CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES

Committee/board/task force: Transportation & Public Works Committee

Date of meeting: Thursday, 10/22/2026 at 4:30pm **Location of meeting**: City Hall Council Chamber

Members in attendance: Art Bombardier, Steve MacKkenzie, Jayme Bauer, Brian Baker, Joanne Reynolds, Kenneth Bauer

Members absent: N/A

Others in attendance: Jennifer Conley, VHB, CPL Frey, City Counselor Beth Hilgartner, Sandy Perry, Janelle Starr, Margo Starr, Mark Connor, Joyce Shaw

1) **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:40 pm

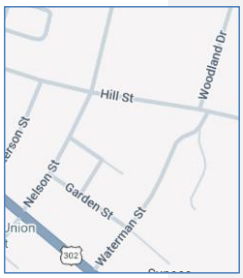
2) **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None

3) **Public Comment:** None

4) **Approval of Minutes:**

   a) August 2026 Minutes: Approved with adjustments made by the Committee. Kenneth Bauer made the motion, and Joanne Reynolds seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.
   b) September 2026 Minutes: Approved as written. Kenneth Bauer made the motion, and Joanne Reynolds seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

5) **Continuing Agenda items:**
   a) **Review/Discussion with VHB of potential Hill Street Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Improvements (Jenn Conley, P.E.)**



Jenn Connely visited the Hill/Camp intersection with Steve MacKenzie on October 22, 2026, and made the following observations and recommendations:

- For 4-way stops to be effective, there needs to be similar Traffic on both streets. There is a higher volume of traffic on Hill Street than Camp Street.
- The State uses a crash history database to determine whether traffic safety measures are warranted, including stop signs.
- Jenn witnessed several near-misses, but noted that near misses are not counted, only accidents that injure one or more people and/or cause $3,000 or more in damages are counted when analyzing the need for a traffic safety

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measure.

Joanne Reynolds stated that dangerous conditions at the intersection have been discussed by the community and the City of Barre since 2022. Beth Hilgartner added that a car hit her newly installed heat pump at her house at Hill/Camp and caused over $60,000 in damage. Joanne said that there were ~~12 accidents and one year at the intersection, which was one of the state's thresholds for installing safety measures.~~ "5 accidents in a 12 month period", in 2023, which is one of the MUCTD criteria for installing a four way stop sign.

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Jenn noted that the accidents need to be correctable by measures. Janelle Starr added that there is a school bus stop at nearby Hill and Berkely Streets. The bus stop is on the side of the road without sidewalks.

Joanne said that Camp and Hill Streets need to be painted, crosswalks need to be reinstalled, etc. Brian Baker said that Public Works is working on getting the painting and striping completed. He added that PW doesn't have enough staff willing to volunteer to do overtime to do the work overnight. He hopes to have paving completed the first week of November 2026.

Steve said that reportable accident data was needed to move forward. Jenn said that she understood how bade the traffic problems at Hill/Camp was. One of the issues are "super speeders" and VTRANS is trying to address enforcement.

Jenn stated that the work outlined in the RFP would be helpful. Steve added that the Committee put a lot of safety measures in the RFP, which can be scaled back. He did not want to forget any measures that might be impactful.

Jenn said there are several different potential funding sources for traffic and pedestrian safety remediation. VTRANS has an HSIP Grant where the municipality does not need to prove the problem. They just need to show that Barre is prioritizing the area for traffic safety and propose an approved measure. She added that other VTRANS grants have 10-20% match requirements.

Jenn recommended that the Committee put together citywide priorities that include Hill/Camp and a bike/pedestrian plan signed off by City Council. Kenneth Bauer asked if speed tables were an approved measure. Jenn said that speed tables were not included in the HSIP grant this year but have been included in the past and likely will be in the future.

Kenneth stated that the 4-way stop at Merchant and Warren Streets has created a speedway at the end of the street. Jenn agreed that 4-way stops are not a panacea.

Steve said that for Hill/Camp the following measures could be explored: striping, reducing lane widths, putting in new sidewalks, installing speed bumps or tables, etc. Another idea was to make the lower part of ~~Hill~~ Camp Street one way between Washington and Hill Street. That idea was dismissed by neighbors as likely not

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having significant benefit.

Beth added that wider streets could be narrowed through bump outs and asked if there was funding for this. Jenn said the City of Barre could apply for a study for pedestrian safety and Hill Street was a good candidate for funding for that.

Janelle said that Camp and Hill Streets were walking routes for high school students. She added that there were no sidewalks and it was dangerous for students. Joanne said that the lack of sidewalks was an issue in other sections of Hill Street. The near misses with pedestrians in crosswalks is especially dangerous for children.

Janelle asked if raised crosswalks improved safety. Jenn said she would look into it. The right drainage structures needed to be in place or built for raised crosswalks.

Jenn said that Burlington was doing interesting pilot projects with different pedestrian safety measures i.e. concrete planters, bollards, etc. They measure traffic safety before and after measures are installed.

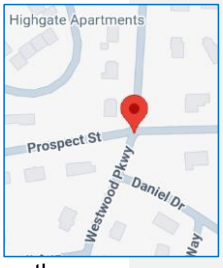
Joanne stated that permanent measures are needed at Hill/Camp. Striping needs to be redone at least once every year. Janelle added that residents have been trying to resolve the problems at Hill/Camp since 2023 and would love to be able to do some pilot projects. Steve replied there were ways to accomplish that but Brian needs more staffing at the Public Works Department.

Sandy Perry asked how the staffing at Barre's Public Works Department compares to similar municipalities in Vermont. Brian said that Barre has 60-70% of staff that Montpelier employs at their Public Works Department. Brian added that they are advertising open positions on Indeed and working with local technical schools to try to fill them. The starting pay is $24.60 per hour plus benefits.

Jenn said she would follow up with the following steps:

- Review the RFP and make suggestions and recommend action items.
- Put together a list of available funding opportunities with criteria and priorities.

b) Review Status/follow up on January 23, 2025, VHB Prospect/ Berlin Streets Intersection traffic safety recommendations.



Jenn supported tightening up the corners to improve sight lines at the Prospect/Berlin intersection. Since 2024, the extent of sight line Improvement has been trimming shrubs. Beth asked if a 4-way stop could be considered since so little progress had been made to improve the safety of the intersection. Jenn replied that the City could require the property owner at the corner of Prospect/Berlin to remove the bushes. Brian said he contacted the owner and hadn't heard back. Brian added that the fence and bushes encroached on City property by 2-3 feet, making them

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zoning violations.

Sandy said she would like to get clarity on how to get a 4-way stop at Prospect/Berlin. She added that intersection signs in addition to 4-way stop would improve the safety of the intersection. According to a traffic study completed in 2024, lack of sight lines could qualify the intersection for a 4-way stop. Jenn said she would follow up on this question.

Steve said there were 5 warrants for a 4-way stop and asked if one was met, could the intersection qualify. Jenn said that only one warrant needs to be met.

Sandy asked if the intersection signs discussed at the September meeting had been ordered. Brian said that he ordered intersection signs for Berlin/Prospect and they would be installed when they were delivered.

c) Review Draft TPW Committee Memo re: Prospect/Berlin Streets Intersection ALL-WAY Stop to City Council (Sandy Parry)

The memo drafted by Sandy and Joanne was satisfactory to the committee, pending a review by Jenn.

Steve announced that going forward, the Council is requesting quarterly reports from committees. ~~would now by providing the new City Manager, Patrick Cushing, with quarterly reports~~. This was an opportunity to make recommendations and give updates on PTW's work.

5. New Agenda Items: None

6. Public Works Report (Attached)

Brian provided the following updates, in addition to the attached monthly report:

- **Cobble Hill Water Main**: New staff at FEMA said that they could likely provide more funding for the project.
- **Ayers Street Water Distribution Main:** The project did not receive the needed funding. The city would do temporary measures as they continue to look for funding.
- The state is doing Class 1 paving in 2027. Public Works will likely need to do infrastructure work and prep for the paving next year.
- **Wastewater Treatment Facility:** The City ~~is waiting for paperwork from FEMA~~ has the Headworks construction contract with Shenck Construction and is anticipating construction to start in early November..

7. Round Table:

Joanne said that Public Works left a giant pipe on Camp Street that looked dangerous. Brian stated that is was manhole section and it would be picked up. Joanne thanked

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Brian and added that there was a lot of brush behind the manhole section. Brian said he would look into the brush pile.

Action items (use additional sheets as necessary)

1) Motion:

Mover/Seconder:

Result of vote (how many yes, how many no, pass, didn't pass):

Meeting adjourned: 6:17pm

Mover/Seconder: Joanne made the motion and Kenneth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting date/time/location (if known): City Council Chamber (if available, TBD); 4:30 pm, Thursday, November 12, 2026. This would allow TPW prepare to present recommendations to City Council at their meeting on November 17, 2026.

Person filing Minutes:

Jayme Bauer

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