the boiler at the Barnet Public Library or maintenance of the furnace once the boiler is replaced. Mr. Warden discussed problems the School has had with one particular contractor.
 - o Faris responded: No precise schedule is in place for the replacement of the boiler or the contracting for maintenance thereof. The Board plans to investigate the possibility of purchasing the boiler and related maintenance services in conjunction with the School, but does not anticipate significant savings yielding from this approach.
- **Highway Department update: mud, wash-outs, and potholes.** Road Foreman Gibbs spoke regarding the challenges the Highway Department has faced in recent weeks. Several roads have washed out or severely rutted due to melting snow, rain, and thawing roads. Much road crew time has been spent on applying gravel to wash-outs and grading ruts. Also, many potholes on paved surfaces have been filled.

12. Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

Reviewed and approved Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits for Fisk Trucking, LLC, Gil's Construction, William Murray, Newport Sand & Gravel Co, Inc./Carroll Concrete Co., Inc., S.D. Ireland Concrete Construction Corp. & S.D. Ireland Brothers Corp., and United Natural Foods.

13. Outstanding check warrants

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

14. Adjournment

Motion made by Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk