

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 27, 2013**

A Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was scheduled for 6:00 PM at the Maplewood Avenue entrance to the property known as the City Cow Pasture. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo; from Ward II, Councilor Herring; and from Ward II, Councilor Michael Smith. Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and several members of the public. Because there was no quorum of the Council, this was not an official Council meeting. Those in attendance toured the Cow Pasture in preparation for the scheduled discussion.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 27, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 7:00 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Chadderton and Herring; and from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith. Also in attendance was City Manager Steve Mackenzie.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Council approved the following consent agenda items as presented on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of August 20, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Taxicab Driver's License, John C. Russell, Capital Cab & Car Service LLC.

The City Clerk and Treasurer Report – NONE

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Dindo.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>
Crystal Zevon	43 Orange St.
James Schumacher	2 Farwell St.
Ralph Cote	42 Bassett St.
Stephen & Lisa England	26 College St.

Liquor Control Board – Council approved an Entertainment License for the Barre Sculpture Studio's September 28th event on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

City Manager's Report – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Submitted funding applications for two additional flooding-related projects.
- Held fraud risk assessment kickoff meeting with VLCT.

The Manager gave a progress update on the Nelson Street hydro project. The Manager will make sure the abutting property owner is brought up-to-date.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) City Cow Pasture:

a. Assessment Report Overview.

Manager Mackenzie said the cow pasture assessment has been completed. Mayor Lauzon gave an overview of the recommendations included in the report. There was discussion about outreach to ATV clubs and others interested in the use of the pasture, and the brief mention of ATVs included in the report.

Mayor Lauzon said the firefighters have arrived, and so moved to the next agenda item.

B) City Recognition of Fire Fighters Paton and Tillinghast.

Chief Bombardier and Robert Marsh addressed the Council. Mr. Marsh reviewed the events of May when he interacted with the Barre City FF/EMTs Elizabeth Paton and Zachary Tillinghast, which ultimately led to a determination of his need for a triple heart bypass. Mayor Lauzon and Mr. and Mrs. Marsh presented Paton and Tillinghast with Certificates of Commendation.

Mayor Lauzon returned to the cow pasture discussion.

A) City Cow Pasture:

a. Assessment Report Overview. – continued:

Christine Russo-Fraysier and Martha Englert gave an update the cow pasture. Ms. Russo-Fraysier reviewed the work to date with the Semprebon Fund \$25,000 allocation, other funds received through grants, additional projects on the schedule, and photos of the site. She discussed damage that's been done by motorized vehicles, including damage of restoration work that was done. Ms. Russo-Fraysier requested a ban on all motorized wheeled vehicles with the exception of vehicles used for authorized maintenance, posting of all access points, and fines for violations of the ban. She said it might also be prudent to ban open fires, camping and hunting on the property. She requested that the City permanently protect the property by rezoning the property from residential to conservation.

Martha Englert reviewed slide photos of the pasture, and damage that has been done recently. Ms. Englert spoke of the local teenagers who have been causing damage with their dirt bikes.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed photos of the work done on Killer Hill this year by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and City crews. The Manager said VAST uses some of the area in the winters. There was discussion about enforcement of the mud season ban, adopting ordinance language to prohibit wheeled motor vehicles and imposing fines. Chief Bombardier said as the property owner, the City can impose a ban and install signage without ordinance. Then tickets for trespassing can be issued. Council discussed posting the property against hunting, VAST's use of the property and other recreational uses.

Brother and sister Kyle and Emma Proteau addressed the Council about their use of the pasture, and recommended the property be protected.

b. Approval of ATV & Motorcycle Use Prohibition.

Mayor Lauzon said one of the report's recommendations is to form a stewardship committee. The Mayor said he would support banning motorized vehicles on the property. There was discussion about establishing a memo of understanding with VAST to allow their members to access the trails with their snowmobiles, and limited legal access to the property by motorized vehicles.

Council approved a ban on all motorized vehicles in the Cow Pasture on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Signage will go up as soon as possible and known violators will be told of the ban.

There was discussion about forming a stewardship committee that would prioritize the recommendations included in the report. Councilor Dindo expressed interest in working on the committee.

Council approved creating a Cow Pasture stewardship committee and authorized the Manager to advertise for people interested in serving on the committee on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

There was discussion about having balance representation on the committee.

Council appointed Councilor Dindo to the Cow Pasture stewardship committee on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilor Poirier asked for an update on the School Resource Officer. Councilor Herring, in his capacity of School Board Chair, said the school has found its portion of the funding and the officer is in the school.

Councilor Herring said school is back in session and asked people be careful. He said the IT committee met and will be coming forward with recommendations.

Councilor Chadderton said school is back in session and asked people to be careful.

Councilor Dindo said neighbors abutting the Quarry Street project will be meeting with VTRANS to discuss the project. Neighbors requested notification when the debris from the recent Quarry Street demolitions is moved so as to allow those who are affected by the dust to close their windows. He asked for updates on the additional spigots in Hope Cemetery and talked about a washout near Branch Street that may be endangering children. Manager Mackenzie will look into both issues.

Councilor Poirier said he will be holding a meeting at the library to offer the public information about the upcoming health care changes.

Mayor Lauzon said there will be no Council meeting next week.

Council went into executive session at 8:46 PM to discuss personnel and negotiations issues on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

City Manager Mackenzie and Chief Bombardier were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:15 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:15 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of the meeting is available through the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk