

Barton Village, Inc.
Special Trustees Meeting

Friday, August 16, 2024

9:00am

Barton Village Office

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee),
Vera LaPorte (Business Manager)

Agenda

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 26, 2024 at

<https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

- A. **Call to Order** – Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 9:05am.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** – Gina Lyon stated that she would like to publish a notice in the Chronicle outlining the changes to the scheduling that the Trustees were about to discuss, and why.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor** – None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. **Warning for rescheduling of Special Meeting for Hydroelectric Facility informational Meeting and Bond Vote** – Gina Lyon stated that she had received a phone call on 08/14/2024 from Village Clerk Shelia Martin informing her that the Village was unable to proceed with the Hydro Facility Bond Vote on 08/28/2024 due to missing the statutory 20-day lead time on making absentee ballots available to voters at the Town Clerk's Office. A miscommunication between Business Manager Vera LaPorte and Town Clerk Kristin Atwood had occurred, rendering the process invalid. Gina Lyon spoke to Shelia Martin and Kristin Atwood and confirmed the new schedule as follows:
 - 08/24/2024 – Hydro Facility open house from 9:00am-11:00am
 - 08/30/2024 – Absentee ballots available at Town Clerk's Office
 - 09/09/2024 – Hydro Facility informational hearing at 6:00pm (before the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting) in the Barton Memorial Building Hall
 - 09/20/2024 – Hydro Facility bond vote from 10:00am-7:00am in the Barton Memorial Building Hall

Gina Lyon explained that rewarning the special meeting in the 08/21/2024 edition of the Chronicle would place the special meeting date of 09/20/2024 within the statutory requirement

of 30-40 days' notice. She then read aloud the notice that she wanted published alongside the new warning in the Chronicle:

"Due to unforeseen circumstances, we must re-warn the informational meeting and vote for the Hydroelectric Facility Project. The new schedule is as follows:

- 1. Open house with tour at the Hydroelectric Facility on August 24th from 9:00am to 11:00am. We encourage all to attend to see the current state of the facility, what and why things must be done.*
- 2. Absentee ballots will be available starting August 30th. Please contact the Barton Town Clerk's Office for these.*
- 3. The informational meeting will now be held on September 9th at 6:00pm in the downstairs Hall of the Barton Memorial Building.*
- 4. Voting will now be held on September 20th from 10:00am to 7:00pm in the downstairs Hall of the Barton Memorial Building.*

We apologize for the change of dates and thank you for your understanding. We are available for any questions or concerns at our regularly scheduled monthly meetings, which take place every second and fourth Monday starting at 6:00pm in the downstairs Hall of the Barton Memorial Building. We encourage and welcome all to attend.

Thank you,

*/S/ Regina Lyon, Trustee Board Chair
/S/ Marilyn Prue, Trustee
/S/ Ellis Merchant, Trustee"*

The Board of Trustees reviewed the updated Resolution for Hydroelectric Upgrades and Related Financing, Special Meeting Warning, and Official Ballot documents with the new dates and revised language. The project description and requested amount of \$3M remained unchanged, but general obligation bonds were added as a method of financing at Crystal Currier's suggestion, as well as verbiage describing the terms of the bonds. Vera LaPorte explained that she added the exact same language changes to all three documents so that there would be no more confusion.

Marilyn Prue asked whether they should host an additional informational meeting ahead of the bond vote in case more questions arose after the informational hearing on 09/09/2024. Gina Lyon agreed that it could be useful and discussed dates. The Board instructed Vera LaPorte to warn a special meeting for 09/19/2024 for this purpose. Ellis Merchant stated that he hoped folks would attend.

Discussion then turned to the inclusion of a one-sheet flyer to be handed out at the informational hearing that detailed what voting for or against the hydro upgrades and repairs would mean in simple terms. Marilyn Prue suggested adding how the electric rates would

change if they were forced to buy additional power versus proceeding with the project. Gina Lyon volunteered to write the one-sheet flyer and include the discussed information.

Gina Lyon made a motion to accept and approve the Resolution, Special Meeting Warning, and Official Ballot for the hydroelectric upgrades and related financing. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS:

- E. **Other Business** – None.

- F. **Adjourn** – Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:34am.

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: August 26, 2024

Special Informational Hearing: September 9, 2024 (before the Regular Board Meeting)

Regular Board Meeting: September 9, 2024