

Minutes of meeting of The Neighborly Barre Committee
Monday, July 6, 2026 – Roosevelt Room at Alumni Hall



Present: Tracie Lewis, Beth Hilgartner, Ernie Drown, Michelle Brown and Marjorie Strong

Not Present: Joanne Reynolds

Guests: No Guests

Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm.

Agenda approved.

Adopt a Drain. No report about naming or percentage completed.

Pay It Forward. Voted to table it until next month.

At the Heritage Festival, Ernie and Marge will staff a table from 9 to 1. Beth and Joanne will participate in the parade.

Report on the Ward 1 garden party. A success. 30 or so toured, 20 or so at the garden party. Good vibes, people enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Tracie for the pr and the maps. Beth will thank the garden club and offer encouragement for parties in the other wards.

New Business.

Tracie shared an email reporting that the Streets-as-places grant for block party \$500 was not awarded. She will pursue this going forward.

Some ideas for another Neighborly event. Granite museum festival? Russell Belding walking tour of Main St and gathering for discussion, viewing old photos and refreshments at the Library was discussed, and it was decided to pursue this. Marjorie will follow up.

Searchable cemetery database launch party was discussed, but we decided not to pursue this.

Tracie mentioned replacement parts for light poles....helpers. Possibly 3D printing to reduce costs.

Adjourned 1:48 pm

NEIGHBORLY BARRE COMMITTEE VISION STATEMENT

(from City's website)

The City Council created a Neighborly Barre Committee and charged it with generating ideas and enthusiasm for volunteer-driven efforts to create community, build connections and engagement among residents, and boost simple projects (like picking litter, or "adopting" a bus stop) to beautify and care for our physical spaces. The Committee's role will be to generate ideas that provide opportunities for residents of all ages to come together to model the type of community we want to be; to collaborate with other organizations or committees (e.g. The Barre Partnership, the Barre Rivers Collective etc.) when projects overlap; and to encourage resident engagement in the City, its people, and its businesses and organizations.

The committee will initiate programs and products based on needs, including the unhoused, civic beautification and building social capital. A welcoming Barre where neighbors feel connected, supported, and proud to call our community home.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Welcoming First

We believe everyone deserves to feel seen, included, at home in Barre, whether they are new to the community or have lived here for generations.

Connection Builds Community

Strong relationships are the foundation of a thriving city. We create opportunities for meaningful, low-pressure connections among neighbors.

Inclusive & Accessible

We strive to design programs and initiatives that are accessible, inclusive, and reflective of Barre's diverse residents, backgrounds, and experiences.

Community-Driven

Our work is guided by the voices, needs, and ideas of the community. Collaborate, promote & support other community committees and organizations to facilitate support of programs already in motion.

Positive & Neighborly

We lead with kindness, respect, and optimism, fostering a culture of care and mutual support throughout Barre.

Building Social Capital

We foster trust, relationships, and shared experiences that strengthen social networks, encourage civic engagement, and build a more resilient Barre.

Pride in Place

We celebrate Barre's people, neighborhoods, and shared spaces, encouraging community pride and a sense of belonging.