



Minutes of meeting of The Neighborly Barre Committee

Monday, August 3, 2026 in Roosevelt Room Alumni Hall

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

Not Present: Joanne Reynolds

Guests: No Guests

Meeting called to order at 1:01.

Agenda approved. Minutes approved.

No visitors or communications.

Old business:

- Drains all mapped, they are ready for adoption.

- Pay it forward. More later.

- Festival update. 4 people came up to the table, not a good presence. Maybe ice cream next year? The parade was fun, some good conversations. Lots of candy handed out. Joanne's decorations were nice. Generally the Festival was well attended, a success.

- Follow up about garden tours, follow-up. No action. Plan for next May or June. We did receive the micro grant of \$250. Joanne has this money to defray her expenses. Beth will follow up with her about receipts and reimbursement.

New business.

Block parties. Tracie has submitted a grant proposal to pay for a party. Will be notified by August 10. Currier park. Talk, flyers, ice cream sundaes. Barre Partnership will donate the space. \$500. Wednesday August 26? Cornhole equipment provided by Marjorie. Tracie will let us know.

- Labor Day walking tour. Russell Belding is willing. Needs a mic. Marj talked to Kristin. Perhaps Friday, the 4th. Have the photos on a website...using the granite museum walking tour website with some additions. Maybe Tracie will make additions that Russell wants included. (Or Russell himself.) Marjorie will coordinate with Russell, to firm up a date and details. We decided to leave the library out of this event. Michelle will provide a mic.

-Beth mentions an Orange Street collaboration with Spaulding PTA outside an event near Patterson St. to do something nice for pedestrian kids...Lots of kids walk that way. A quiz and good things to eat?

More conversation next meeting. Members will bring ideas about winter holiday ideas to our next meeting.

Motion to adjourn moved and approved at 2:00.

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 (eg. 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, and 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.