Minutes of meeting of The Neighborly Barre Committee
Monday, November 2, 2026 in Roosevelt Room Alumni Hall

Present: Tracie Lewis, Beth Hilgartner, Ernie Drown, Joanne Reynolds, MiChelle Brown
Not Present: Marjorie Strong
Guests: Peter Anthony

Meeting called to order at 1 pm.
Agenda approved.
Minutes approved.

Visitors:
-Peter Anthony, to say thanks for our work. Beth asked if we could collaborate with or help the Barre Rivers Collective. Peter said they're wading through a lot of responses to an on line survey to rank their projects. The old Calder and Richardson site popular but a lot of work. They are working at finding developable sites. Spaulding easy, North Barre hard. Dams were removed at Jockey Hollow Falls on Stevens Branch near municipal pool.

Old business: hot cocoa hut during holidays. Saturdays 12 to 2. 11/28 to 12/19. Hut doesn't have power; extension cords necessary. Was at Depot Square, but now in front of 143 North Main, the old Newbery's store. Beth suggested hot cider and donuts. We commit to 12/12. Motion approved.

Cemetery update deferred to next meeting
Halloween update. Joanne suggests a candy bank for next year. Donations of candy or money for candy. Capital Candy Co. for donations...they dispose of candy in damaged packaging. Further discussion of this project, which we all liked, at next meeting....where to collect, how to disperse.

Zoom meeting was ended at 1:24 because of spam bombing.

Barre Partnership doing a film at Elmwood cemetery. Ernie offered some input.
Neighborly Barre 'meet your councilors meetings'. Beth reported not much enthusiasm from the councilors, and suggested neighborhood gatherings..."come meet your neighbors". Cat Allen Social Club or Aldrich for venues? Ernie suggested finding a venue in each ward. Maybe the Meeting room in the Stone Arts Studio at the Granite Museum, the Mutuo and Masonic Temple. Chapter markings to the meeting video, linked to City Council agenda items, have been added.

New business. Jeff Pulice suggested on FPF an event for grownups in costumes to go

around...some weekend not October.

Misc. Ernie suggests that we do some minor fundraising so we have a source for $$ for refreshments. Beth is checking with the City Manager to see if this is allowed.

Pay it Forward needs more discussion. Next meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 1:55. Next mtg 12/7 at 1pm.

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.