

**CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES**

Committee/board/task force: Homelessness Task Force

Date of meeting: June 7, 2023 **Location of meeting:** Hybrid Zoom/Public Safety Building

Members in attendance: Ericka Reil, Steve Finner, Philip Moros, Chip Castle, Miriam Ben-Dor

Members absent: Joe Mueller, Jeremy Spiro-winn

Others in attendance: Staff Liaison: Brooke Pouliot, Samantha Hiscock

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

New members to the task force were welcomed and introduced. We all introduced ourselves and gave a short bio.

see additional sheet

Action items (use additional sheets as necessary):

1) Motion: _____

Mover/Secunder: _____

Result of vote (how many yes, how many no, pass, didn't pass): _____

2) Motion: _____

Mover/Secunder: _____

Result of vote (how many yes, how many no, pass, didn't pass): _____

3) Motion: _____

Mover/Secunder: _____

Result of vote (how many yes, how many no, pass, didn't pass): _____

Meeting adjourned: Mover/Secunder: _____ **Time:** 8:03

Next meeting date/time/location (if known): June 21, 2023 7PM

Person filing minutes: Philip Moros _____ (signature)

2) Update on hotel exits.

The first group has exited the hotels and it went smoothly. Brooke explained that upon exiting an effort is made to collect contact information and people are referred to The Good Samaritan Haven (Good Sam), the Family Center or Capstone. An effort is made to figure out what services people need and how to connect them with the services.

A summit meeting is held every Wednesday in Montpelier to strategize and share information.

The summit is attended by city officials from Barre, Berlin, and Montpelier as well as Good Sam, Washington County Mental Health (WCMH) and Another Way.

The meeting is in person at 4 PM at City Hall. Brooke will send copies of the minutes to Ericka and she will share them with the task force. Chip asked if Barretown was involved in the summit.

There is no town involvement at this time.

3) Update on City Response

The initial exit from the hotels (30) happened June first. Subsequent dates are

June 15	32 people
July 1	4 people
July 29	62 people
Sept 23	76 people

The city has a de facto no camping policy since parks are closed at sunset.

The city sees the BOR as the best choice in a bunch of bad choices. At this time no other sites were considered and changing ordinances is off the table. Nicolas Storellicastro has done a great job collecting information and presenting material. The task force was unclear who would provide security at the BOR. If the state does not fund sanitation does that change the number portable toilets that will be available. The question was asked if a private individual could open up their land and allow people to camp there. Problems arise as the number of individual sites increase. There would be issues with permitting and sanitation. The question was asked if the churches had been approached. Miriam who has volunteered at the overflow shelter in Montpelier explained some of the logistics. The shelter at Christ Church could hold 15 but felt most comfortable at 12. Staff consisted of 10 regular employees and 10 volunteers. Staffing in Barre would be an issue and the churches would not be 24/7. The Montpelier overflow shelter was an overnight shelter.

4) Priorities

The task force **recommends** that the city look at alternatives to the BOR in the event that that does not come to fruition. We consider the parking lot at the BOR as the second choice to consider. Further, we **recommend** regardless of the use of the BOR, portable toilets be placed at various locations in the City. We feel City Hall Park/Church Street, the bike path, Merchants Way and BOR are good choices.

Due to the unknowns and the speed that things are happening the task force will meet in 2 weeks. The next meeting is June 21, 2023 at 8pm.