

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
6pm

Barton Village Memorial Building – Back Office**Meeting to be moved downstairs in the event there is an access issue for any attendee or participant. To request meeting be moved downstairs prior to the scheduled date and time, please call the office at 802-525-4747, Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 4pm.**

10/13/2026 – Meeting moved to the Memorial Building Hall due to Office construction.

Attendance: Regina (Gina) Lyon (Chair, Business Manager); Marilyn Prue (Trustee); Ellis Merchant (Trustee); Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk); Anne Marie MacEachern (Village Resident); Joseph Gresser (the Chronicle); Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express); Derrick Poginy (Barton Village DPW Foreman); Steve Sykes (Community Giving Garden); Johanna Pastel (Lake Region Union High School Theater Department); Pam Kennedy (Community Giving Garden); and Sheila Martin (Village Finance Manager).

Minutes

- 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:** None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. **Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting September 22, 2026:** Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes from 9/22/2026 as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion Carried.
- E. **Bills and Warrants:** Just payroll has been submitted for this week. Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve payroll as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- F. **Liens:** The lien on **76 Water Street, Barton, VT** will not be released because only the water and sewer accounts have been paid; the electric account remains open with an outstanding balance.
A motion was made by Gina Lyon and seconded by Marilyn Prue to apply liens for delinquent utility bills at the following properties:
 - **268 Elm Street, Barton:** \$2,248.57 — electric, water, and sewer
 - **40 West Street, Barton:** \$1,135.80 — electric and/or water and sewer
 - **79 Porter Street, Barton:** \$1,172.70 — electric, water, and sewer
 - **283 Elm Street, Barton:** \$2,725.78 — electric, water, and sewer
 - **467 High Street, Barton, VT:** \$3,459.93 — electric, water, and sewer
 - **380 Park Street, Barton:** \$1,018.03 — water and sewer
 - **286 High Street, Barton:** \$685.26 — water and sewer
 - **194 West Street, Barton:** \$956.39 — water and sewer
 - **49 Davis Court, Barton:** \$792.03 — water and sewerMotion Carried.
- G. **Coin Drop Application:** The True Blue, Lake Region Basketball team has requested Saturday October the 17th and alternate date the October 24th to host a Coin Drop. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve this application, Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried.
- H. **LRUHS and OCSU use of Theatre:** Johanna Pastel, representing the Lake Region Union High School Theater Department, requested use of the Memorial Building Theatre for the upcoming 2027 production season, as in the previous two years. Johanna expressed interest in working with the Trustees to establish the fee for 2027. Given the cost of oil and the expense of heating the large theater space, adult oversight of the thermostat was suggested to ensure the heat is turned down after each use. Johanna also offered to provide a security deposit. Gina Lyon will research the amount of the previous security deposit.

Johanna expressed interest in beginning to replace the theater seats and would like to meet with Derrick and Gina to review repair options that preserve the theater's historical character.

Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve LRUHS's use of the Memorial Theatre from December 1, 2026, through March 5, 2027, with the fee to be coordinated with Gina Lyon. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The OCSU item was tabled for another time as they were not present.

- I. **2027 Pageant Park Fees:** Inquiries regarding seasonal camping for 2027 are increasing. Fees were raised in 2026. Shelia Martin reported that no process changes were needed and that weekly tally sheets were used to record park attendance in 2026 worked very well. Village residents may use the park free of charge with a pass obtained from the Village office.

Gina Lyon made a motion to keep the 2027 park entrance fees and seasonal camping rates at the 2026 levels.

Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The rates are as follows:

- Seasonal camping: \$2,400, including water and sewer. Electricity is metered and billed based on usage.
 - Park day use: Free for Village residents with a pass from the Village office. Admission is \$5 for nonresidents and visitors ages six and older.
 - Season passes: \$25 per individual or \$50 per family. The family pass is the better option vs paying each time you visit the park. Passes are available at the Village office.
- J. **DPW Skid Steer:** Derrick Poginy addressed the Trustees regarding options for replacing the current skid steer, including leasing versus purchasing. The proposed lease would cost \$8,200 annually and include snowblower and brush hog attachments. Purchasing outright would cost approximately \$56,000–\$58,000, without either attachment. The current skid steer has an estimated trade-in value of \$17,000.

Marilyn Prue expressed concern about leasing, noting that the Village would have no equipment to trade in at the end of the lease. Ellis Merchant requested clarification on what each option would include to help determine the best approach. Discussion continued regarding costs and financing. Although the Trustees were leaning toward leasing, Derrick was asked to obtain additional financing details before a final decision could be made on those terms.

Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the purchase of a new skid steer with Sheila Martin, Finance Manager, working with Derrick and the dealership to finalize pricing. Sheila will email the findings to the Trustees where a decision will be made. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- K. **Elm Street Bridge:** Gina Lyon and Derrick Poginy met with the State of Vermont regarding Elm Street Bridge. The State indicated that the bridge could be opened to one-lane, single-lane traffic. Eric Pope and Jason Sevigny recommended installing Jersey barriers, and appropriate signage will be installed.

The bridge is currently in the State's scoping process and may remain restricted to one-lane, single-lane traffic until 2029 or beyond.

Gina Lyon made a motion to authorize Derrick Poginy to purchase twelve 10-foot Jersey barriers from SD Ireland at a total cost of \$8,480, including delivery and setup. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- L. **Power to Salt/Sand Shed:** Derrick Poginy presented proposals to install electrical service to the salt and sand shed to allow outdoor lighting. Gates Electric submitted the winning bid of \$4,500.

Marilyn Prue made a motion to award the bid to Gates Electric for \$4,500. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- M. **Wastewater State Revolving Loan Application:** Aldrich and Elliot reported that sludge removal and pit cleaning can begin in April 2027. A \$2 million revolving loan is now available, compared with the \$1 million revolving loan previously available to the Village.

Gina Lyon made a motion to submit a new application for the \$2 million revolving loan. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- N. **KBS 2025 Audit:** Shelia Martin reported on the results of the 2025 audit, noting that she spent approximately 60 hours working with KBS. KBS identified discrepancies involving stale checks issued to electric or water customers, including checks returned to the Village office in 2016. The concern from Shelia and Gina was why did KBS not find these previously as they have been conducting the audit for many years.
- KBS also identified an area of concern within the Village's accounting process. Process improvements have been implemented over the past few years allowing NEMRC, the accounting system, to capture the daily posting activities as opposed to multiple Excel Spreadsheets and journal entries. KBS was familiar with the Village's former procedures of multiple Excel Spreadsheets and journal entries.
- Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the 2025 KBS audit as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- O. **Memorial Building Reserves for Renovations:** Shelia Martin and Gina Lyon discussed using reserve funds to cover the cost of renovations to the Village office. Current updates are a new floor in the front office, updated entrance for a more secure entrance and paint. Marilyn Prue made a motion to authorize the use of Memorial Building Reserve funds to pay for the office renovations. Gina Lyon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- P. **Matching Grant Funds:** This is a fund that the Village places \$5,000 into every year and it is holding approximately \$60,000 currently. Marilyn Prue made a motion to utilize these grant funds to cover the percentage the Village is responsible for per the grant being utilized. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Q. **82 Sunrise Ave W/S Permit Applications:** On October 5, the Village received a completed water/sewer permit application for 82 Sunrise Avenue. The DPW Foreman and Wastewater Operator conducted a site visit and identified no issues. Given the property's location, the Trustees will require an easement and payment of the impact fee. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the application contingent upon receipt of the required easement paperwork and payment of the impact fee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- R. **Anne Marie MacEachern 89 Main Street W/S Acct:** Anne Marie purchased a condemned apartment building more than 10 years ago and reported that she has continued to be billed for four units rather than one. Sheila Martin stated that per the Barton Town Clerk, the Town's former Health Officer changed the property's designation from four units to one in 2017. Neither the Village nor Anne Marie was aware of this change. With an outstanding balance exceeding \$10,000, the Village previously offered to reduce the bill for Anne Marie by 50%. Anne Marie requested a review of the historical charges and an adjustment to reflect what she believes should have been billed for one unit for all these years. There is no meter on the building, no one has ever occupied it under her ownership, and no water has been used.
- Shelia Martin will contact the Town to obtain additional information for the Trustees to review before deciding.
- S. **Harrison Ave** An individual paid the lien on 58 Harrison Avenue with the intention of purchasing the property and helping the family. For unknown reasons, the individual has requested a refund stating the office applied the payment to the incorrect account. The Office staff applied the payment as originally requested. Per the Village's Attorney, it was advised that the Village is not required to refund the payment, as the Village completed the requested transaction and released the lien. The check also identified the property address, to which either the individual or the bank staff wrote.
- 258 Elm Street Unit Billing:** The same individual recently purchased this property and requested that the Village bill 258 Elm as a single unit. The individual reported purchasing a four-unit apartment building that is currently being used as one unit but continues to be billed for four-units. The property remains listed as a four-unit building on the lister card. The Village is billing per the Ordinance and must follow the Town of Bartons Zoning Officer's guidance, which is the property is zoned as a four-unit apartment building.
- T. **Community Giving Garden:** Pam Kennedy addressed the Trustees regarding trees and bushes gifted several years ago. Because a suitable planting location was not available at the time, they were placed at a community garden

in Derby. Pam worked with Patrick from the Memphremagog Watershed Association to find the best location for the trees. The trees include fruit trees, one willow, and one oak.

Pam reported that the Community Giving Garden needs additional volunteers and would like to add more raised growing beds. The proposed beds measure four feet by eight feet and stand two feet tall, providing a convenient working height. Sponsors are being sought to cover the cost of approximately \$250 per bed.

- U. **IBEW Agreement Decertification:** On September 28, 2026, the Vermont Labor Relations Board signed an Order of Decertification due to an employee vote resulting in the decertification of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 300 as the exclusive bargaining representative for the bargaining unit of employees of the Village of Barton, INC.

V. **Department Operations Updates:**

Office: The MERP project is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The front office door will be replaced using MERP grant funds. Additional office renovations have begun, including the installation of safety glass and a heavily locked interior door to access the actual office.

DPW: Repaving work on Prospect and Harrison Streets is scheduled to begin October 14, 2026.

Water: Shelia Martin and Gina Lyon attended a meeting in Morrisville, Vermont, regarding water rates and billing practices. A grant application was submitted for the water filtration system.

Hydro: The hydro facility is not operating due to low water levels. The replacement control panel installed by ETS did not function properly. ETS is working to restore its operation.

Electric: The PUC public hearing regarding the proposed rate increase will take place at the next Trustees meeting slated for 10/27/2026. Notices were included in residents' most recent bills.

Information regarding the AMI electric meter project is also being sent to ratepayers in the next billing.

OTHER ITEMS:

- W. **Other Business:** None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS: Gina Lyon went into executive session at 8:28pm. Gina Lyon made the motion, and Marilyn Prue seconded it. Motion carried.

- X. Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – Glover Agreement. At 9:06pm Gina Lyon made a motion to exit Executive Session. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried. Gina Lyon made a motion to provide a handful of dates that the Barton Village Trustee Board could meet with the Glover Selectboard and both attorneys. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried.
- Y. Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) – None.
- Z. Adjourn – At 9:07pm Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: 10/27/26

Regular Board Meeting: 11/10/26

Regina L. Lyon, Trustee, Board Chair