

**CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES**

Committee/board/task force: Unhoused Community Committee

Date of meeting: September 16, 2026

Location of meeting: Zoom only

Members in attendance: Dan Barlow, Kathi Partlow, Osa Busch, Beth Mueller

Members absent: None, Anne Merrill has stepped back from the committee for personal reasons.

Others in attendance: Brooke Pouliot, Steve Finner and Sonya Spaulding

Topic(s) Discussed (use additional sheets as necessary):

Adjustments to the Agenda

There were none.

Public Comment

There was none.

Minutes

Minutes from the April meeting were not available and their approval was tabled. Meetings were not held in May, June, July or August.

New Structure for the UCC

AM resignation was accepted.

BM nominated DB for the position of chair. KP second. He was unanimously approved.

No Vice Chair has been chosen. Several names were floated as potential new committee members. Our goal is to have 1 each from the categories of:

Having lived experience

Working for Capstone

Being a landlord

Our plan is to have a list for review by our next meeting in October.

Current UCC issues and updates

KP reported in on a meeting she had attended at the Statehouse addressing the rollout of Act 143. In short, it seems to not be meeting its intended purpose and is leaving many community partners and the folks they serve in a worse position than last year.

Long phone waits for intake and truncated hours for 211 were 2 of the issues she highlighted. BP reported that the same difficulties were echoed at a THRIVE meeting that she had recently attended.

OB reports that there is need now for cold weather camping gear, especially sleeping bags and tents.

BM reported progress is being made in planning early AM warming site and also emergency overnight shelters for the cold winter months.

DB said that PHW is working on ways to integrate health care into these sites.

BP reported that CVMC is working on a mobile health care van that could travel to camping sites.

OB is getting trained in wilderness first aid.

Committee Priorities

Lockers for the unhoused. DB reported that progress has been slow due to losing the potential installation person. We hope to have them up and running in the next few months. KP suggested reaching out to the city to see if their workforce could help.

BM reported that an application to be part of ReSource's Essential Goods Program would be forthcoming. This would enable us to purchase vouchers at a deep discount that could then be distributed to unhoused folks to be used for camping gear at ReStore. The committee will consider whether we would like to be part of it.

City Updates

BP reported that there were more encampments this year, leading to greater needs.

SS reported that the search for a new City Manager has overshadowed most of what City Council is now doing. We then discussed potential ways to facilitate communication between our committee and City Council, in order to keep them informed. We expressed the desire for the new interim City Manager to attend one of our meetings.

Other Business

There was none.

Action items (use additional sheets as necessary):

DB, OB, and TT to compile a list of potential new committee members to submit to City Council. BM to send around info on the Essential Goods program to the rest of the committee when received. Committee to reach out to the city re help installing the lockers.

Meeting adjournment

KP moved, OB second.

Time:5:56

Next meeting date/time/location:

City Council chambers, October 21, 5PM

Person filing minutes:

Beth Mueller