

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

Monday, July 22, 2024

6:00pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), Oz Henchel (Glover-Barton Senior Meals), Meghan Wayland (NEKO), Kenzie Strange (Barton Chronicle)

**Agenda**

Full agenda with additional details can be found at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

Audio recording of the meeting can be found for 30 days following the official approval of these minutes at the next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on August 12, 2024 at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

- A. **Call to Order** – Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** – Vera LaPorte would like to add to Action Items Hydro Facility Project Warning for Special Meeting in August and Financing Resolution.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor** – Oz Henchel wanted to simply say a sincere thank you to the Trustees and for the Barton Village office staff. He is very pleased with how the new operations are going and the partnership he has with the Village of Barton.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- D. **Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting July 8, 2024** – Correction to the 7/8/2024 minutes. The spelling of Marilyn Prue’s name was incorrect. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the correction to the 7/8/2024 minutes. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried.
- E. **Bills and Warrants** – Marilyn Prue will be working through the bills and warrants during the meeting.
- F. **CY 2023 Financial Audit Statement** – The annual audit of Barton’s financial records has been completed by Kittell Branagan and Sargent. The Trustees would like to table this agenda item until lead accountant Crystal Carrier (VPPSA) can be present to review in further detail with the board.

- G. Monthly Financial Reports for Period Ending 06/30/2024** – The Trustees would like to table this agenda item until lead accountant Crystal Carrier (VPPSA) can review with them and at that time will approve June & July once July is presented.
- H. Driveway Access Permit Application** – The Board of Trustees has received a Driveway Access Permit Application for a property located on Duck Pond Road (parcel ID 230520351 – no 911 address assigned yet).

The owner would like to install an 18' culvert with 20' concrete apron on the southern portion of the property for driveway access to Duck Pond Road (see map). DPW Foreman Andy Sicard has already met with the owner and contractor to discuss the application and has approved their plan.

Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the Driveway Access Permit Application as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- I. FEMA Buyout Applications** – The Board of Trustees has received two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout applications for residents affected by the July 10, 2023 flood (DR-4720):

- 29 Elm Street
- 90 Glover Road

The applications require Board approval before submission to FEMA and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM). Two other Village residents have expressed interest in the program due to the 7/10/2024 flooding they endured once again but have yet to complete the applications.

**The pre-application deadline for anyone interested in a FEMA buyout is August 16, 2024.**

Vera LaPorte confirmed that all the heavy lifting would be on VEM to facilitate the removal of the properties. She also informed the Board that a resident was interested in FEMA's elevation program and had requested more information about it from VEM.

The Trustees confirmed that they wish to have further discussions with the appropriate entities to see what can be done along that stretch of the Barton River.

Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the FEMA buyout applications for 29 Elm Street and 90 Glover Road as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- a. **Hydro Facility Project Warning for Special Meeting** – A special meeting warning needs to be approved tonight 7/22/2024 so it is warned in time for the public to be aware of the informational meeting on 8/26/2024 and vote by Australian ballot on the financing.

Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the warning of a special informational meeting for the Hydro Facility Project on 8/26/2024 and vote by Australian ballot on 08/28/2024. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- b. **Hydro Facility Project Financing Resolution** – Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the resolution of the Hydro Facility Project financing. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- J. **NEKO Presentation – Barton Celebrates!** – Meghan Wayland of Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO) addressed the Board with updates to the Barton Celebrates project. The band that is set for 8/17/2024 was to perform in the ball field but they decided to move it to the Orleans Fairgrounds. Meghan Wayland asked if the ball field could be utilized for a Wednesday kick ball event on 8/14/2024. Vera LaPorte will work with the Village DPW foreman Andy Sicard to ensure the ball field is cleaned up from the damage from the 7/10/2024 flooding in that area.

Meghan Wayland also advised that they have trees for riparian planting. They were hoping to have the trees planted near the Barton Giving Gardens, but due to other projects (draining) taking place in that same area that may not be the ideal location.

- K. **Hydro Facility Project Update** - In preparation for the informational hearing and bond vote for the hydro facility upgrades, Crystal Carrier (VPPSA) has put together a presentation and flyer for distribution:

- Flyer – To be sent with next electric billing July 29, 2024.
- Presentation – To be published on bartonvt.com, displayed at the Village Office, and displayed during the informational hearing.

- L. **Flood Update** – Damage inventory for July 10, 2024 flood:

**DPW**

- **Elm Street**

- Excessive stormwater runoff caused a break in the old, vitrified clay pipe causing a sinkhole to form next to the manhole across from Park Street. Village employees made their best efforts to replace the broken portion of the pipe but the water flowed quicker than it could be pumped out, making the pipe inaccessible. The sinkhole is currently stable and fenced off while we wait for the flow to reduce in dryer weather. We will try again on Tuesday 7/23/2024 when the water is lower and more powerful equipment to complete the repair will be available.

- **Lincoln Avenue**
  - Debris flowed from upstream through the concrete sluice and culvert crossing Lincoln Avenue, causing the culvert to become plugged and forcing water and debris to flow over the road, damaging the road and several residential properties. Debris has been removed from the sluice, but the culvert had to be cut open, and the portion under Lincoln Avenue remains packed with trees/stones/tires/silt/etc. Water is currently flowing relatively well despite this. No plan yet for removing the debris from the portion of the culvert under the road or replacing the portion cut open for debris removal.
  - There was extensive damage to the surface of the road, which has since been repaired with fill and Staymat. As of 07/19/2024 the road is open and passable. Estimates for paving are forthcoming.
  - A water main leak potentially caused by shifting earth during the sluice/culvert washout was located and repaired on 07/12/2024.
  
- **Main Street/Ball Park Access Road**
  - Mud and silt related to the Lincoln Avenue sluice issue overwhelmed the storm drain on Main Street near the Ball Field Access Road, plugging the drain and causing water to wash out the access road and flow into 493 Main Street, and causing Main Street to become impassable. Village and JP Sicard employees worked overnight to remove the debris and Main Street was reopened the afternoon of 07/11/2024. The Ball Park Access Road was repaired but debris remains at the ball field.
  
- **High Street/St. Paul's Cemetery Access Road**
  - A landslide on St. Paul's Cemetery Access Road deposited debris into a stream that flows through the Village. This is the likely source for all the material that washed through the concrete sluice/culvert that damaged Lincoln Avenue. The gate is currently closed to traffic. State Geologists inspected the site on 07/17/2024.
  - The same stream overflowed on High Street and washed out a culvert, depositing more debris into the stream. Village employees installed riprap to shore up the culvert, but damage to the pavement and guard rail remains.
  
- **Pageant Park Road Culvert**
  - When investigating an electric outage at Pageant Park, Orleans Electric's bucket truck fell through the culvert crossing Pageant Park Road. It is suspected that excess stormwater undermined the integrity of the culvert. The culvert and road are currently passable, but a permanent repair needs to be sought.

### **Electric Department**

- **Glover Road**
  - Fire Chief EJ Rowell ordered electric meters be removed from properties on Glover Road as a precautionary measure the night of 07/10/2024. Those less affected by flooding from the river were restored the next day but several were made to wait for the flooding in their basements to recede and be inspected by a licensed electrician. All customers were electrified by 07/12/2024.

### **Wastewater Department**

- The wastewater plant suffered overflows from the lagoons but was otherwise unaffected. The overflows were reported to the State on 07/11/2024.

### **Water Department**

- Due to high turbidity, the water plant was shut down on 07/11/2024 and remained offline until 07/17/2024. Several loads of water were trucked in to provide clean drinking water to Village residents. Due to the shutdown, a water conservation notice was issued on 07/12/2024 and finally lifted on 07/18/2024 when the plant was able to make enough water to replenish the cells.
- Four pallets of bottled water were delivered to the BMB for Village residents in need of drinking water.

### **Other Information**

- The State is currently organizing debris removal similar to how it was done in July 2023. Gina Lyon received a call from Steven Young regarding this endeavor. A list of impacted homes will have to be generated to advise the hired contractor of where to go for pickups.
- NEKO/BASSI have seen record turnouts for meal service the last few Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- FEMA IA preliminary assessments will begin 07/22/2024 for affected counties (estimated counties damage totals currently \$22,141,966).
- The American Red Cross donated 15 cleaning kits to Barton Village resident (13 remain as of 7/22/2024).

M. **Department Operations Updates** – See above.

N. **Management/Staff Report** – See ongoing list of items at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

### **OTHER ITEMS:**

O. **Other Business** – Gina Lyon discussed the future use of the VT Alert System. This is an excellent way of communicating with the Village residents in the event of disasters. Former Trustee Tin Caplin-Barton assisted Gina Lyon and Vera LaPorte with this endeavor, and they are grateful for his assistance and partnership. The Village will continue to use social media, the Village website to keep folks informed, but the addition of the VT Alert System will be a great addition keeping everyone informed when needed.

**NVDA RIVER Project** – This organization wishes to have a second informational meeting at 6:00pm on 08/07/2024 in the Barton Memorial Building Hall. The discussion will focus on the past two years of flooding, the Barton River and if anything can be done to shore up infrastructure in the Town and Villages, as well as what is next for impacted homeowners. This joint meeting with Barton Village, Orleans Village, and the Town will be hosted by the Village Trustees but directed by NVDA. The meeting will be held in the Memorial Building Hall and residents of all three municipalities are encouraged to attend. More information to come on this.

**Lead Finance Position** – The Village has received 5 applications as of 7/22/2024 for the posted job opening for a part-time finance position for the Village.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

- P. **Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E)** – None.
  
- Q. **Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3)** – Gina Lyon made a motion to go into executive session at 7:41pm. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Board came out of executive session at 8:10pm with no action taken.
  
- R. **Adjourn** – Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn at 8:10pm. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Regular Board Meeting: August 12, 2024**

**Special Board Meeting: August 21, 2024**

**Special Informational Hearing: August 26, 2024 (before Regular Board Meeting)**

**Regular Board Meeting: August 26, 2024**