

**Meeting Minutes of  
The Neighborly Barre Committee**  
Monday, April 6, 2026 - Roosevelt Room Alumni Hall

Present: Tracie Lewis, Beth Hilgartner, Ernie Drown, Joanne Reynolds

Not Present: Ginger Cloud and Marjorie Strong.

Guests: Amanda Gustin, Michele Brown-Lathrop from the Granite Museum, and Christine McSheffry and Abby Allen from the Central Vermont Career Center (joined by zoom).

The meeting was called to order at 1:02. Introductions.

March Minutes approved.

Abby spoke about Central Vt Career Center and their Community project. Giving back to community, especially senior citizens. 18 towns are represented through the Career Center. Probably starting in the fall. 210 students. Can they be part of Amanda's Adopt a Drain project? Students get a sense of pride, good experience, giving back, and a sense of community. Willingness to be part of our efforts.

Amanda spoke about the Drain project. Designed by Hamlin University. They provide the app, and printed material. Barre Rivers Collective in collaboration. Many drains are broken. The first step is to map the location of the drains. Kick off, maybe at Aldrich. Only Barre City. The first task is volunteers. Hoping for this spring. Perhaps at the end of May, students help on their free days in June. Saturday May 30? Rain date June 6. Voted unanimously to participate. Amanda will send a 2-page overview of the project.

Discussion of the logo. Favored a meld of Ginger's and Tracie's logos. Tracie will send a mock-up. Tracie will reach out to people that submitted a logo to the contest, thanking them for their submission and informing them that their entry was not selected.

Pay it Forward campaign: Tracie talked to business owners. Vendors might have a loaded gift card that stays at the store's cash register. Vendors favored this over more cumbersome methods. Next steps are publicity and fund-raising.

Tracie will apply for a grant from Localmotion AARPVT Preservation Trust Street as Places to possibly fund our kick-off party.

Tracie will create volunteer sign up links for participants in our committee project, and the adopt a drain project.

Membership discussion. Ernie and Ginger need to re-apply.

Motion to adjourn 2:06.

## **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.