

Minutes of meeting of The Neighborly Barre Committee

Monday, February 2, 2026 Roosevelt Room Alumni Hall

Present Tracie Lewis, chair, Beth Hilgartner, Ginger Cloud, Joanne Reynolds, Ernie Drown, and guest Bern Rose.

Meeting called to order 1:06.

Minutes approved.

Pay it Forward discussion continued. Joanne spoke about Amy's Armoire initiative, very successful. Keep track of who gets what, when, setting limits. The book When Helping Hurts was shared by Robyn, and handed around by Joanne. Their goal is to tie their help to some kind of education/assistance program and services, or performing services. Limited to \$10 a visit.

How many people have they helped?

Maddie's Slow Poke program. All needy youth. \$100 limit. What proportion of their income goes to helping?

Find a way to put money into the business hands, or directly to clients.

Everyone Eats. Pre-loaded gift cards. Federal funding during the pandemic. A good, workable model. Adopt for our Pay It Forward?

Foxy's had gift cards for the needy. Asked for at the cash register.

Barre Bucks out of Covid through Tracie. Pay 25, get 50. Maybe 15 businesses participated.

Discussion about the best way to get money to participating businesses.

Ginger spoke of the need for a mission statement for our Committee and what we're doing. Tracie generated a draft for us to review, based on discussion. (Appended at the end of minutes).

Another helping service is Laundry Love, a service provided by Congregational Church. Twice a month at Busy Bubbles.

A question was raised: Does the pay it forward program help or burden businesses?

A program called ?100 plus neighbors who care was mentioned. Perhaps something we should try. Raise money to disburse.

Discussion about the need, and the best ways, to get the word out about what's going on in the city, and what the Committee is doing. Is there a list of what's going on? Knitting club, genealogy club. Etc.

Washington world list of ongoing events.

Bern's shared an available QR code of where and what services are available. (Appended at the end).

A Neighborly Barre email address is needed.

Discussion about the Adopt a Drain program, gps mapping every storm drain. Table this until spring.

Discussion about community submissions for our committee logo.

New committee members, or volunteers invitation when the mission statement is ready.

Adjourned 2:43. Next meeting is March 2, 1 pm.

MISSION STATEMENT

Please take a moment to go through the below and make suggestions! We would love to finalize prior to our March meeting and put out to the public.

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.

Mentioned during 2/2/26 meeting:

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.