

Minutes of meeting of The Neighborly Barre Committee
Monday, September 14, 2026 in Roosevelt Room Alumni Hall



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

Not Present: Joanne Reynolds

Guests: No Guests

Called to order at 1:03.

Change to last minutes: Correct amount for the grant for the Garden Party was \$128 and change, as reimbursement for actual expenses. Motion to approve amended minutes approved.

Old business :

Block party Capitol Connections grant was not approved. But we did get \$200 grant from Montpelier Alive!. Money to be spent at the Wednesday Farmer Market/ concert on Sept 30. Cider and donuts. Wayside? Maybe donation. 5:30 to 7. Currier park. Tracie will make a flyer. Invite people getting donuts to opine about making Barre more neighborly...sign up volunteers. Sign up for coming projects. Block parties?

We will have flyers and a table at the Granite Festival.

Russell Belding Main Street Walking Tour Oct. 3 Saturday at 10. Meeting at the Aldrich lawn. Michelle has a microphone for him. Marjorie will do FPF post. Rain date? Sunday afternoon? Bring a raincoat?

New Business: West Patterson/ Orange St. school kid party. Sense of the meeting was that we would facilitate but not lead if this event comes off.

Block parties throughout the city were discussed. Beth will mention this at Council.

Cleaning monuments in Elmwood? Discussion about the ramifications. Lots of stakeholders. We will get input from cemetery commission and the monument cleaning staff.

Misc.: Listening events ...what would make your neighborhood more neighborly? By ward. Library, Labor Hall, Mutuo?

Motion to adjourn 2:05. Next mtg 10/5 at 1.

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.