CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES

Committee/board/task force: Unhoused Community Committee

Date of meeting: October 21, 2026, 5:03

Location of meeting: Office of Tess Taylor at City Hall and remote
Members in attendance: Dan Barlow, Kathi Partlow, Osa Busch, Beth Mueller

Members absent: None.

Others in attendance: Tess Taylor 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 October were approved with no revisions.

Committee Leadership and Membership Updates
We are still actively recruiting for new members. Folks have been contacted, but as of meeting time, no firm commitments. DB and BM to reach out to 2 additional potential new members.

Current UCC issues and updates
KP reported in on the initial rollout of Act 143 and the State's listening groups to address concerns regarding the implementation. More of the Act will take effect in December, and KP to send out link to submit feedback for the additional "listening" meetings with the State (officers from AHS, OES and DCF).
OB reports that there is need now for cold weather camping gear, especially sleeping bags and tents, with drives now in place to secure needed supplies. The estimate for folks sleeping rough in Washington County is 300; 80 in Barre. Four deaths among the unhoused community have been reported this season. They shared a link https://www.giftdrive.org/drive/emergency-gear-drive-for-unsheltered-homelessness-176 where goods for street outreach can be purchased. Shoring up tents and communicating safety while winter camping is a big priority as well.

TT and DB have notified the police that there is no camping allowed around the clinic, library or churches. Putting up signage to that effect was discussed.

Committee Priorities
Lockers for the unhoused. DB hopes to have at least a pilot site up and running for this winter with the help of BC DPW.
OB mentioned that having a space with art supplies either at the shelters, library or meal sites would be very helpful for folks.

City Updates
TT reported that preparations for the AM warming sites and also extreme cold weather shelter are underway.
Three training meetings are to be held at the Aldrich Library on 10/26, 11/2 and 11/9 all starting at 5PM.
SS reported in that committee reports had been given to City Council in hopes that quarterly check-ins could be set up.

Partner Updates:
KP reported that the Speranza Inn along with other hotels in the State's voucher program are already full.
DB reported in that People's Health and Wellness now has a new outreach person and services will be expanded.

Other Business
There was none.

Action items (use additional sheets as necessary):
Continue to recruit new committee members.
Continue to work on getting lockers installed.
Look into sites that might host small areas for making zines or posters.

Meeting adjournment
KP moved, OB second.

Time:6:01

Next meeting date/time/location:
PHW conference room, November 18, 5PM

Person filing minutes:
Beth Mueller