

M E E T I N G   N O T I C E  
BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD  
Monday, December 13, 2021  
Bennington Fire Facility  
Multi-Purpose Room - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
130 River Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
A G E N D A  
6:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Vision Statement
3. Consent Agenda 6:00 PM - 6:05 PM
  - A. Minutes of November 22, December 6, 2021
  - B. Warrants
  - C. Liquor License
4. Covid Update 6:05 PM - 6:15 PM
5. Public Comment 6:15 PM - 6:30 PM
6. Mask Mandate Discussion 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
7. Final Public Hearing for CDBG-CV Grants 7:00 PM - 7:10 PM
8. VCRD at 10 Years 7:10 PM - 7:30 PM
  - A. Advancing a Bennington Community Center/Improving Rec Center
  - B. Collaborating to Address Poverty
9. Implementing the Town Vision 7:30 PM - 7:40 PM
10. Manager's Report 7:40 PM - 7:50 PM
11. Upcoming Agendas 7:50 PM - 7:55 PM
12. Other Business 7:55 PM - 8:00 PM
13. Executive Session
  - A. Contracts
  - B. Legal Matter

**SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES**

**November 22, 2021**

Present: Jeanne Conner, V. Chair Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Jim Carroll, Gary Corey, Tom Haley and Bruce Lee-Clark.


Absent: Sarah Perrin (excused)

Also present: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager, RJ Joly, DPW Director, Larry Gates, Assistant DPW Director and Jim Vires, CAT TV and six residents.

The meeting, a tour of the WWTF, was called to order by the Chair at 12:30 pm. The tour was led by Jon D'Amour, Chief Operator and by Larry Gates, assisted by Mike Lane, Assistant Chief Operator.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Stuart A. Hurd

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

5 **MINUTES**

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Bruce  
7 Lee-Clark; Jim Carroll and Gary Corey.

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sarah Perrin.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Shannon  
10 Barsotti-Community Development Director; Jonah Spivak-Communications Coordinator; Jenny  
11 Dewar-BBC Executive Director; Dr. Richard Dundas-Human Rights Day Proclamation; 1 citizen;  
12 Jim Vires-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

13 At 6:00pm, Ms. Jenkins called the meeting to order and asked those not vaccinated to  
14 wear a mask and social distance. There are wipes to wipe down the microphone if you wish to  
15 speak.

16 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

17 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

18 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

19 Ms. Conner read the Town's Vision Statement that was adopted by the Select Board on  
20 August 24, 2020:

21 "Bennington is a welcoming, engaged, inclusive, resilient community where everyone  
22 regardless of identity shares in our vitality and benefits from an outstanding quality of life."

23 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

24 **A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1 AND 8, 2021**

25 **B. WARRANTS**

26 **C. PROCLAMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

27 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to approve the Consent Agenda*  
28 *items*

29 *A. Minutes of November 1 and 8, 2021 and B. Warrants with the Minutes of November 8,*  
30 *2021 amended as follows:*

31 *Lines 11 and 38, Change "Zadle" to "Tziadul"*

32 *The motion carried with Sarah Perrin absent.*

33 Ms. Conner read the Human Rights Day Proclamation 2021 as presented.

34 The Peace and Justice Center brought this Proclamation to the Board and Dr. Richard  
35 Dundas, a member of the Greater Bennington Peace and Justice Center spoke on their behalf  
36 noting that they meet regularly - the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the UU  
37 Meetinghouse at 108 School Street. They have sent what money they could raise to our sister  
38 city - Somotillo, Nicaragua. The Proclamation observes the celebrating of the UN Declaration of  
39 Human Rights on December 10<sup>th</sup> each year since its adoption in 1948. The Peace and Justice  
40 Center will have a vigil at the Four Corners in Bennington on December 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to  
41 1:00pm and everyone is invited.

42 Mr. Corey suggested that we recognize this every year and not limit it to 2021. The  
43 Board concurred.

44 *Bruce Lee Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to adopt the Proclamation amended*  
45 *as follows:*

46 *Change the title, "HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PROCLAMATION 2021" to "HUMAN*  
47 *RIGHTS DAY PROCLAMATION"*

48 *Change the Now, Therefore "December 10, 2021" to "December 10"*

49 *The motion carried with Sarah Perrin absent.*

#### 50 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

51 The following Public Comment Practices to make the experience for all involved a  
52 productive and informative use of the Public Comment period at Select Board meetings was  
53 placed on the podium for those that wish to make Public Comments to reference:

- 54 1. Public Comment is to allow residents an opportunity to share information or  
55 make announcements that benefit the community at large.
- 56 2. The topic should **not** be related to an agenda item. If a member of the public  
57 wants to comment on an agenda item they can do so during the discussion of  
58 that item.
- 59 3. Comments should be 3 minutes or less.
- 60 4. You are required to state your real name and town of residence.
- 61 5. Sharing comments, announcements and concerns are encouraged rather than  
62 asking questions. Public Comment is not a time for discussion. If you have  
63 specific questions it is best to call the Town Manager to get a full explanation  
64 and accurate information.
- 65 6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda  
66 item at a future meeting.



67

68 Jenny Dewar, Better Bennington Corporation (BBC) Executive Director, shared the  
69 following information:

- 70 • Small Business Saturday is November 27<sup>th</sup> with Santa going in and out of stores and with  
71 the Mt. Anthony Choir caroling up and down the street.
- 72 • Instagram and Facebook are both “being pumped up” at better bennington and  
73 downtown bennington, and we are creating a new website.
- 74 • Mayfest will return in May 2022 and Harvestfest will be added in October 2022.
- 75 • There will be a series of events at the Splash Pad on Thursdays from 5:30pm-7:00pm.
- 76 • Santa will be in the BBC lobby on December 23<sup>rd</sup> during the later afternoon into the  
77 early evening telling stories. There will be refreshments and children can give Santa  
78 their letters but will not be sitting on his lap.

## 79 5. UPCOMING MASK MANDATE

80 Ms. Jenkins stated that the Legislature is allowing communities to institute a mask  
81 mandate that can last for up to 30 days at a time. On one hand, this will allow communities to  
82 tamp down on outbreaks by increasing mask indoor usage in public places, but on the other  
83 hand, it creates frustrations around enforcement as was evident with our last mask mandate.  
84 “Police are not going to come out and arrest people who are not wearing their masks. And it  
85 can also bring out some uncivil behavior that has been directed toward the Town, store owners,  
86 and other business owners.” It also brings up the need for vaccinations if we’re all wearing  
87 masks. Everyone is encouraged to be aware of the increased cases and to read the article in  
88 Vermont Digger.

89 The Board will revisit this Agenda Item at the December 13, 2021 meeting.

## 90 6. VCRD COMMUNITY VISIT - 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

### 91 A. VISION/IMAGE

### 92 B. DOWNTOWN AS A DESTINATION

93 Ms. Barsotti did the following presentation:

- 94 ○ BCRC facilitated 3 meetings in Bennington that began in March 2012 with 400  
95 community members participating.
- 96 ○ The report from that time is on the Town’s website under Government/Reports and  
97 Documents/Special Reports, as well as, on the Vermont Council on Rural Development  
98 (VCRD) website.
- 99 ○ To be done in 2012 -
  - 100 ▪ Develop a Bennington Vision Statement - on August 5, 2020, our current Vision  
101 Statement came from our Community Policing efforts with the police

department, town staff, and the community. This is read at the beginning of every Select Board meeting.

- Advance Community Communications and a Positive Town Image - people on the outside have a better image of Bennington than people on the inside. The Town has recently hired a Communications Coordinator to get the image of Bennington out there through the Bennington Community Newsletter, a partnership with the Bennington Banner, the Vermont Begins Here marketing campaign, and the improved programming at the Bennington Community Center (formerly the Bennington Rec Center).
- Making Downtown Bennington a Destination - the Better Bennington Corporation and the Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce have been working diligently to make our downtown vibrant with new businesses opening and doing well.
- Build a New Bennington Town Green - the Splash Pad Park offers several opportunities in the center of Town. SPARC (Spaces, Parks, Art, Recreation, Community) will continue to explore and evaluate other spaces, as well.

Mr. Spivak added the following:

- Many projects take a considerable amount of time so we have to remember where/when they started. Some that have come to fruition are the Orchard Village to Willowbrook Path, the monthly column done by Mr. Hurd, going out to bid to redo our website in early 2022 for a cost not expected to exceed \$25,000, collaboration with the Bennington Blog, the maintenance of 120 miles of roads and 41 miles of sidewalks, and an Environmental Achievement Award presented to the Police Department for purchasing electric cars and bikes.

Board members reflected on how far we've come and the community efforts that it has taken to be where we are today. Kudos to all involved.

More to come at the December 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

## 7. CITIZEN SURVEY PRESENTATION

Mr. Spivak did the following presentation on the 2021 Citizen Survey:

- ❖ This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Citizen Survey where 840 people started the survey and 638 completed it which took them an average of 14 minutes and 26 seconds. If the survey was not completed, the comments that were completed were not counted. However, questions could be skipped and if you got the "Thank You" at the end, what was answered was counted.
- ❖ In 2016 there were 530 respondents, and in 2018 there were 984.
- ❖ In 2021 we allowed 3 weeks for the survey when 4 weeks were allowed in 2018.

- ❖ There was a “youth bubble” in 2018 due to a drive by the teachers to encourage the youth to participate, and we wonder how that has affected our survey comparisons.
- ❖ This year we had a 4 point Likert Scale and in 2016 it was a 3 point Likert Scale. A 5 point Likert Scale would be the best and what we will probably do the next time.
- ❖ We had copies of the survey available on Facebook, the Banner, the Town’s website, the Town’s Front Porch Forum, as well as, hard copies at the Town offices, Senior Center, Community Center and in the Banner.
- ❖ Some of the 2021 questions were:
  - What is your age? - most were 30-64
  - What is your relationship to Bennington? - all but 7 live or work in Bennington
  - Do you rent or own your own home? - 5% more people owned their own homes than 2018
  - Rate the parks and recreation opportunities in Bennington. - the pandemic increased awareness of the recreational opportunities in Town
  - Which parks should the community prioritize in the upcoming budget session? - Willow Park and the Riverwalk were 1 and 2
  - Rate each aspects of your neighborhood. - people feel unsafe by a drop of 13%-14% from 2018
  - Rate the performance of the Bennington Police Department. - a polarization from 2018
  - Review the following aspects of Downtown Bennington. - high ratings for attractiveness and cleanliness. In 2018 vibrancy was 62% below expectations and in 2021 it was 55% below expectations which is actually an improvement
  - What features would improve the vibrancy of Downtown Bennington? - more retail businesses, more events and programming, a clothing store, and an outdoor goods store
  - What municipal investment would have the greatest impact on the community? - redevelopment of vacant or blighted properties, facilitate a downtown food market, facilitate new or restored housing, additional bike and pedestrian paths, a downtown hardware store, and enhanced recreational activities
  - Rate your overall quality of life in Bennington. - consistently 66% for all three surveys
  - Did you attend a public forum? - down due to COVID
  - Are you satisfied with the overall performance of Town government? - 50% said no
  - Rate the performance of the Select Board. - 30%-50% low
  - What is the best way for the Town of Bennington to share information with you? - town website and social media, CAT-TV, front porch forum, newspapers
  - Rate the Town of Bennington staff. - 73%-83% high
  - How do you think about the future of the Town, in general, over the next couple of years? - close to 70% are indifferent or optimistic

- 179           ○ For the next survey -
- 180           • Fewer questions to be completed in 10 minutes so more people will
- 181           complete the survey
- 182           • Fix the Likert Scale
- 183           • Consider including geolocation information to verify people are really
- 184           from where they say they're from
- 185           • Improve outreach to include more people in a wider demographic
- 186           • Shortening the survey and rejuvenating the appeal to the youth with
- 187           questions that are age appropriate that would improve the number that
- 188           respond
- 189           • Thanks to the community for spending a collective 169 hours on the
- 190           survey

191 *Board comments/questions:*

192 Ms. Jenkins: Noted how helpful the survey is for the Board for future planning.

193 Mr. Haley: Noted how polarization gives us a direction to work on.

194 Ms. Conner: Making the survey available when people are voting or at a large gathering, such as

195 Mayfest, may improve participation.

196 Ms. Conner: We are never going to be done with this process. We are always going to be in the

197 middle of it.

198 Ms. Conner: A question to add could be "Do you see yourself in Bennington in 5 years?"

## 199 **8. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION**

200 Ms. Jenkins presented the following:

- 201 ❖ Implementing the Town Vision is the new name for Community Policing since we've
- 202 outgrown Community Policing as it had existed.
- 203 ❖ The Procedures review closed on November 17<sup>th</sup> with 21 separate comments that were
- 204 sent to the Community Policing Group.
- 205 ❖ The comments were - 5 on Traffic Stops; 3 on Social Media; 3 on Special Events; 3 on
- 206 Collaborative Partnerships; 3 on Code of Conduct; 2 on Body Worn Cameras; 1 on
- 207 Nepotism and Fraternization; and 1 general comment on the police procedures and
- 208 department.
- 209 ❖ We don't know how quickly the turn-around will be but we do have a meeting with the
- 210 police coming up.
- 211 ❖ Once a month the Police Department has been giving the Select Board and the
- 212 community a written update on trainings and activities. We will have an in-person
- 213 update at a meeting in January.



- ❖ Mr. Haley and Ms. Jenkins have been working on action steps for the Declaration of Inclusion. We have had conversations with civic groups, business sectors, organizations focused on equity and diversity, as well as, staff from two towns plus comments from interested residents. Some recommendations are to engage key organizations such as the Arts Council, the BBC, Rotary, Young Professionals, and SVSU, as well as, to work with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for trainings while always keeping those with disabilities in mind. The experience has been uplifting with the number of people that are willing to help and be involved.
- ❖ The Safety and Equity Task Force meets every 2 weeks primarily via Zoom.
- ❖ We recommend visiting the Bennington Police Department website as they have made several fine improvements.

## 9. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hurd reported the following:

- ✓ *Economic Development Strategy Update* - We are very close to receiving the report and recommendations of White and Burke, the firm contracted to analyze the projects provided by Town departments, BCRC staff, BBC staff, and the Select Board's Economic Development and Infrastructure subcommittee. Available funding sources may be the \$3.9 million ARPA funds, the TIF, CDBG funds, and perhaps funds from the recently approved \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. Once this work is completed, public input will be sought.
- ✓ *Stormwater Permits and Homeowners Associations* - In February we need to take a position on the Stormwater Permits and Homeowners Associations issue. We can comply by controlling what residents do on their properties (not an ideal situation) or we can, with the State's assistance, seek to have these developments form Homeowners Associations and through that authority manage their own stormwater. I've attached a letter of explanation.

## 10. UPCOMING AGENDA

December 6, 2021 - Executive Session only.

December 13, 2021 - Take up the other two VCRD topics - Advancing a Bennington Community Center and Improving Recreation and Collaborating to Address Poverty and Building a Working Group.

December 13, 2021 - The Community Development CARES Act Public Hearing for the Closure of Those Grants - YMCA, Sunrise, and UCH.

December 27, 2021 - Short Business Meeting only.

January 2022 - Presentation on the Energizer Report.

250 January 2022 - Presentation on the White and Burke Report.

251 **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

252 Mr. Haley: Kudos to all involved in the Sewer Treatment Tour.

253 Ms. Conner: Congratulations to Lynn Sweet and all who performed in the concert on the  
254 football field a couple of weeks ago.

255 Ms. Conner: Kudos to all of those involved in Window Dressers with over 200 volunteers.

256 Mr. Lee-Clark: Encouraged everyone to shop locally on Small Business Saturday, as well as,  
257 every day.

258 Mr. Lee-Clark: Even though the slow delivery of mail is not just a local issue it does effect the  
259 Banner delivery and medications among other things. Actions to take: Don't call the Select  
260 Board; Don't blame the Post Office; Do call your Federal Representatives; Do call the  
261 Bennington Banner ownership; and you can file a complaint at the Post Office.

262 Mr. Lee-Clark: The first night of Hanukkah is November 28<sup>th</sup>. Happy Hanukkah. Also, the  
263 downtown lights are beautiful - day or night.

264

265

266 *At 7:37pm, Tom Haley and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded the adjournment of the meeting.*  
267 *The motion carried with Sarah Perrin absent.*

268

269

270 Respectfully submitted,

271 Nancy H. Lively

272 Secretary

273

**SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES**

**December 6, 2021**

Present: Jeanne Conner, V. Chair Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Jim Carroll, Gary Corey, Sarah Perrin, and Bruce Lee-Clark.

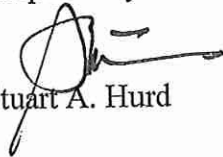
Absent Tom Haley(excused)

Also present: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager. (arrived at 5:15 pm)

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:00 pm. The Board went jnto executive session at 5:00 pm. The Board came out of executive session at 7:17 pm.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Stuart A. Hurd

**FIRST/SECOND/THIRD CLASS LIQUOR LICENSE AND TOBACCO APPLICATION**

(License year is May 1<sup>ST</sup> through April 30<sup>TH</sup> of the following year)

LITTLE CITY CIDER CO. LLC / GREG VIDETTO  
Print Name of Person, Partnership, Corp., Club or LLC

Doing Business as – Trade Name

139 SHIELDS DR.

Street

BENNINGTON VT 05201

Town or City & Zip Code

Telephone Number

Mailing Address (if different from above)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FEES:**

FIRST CLASS LICENSE - \$15.00 to DLC and \$115.00 to Town/City

SECOND CLASS LICENSE - \$70.00 to DLC and \$70.00 to Town/City

SECOND CLASS RETAIL DELIVERY PERMIT - \$100.00 to DLC

THIRD CLASS LICENSE - \$1,095 for a full year to DLC  
\$550 for 6 or fewer months to DLC

TOBACCO LICENSE - (there is no application fee for tobacco if  
applying for second class)

TOBACCO ENDORSEMENT PERMIT - \$50.00 to DLC

*\*If applying for Tobacco only license, please use the Tobacco Only form.*

**Please check appropriate categories**

☒ FIRST CLASS

☐ SECOND CLASS

☐ THIRD CLASS

☐ TOBACCO

☐ Retail Delivery Permit

☐ Tobacco Endorsement

☐ Restaurant

☐ Hotel

☐ Club

☐ Commercial Kitchen (a Liquor Control Commercial  
Caterer's License is needed with this license)

**TO THE CONTROL COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN/CITY OF BENNINGTON**

Application is hereby made for a license to sell malt and vinous beverages under and in accordance with Title 7, Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, and certify that all statements, information and answers to questions herein contained are true; and in consideration of such license being granted do promise and agree to comply with all local and state laws; and to comply with all regulations made and promulgated by the Board of Liquor and Lottery. Upon hearing, the Board of Liquor and Lottery may, in its discretion, suspend or revoke such license whenever it may determine that the law or any regulations of the Board of Liquor and Lottery have been violated, or that any statement, information or answers herein contained are false.





## TOWN OF BENNINGTON

### Town of Bennington Select Board Resolution

Be it resolved by the Select Board of the Town of Bennington, Vermont, as follows:

#### COVID-19 RULE

##### Select Board Strongly Recommends Wearing Face Masks in Public Indoor Spaces

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that face masks be worn by all people (vaccinated and unvaccinated) in public settings indoors in areas of "substantial" or "high" rates of "community transmission" of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Bennington County is experiencing a high rate of community transmission and has been for more than a month; and

WHEREAS, all of Vermont is experiencing a high rate of community transmission and has been since October 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Bennington Select Board recognizes that COVID-19 remains a public health hazard in and around Bennington and believes that wearing a face mask indoors is an important act which can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the many vulnerable people in our community; and

WHEREAS, in a special Legislative session called explicitly and solely for this purpose, the Vermont Legislature on November 22, 2021, passed a bill ("S.1") that empowers Vermont municipalities to enact local rules requiring the wearing of face coverings in indoor public settings, and the Governor has signed that bill into law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Select Board hereby issues the following COVID-19 Rule:

#### WEARING FACE MASKS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

##### STRONG RECOMMENDATION to wear Face Mask.

All establishments located in the Town of Bennington that invite the public into their premises for the purpose of receiving services, purchasing products, or otherwise transacting business, shall encourage both staff and customers (or visitors) to wear face masks over their nose and mouth while inside the establishment.

##### Exceptions.

Face masks are not required on young children under age 5 and should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

##### Posting of Requirement.

Each establishment is individually responsible to post signage at the entrance and at other appropriate locations stating that customers (or visitors) are Strongly Encouraged to wear face masks by order of the Bennington Select Board. (A standard sign is provided by the Town and attached to this Resolution.)

##### Effective Period.

This Rule shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until the Bennington Select Board amends, rescinds, or suspends this Rule by future action in a properly warned meeting or when an action taken by the State of Vermont nullifies this Rule or the Select Board's authority to continue this Rule, whichever occurs first, but not longer than 45 days following date of adoption. In the interim, the Select Board intends to review this matter at every regularly scheduled Select Board meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month.

Adopted by the Bennington Select Board at its meeting on December 13, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeannie Jenkins, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Carroll

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Corey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce C. Lee-Clark



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne Conner, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Haley

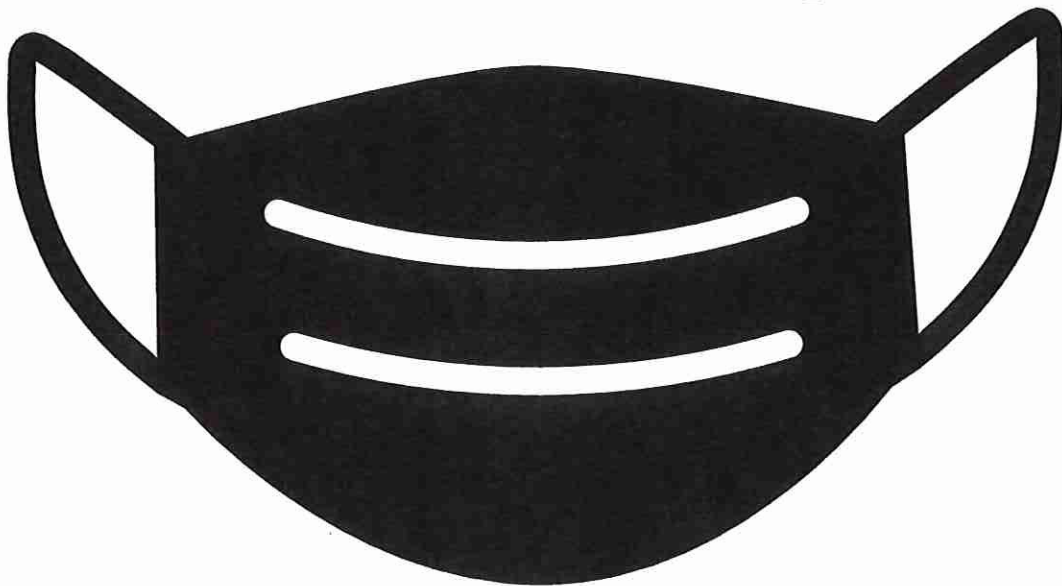
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Perrin



# Attention:

Face Masks Are  
**STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

In All Public Establishments  
In The Town Of Bennington



THANK YOU for your cooperation!

*~ We're all in this together ~*

**MANAGER'S REPORT**  
**December 13, 2021**

**ACTION**

Nothing at this time.

**INFORMATIONAL**

Snow Plowing Protocol      Given that the first snows have fallen, I thought it best to provide a quick review of our protocol. Snow plowing routes and drivers are established early on so the drivers become familiar with the routes. When icing is possible, we focus on the hills first. We generally hit the roads at 3 AM unless we are experiencing heavy snow conditions throughout the night. For sidewalks, we generally start in the downtown area and work out to the more rural areas. When it comes to snow removal, we generally hit the downtown, the schools, the post office and the churches first. Snow removal is weather sensitive in that if a thaw is forecast, we may wait to judge its impact before getting the crews out. Snow removal is labor and equipment intensive and therefore costly. Remember, we maintain more than 120 miles of road and more than 40 miles of sidewalk. Surface temperatures, air temperatures, changing conditions are all taken into consideration.

Town Website Redesign      The RFP for website redesign is complete and in final review. It is intended to be distributed the first week in January 2022. It will be posted on our sites and mailed direct to known vendors.

Workforce Vaccine Compliance      I am pleased to report that the Town employee workforce has achieved a 90% vaccination rate. This a great example of employees who care for others.

Real Estate Tax Payments      Now the tax collections are complete, I wanted to let you know that our delinquency as of December 7 is just over 5.1%. Last year at this time, the delinquency was 4.9%. It indicates that our property taxpayers' ability to pay remains consistent with prior years. The normal range has been 4% to 6% annually. It then begins to drop off as we work with property owners to pay over time.

FY 2023 Budget      I continue the push to finalize the General, Highway and Fire Fund budgets. All Agency requests are in. We plan to post them on the website within the next week. I hope to provide the Board with my budget proposal no later than December 20, 2021. Board review begins January 3, 2022.

**FOLLOW UP**

The Overtime Report for November is attached.

The Community Development and Permitting/Planning Reports are attached.

11/22/21  
02:03 pm

Town of Bennington Payroll  
Overtime Report  
11/20/21 - 11/24/21

Page 1 of 1

DEPARTMENT	OT HRS	GROSS AMT	OVERTIME	PRCT
TOTALS FOR DEPT 300	0.00	758.31	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 321	0.00	3,573.60	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 340	0.00	294.31	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 341	0.00	3,530.41	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 343	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 344	0.00	2,198.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 350	2.50	2,692.43	82.43	3.06%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 362	0.00	3,858.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 365	3.00	3,475.64	111.24	3.20%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 371	2.00	9,393.65	69.24	0.74%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 410	142.00	46,031.18	6,355.46	13.81%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 510	8.00	17,892.18	279.36	1.56%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 540	28.50	9,422.66	1,210.66	12.85%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 590	8.00	7,092.32	323.12	4.56%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 790	0.00	848.80	0.00	0.00%
REPORT TOTALS	194.00	** , *** . **	8,431.51	7.45%

11/16/21  
03:24 pm

Town of Bennington Payroll  
Overtime Report  
11/13/21 - 11/18/21

Page 1 of 1

DEPARTMENT	OT HRS	GROSS AMT	OVERTIME	PRCT
TOTALS FOR DEPT 300	0.00	24.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 321	0.00	5,173.60	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 340	0.00	318.31	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 341	0.00	4,830.41	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 343	0.00	2,760.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 344	2.50	3,490.70	92.70	2.66%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 350	0.00	4,266.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 362	0.00	4,258.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 365	0.00	4,064.40	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 371	0.00	14,124.40	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 410	211.00	57,539.21	9,201.92	15.99%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 510	1.50	25,734.97	52.27	0.20%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 540	18.00	11,549.85	737.84	6.39%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 590	5.00	8,182.32	173.10	2.12%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 790	0.00	1,448.80	0.00	0.00%
REPORT TOTALS	238.00	** , *** . **	10,257.83	6.94%

11/09/21  
02:45 pm

Town of Bennington Payroll  
Overtime Report  
11/06/21 - 11/11/21

Page 1 of 1

DEPARTMENT	OT HRS	GROSS AMT	OVERTIME	PRCT
TOTALS FOR DEPT 321	0.00	3,573.60	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 340	0.00	318.31	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 341	0.00	3,530.40	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 343	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 344	0.00	2,198.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 350	0.00	2,802.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 362	0.00	4,544.01	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 365	0.00	3,364.40	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 371	5.00	8,122.39	219.49	2.70%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 410	72.00	43,133.20	3,179.49	7.37%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 450	0.00	875.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 510	4.50	17,624.38	156.54	0.89%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 540	16.50	8,892.04	680.04	7.65%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 590	8.50	7,010.58	353.38	5.04%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 790	0.00	848.80	0.00	0.00%
REPORT TOTALS	106.50	** ,***.**	4,588.94	4.21%

11/02/21  
01:58 pm

Town of Bennington Payroll  
Overtime Report  
10/30/21 - 11/04/21

Page 1 of 1

DEPARTMENT	OT HRS	GROSS AMT	OVERTIME	PRCT
TOTALS FOR DEPT 321	0.00	3,573.60	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 340	0.00	294.31	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 341	0.00	3,530.41	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 343	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 344	0.00	2,198.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 350	0.00	2,610.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 362	0.00	4,544.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 365	0.00	3,364.40	0.00	0.00%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 371	4.00	8,193.74	185.84	2.27%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 410	126.50	45,109.62	5,781.83	12.82%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 510	17.50	18,186.66	610.35	3.36%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 540	16.00	8,871.24	659.24	7.43%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 590	17.50	7,339.69	682.49	9.30%
TOTALS FOR DEPT 790	0.00	848.80	0.00	0.00%
REPORT TOTALS	181.50	** ,***.**	7,919.75	7.15%



**Recreation:**

**a. YMCA program planning:**

The Bennington Community Center (Rec Center) has a busy pool schedule with lap swimming, water exercise classes, swimming classes and family swim. New exercise equipment will be coming soon to the weight room, and a strength and conditioning room has opened up in the basement. The Y is also running afterschool programs at the Village School in North Bennington and at the Bennington Sports Center (old Catamount School), as well as a "tumbling tots" group at BSC. At Benn High, there are also 8 popular exercise classes and a walking group meeting every week. The pool, adult fitness, and youth program schedules are updated regularly on the Bennington Recreation center Facebook page.

**b. Bennington Outdoor Recreation Collaborative:**

The Town of Bennington received a \$10,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to support outdoor recreation with wayfinding signs, photography, graphic design, and print media. Jonah Spivak redesigned the Town's recreation page to highlight more outdoor recreation opportunities and partners. I hired a local photographer to take photos of outdoor recreation sites and people enjoying them during the fall. I'm finalizing the outdoor recreation wayfinding signs with GVH studio and signs will be installed this winter.

**c. Appalachian Trail Community designation:**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy officially designated Bennington as an Appalachian Trail Community, which puts Bennington on the map for their marketing and promotion to AT hikers. I am on the advisory committee for the Bennington AT Community, and we are working on educational events for Bennington residents, a hiker appreciation day for AT hikers, as well as trail improvements and wayfinding. MAUHS teacher Dylan Wajda has started a Mountain Club outing club for teens and we're planning some activities on the AT this coming spring. The next AT Community meeting will be held in person at 113 Elm Street (Love, Cody & Co.) on December 14 at 6 pm.

**e. Recreational Facilities and Animating Infrastructure Grant:**

The Town of Bennington received a Recreation Facilities grant from the State of Vermont to add fencing around the green space next to the Morgan Springs water facility at Memorial Park (Rec Center). This is a sizable green space that will be used for youth programming, outdoor exercise classes, and community picnics. The new fencing is installed at the green space and allowed the Y to run a popular youth soccer program this fall. Another Animating Infrastructure grant will support art installations along the fence, such as creative benches and gates, working with local artists and designers through the Vermont Arts Exchange. We held a community workshop, "Reimagining the Rec Center Green" and common themes were creating a play zone for kids, more landscaping, a shade structure and incorporating local history and photos into the artwork that is created. Matthew Perry of the Vermont Arts Exchange will lead



the artist recruitment and planning for the art installations. We recruited a local landscape designer to help with landscape planting next spring.

**f. Trolley line path:**

I am on the advisory committee for the Trolley Line path scoping study that is led by Cat Bryars and Mark Anders of BCRC. This study examines the feasibility of converting the abandoned electric trolley car bed in Southwestern Vermont into a 14-mile shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists traveling between Bennington and Pownal, VT and Williamstown, MA.

**Economic Development Committee:**

I'm part of the town committee that has formed to discuss the Town's economic development priorities and work with consultants White and Burke.

**Vermont Begins Here:**

Eight Oh Two Marketing is continuing the digital marketing campaign to promote Bennington. We are running Facebook ads to promote fall and winter travel to Bennington. VBH blog posts for December promoted the Transient Beauty exhibit at the Bennington Museum.

**Local Food Security:**

I continue to meet with the Bennington Mellon Advisory (food security) group, as well as the planning group for the Southern Vermont Regional Food Network, which promotes a stronger regional network for sustainable local agriculture.

The downtown market advisory group developed out of the SVRFN and is focused on a downtown market that supports local farms and food producers and supplies fresh produce to downtown Bennington. This advisory group is forming a nonprofit called the Four Corners Community Market and developing a business plan and assessing available downtown space for the food market.

**Community Development Block Grants:**

The Berkshire Family YMCA, UCS Head Start, and Sunrise Family Resource Center received VCDP grants to support Covid-19 related expenses and HVAC upgrades. The Town also received a VCDP grant for \$500,000 to support the Shire Housing Bennington Family Housing project at 300 Pleasant Street. I am working on paperwork required for each grant agreement and subgrant agreement along with progress reports. Shires Housing submitted a VCDP application for two recovery housing projects and Hale Resources received additional funding for the affordable housing development at 219 Pleasant Street. The Recovery Housing project on Gage Street was awarded a \$380,000 grant and Squire House will be considered for the next round of funding. 219 Pleasant Street is almost complete and Hale Resources is hosting an open house on December 17 at 3 pm.

**Historic Preservation Grants:**

I am working with GVH Studio on a history/recreation/arts and culture panels for a new downtown kiosk funded with an historic preservation (CLG program) grant. The kiosk will be completed and installed in

January. I also submitted another historic preservation grant in partnership with Bennington College to put the college campus on the National Register of Historic Places, and we were awarded this \$5,000 grant.

**Franklin Lane Improvement Project:**

Dan and I have been meeting with MSK Engineering and BCRC to discuss final improvements to Franklin Lane. Scheduling contractors during the busy summer and fall season has been a challenge and the work will need to start next spring. This project is funded with a \$50,000 Downtown Transportation Fund grant.

**Municipal Planning Grant:**

Bennington received a VT Department of Housing and Community Development Municipal Planning Grant to develop a re-use plan for the recently closed Energizer battery factory. The MPG award of \$22,000 will be combined with a \$20,000 state Brownfields grant to also do an environmental assessment of the property. BCRC helped the Town to manage the project, and Camoin Associates, Inc. was chosen to complete the reuse study and housing study. The study can be found on the town's website under Special Reports and Documents.

**BBC Executive Director Hiring Committee:**

I participated as a member of the hiring committee for the Better Bennington Corporation's Executive Director position. The BBC hired Jenny Dewar as their new Executive Director.

**Tourism and Marketing Grant:**

I submitted a grant application for a state marketing grant for \$20,000 that would support entertainment and marketing for downtown summer events, starting with Mayfest, followed by a weekly music series at the splash pad stage, and ending with a Harvestfest.

**Senior Center presentation:**

Jonah Spivak, Town Communications Coordinator, and I presented an update on Town projects to the Bennington Senior Center for their coffee and conversation series on December 1.

**10 year anniversary of VCRD Bennington Community Visit:**

I put together presentations for two Select Board meetings as an overview of the progress on the priorities that were set during the Vermont Council on Rural Development Bennington Community Visit in 2012. Priorities included developing a Town vision statement, advancing community communications and a positive town image, making downtown Bennington a destination and building a new Town green, advancing a Bennington community center and improving the Recreation Center, and collaborating to address poverty.

Community Development Report: December 8, 2021  
Shannon Barsotti

**Community Outreach:**

In the past month, I have met with the Berkshire Family YMCA management team, the owner of Benn High LLC, Eight Oh Two Marketing, Historic Preservation Commission, Four Corners Community Market, Town Economic Development committee, Better Bennington Corporation, Shires Housing, Vermont Arts Exchange, AT Community Committee, Retired Teachers Association, Bennington Interfaith Coalition, Bennington Performing Arts Center, Divine Bradley (MFA fellow at CAPA), and Bennington Senior Center.



## November 2021

Construction Type	Month to date	Month to Date Volume	Year to date	Year to Date Volume
	Permit Totals		Permit Totals	
Single Family Dwelling	0	\$0.00	4	\$1,025,000.00
Duplex	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Mobile Homes	0	\$0.00	2	\$103,700.00
Apartments	0	\$0.00	1	\$3,200,000.00
Apartment Renovations	1	\$8,000.00	15	\$2,804,500.00
Condominiums	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Residential Renovations	2	\$50,000.00	8	\$633,200.00
Residential Additions	1	\$40,000.00	3	\$180,000.00
Commercial Construction	0	\$0.00	1	\$1,998,000.00
Commercial Renovations	0	\$0.00	24	\$2,032,946.70
Industrial Construction	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Industrial Renovations	0	\$0.00	1	\$109,000.00
Garages	1	\$30,000.00	9	\$332,400.00
Sheds	4	\$52,335.00	27	\$137,265.95
Decks/ Porch	1	\$9,800.00	30	\$243,150.00
Institutions	0	\$0.00	6	\$964,900.00
Signs	2	\$1,150.00	20	\$32,555.00
Use & Zoning	0	\$0.00	12	\$24,918,055.00
Subdivision	1	\$0.00	7	\$0.00
Home Occupation	0	\$0.00	1	\$0.00
Propane Tank/Storage Tank	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Boilers/Furnaces/RTU's, A/C	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tents	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,425.00
Handicap Access/Ramps	0	\$0.00	1	\$4,327.00
Concreate Slabs	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Cell Towers/Communications	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Solar Installations	3	\$19,016.00	9	\$525,575.00
Camps	0	\$0.00	1	\$2,000.00
Withdrawn	2	\$0.00	4	\$90,100.00
Demolition	1	\$0.00	9	\$0.00
Total	19	\$210,301.00	201	\$39,338,099.65

**12-Years At a Glance  
Permit Totals Only**

Month	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	2	6	12	11	5	8	15	10	5	6	5	11
February	7	7	7	6	7	15	8	5	7	5	8	9
March	11	6	31	13	12	10	14	19	11	13	9	19
April	32	34	31	18	22	27	14	15	15	23	11	29
May	31	27	27	38	20	23	19	27	23	24	19	23
June	32	34	32	20	19	21	19	10	14	12	25	16
July	23	20	24	33	29	47	16	29	30	28	12	16
August	26	14	30	21	29	20	18	25	25	16	27	16
September	32	15	21	32	27	22	21	21	23	26	9	14
October	22	19	38	30	21	28	9	19	20	20	17	29
November	12	22	10	16	11	12	8	16	11	8	15	19
December	7	17	18	18	7	10	5	8	11	11	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>162</b>	

# Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning

## Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Building

Approval status included: Granted

Occupancy status included: Any status

Decision dates included: Between 11/01/2021 and 11/30/2021

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
50514200	17-070	NGUYEN YEN Yen Nguyen 226 NORTH ST Home Occupation - WITHDRAWN	Building C.O. Not required Nail Salon	Withdrawn 11/03/2021	50.00
02011302	20-088	HILAND HALL SCHOOL Meg Cottam 2196 HARWOOD HILL RD 16x16 Pavilion - Withdrawn	Building C.O. Not required	Withdrawn 11/03/2021	122.40 5,000.00
08015900	21-157	ROSS FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST Lawrence Ross 1534 BLUESTONE RD 24x20 Addition To Existing Shed	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/01/2021	68.00 25,000.00
60503200	21-158	COUSINS PAUL G & MARIA F Paul & Maria Cousins 107 SOUTHSIRE DR SO Adding a 10x35 Patio & Building a 30x40 Garage	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/04/2021	195.00 30,000.00
43512500	21-159	SWEET NATHAN P Nathan Sweet 9 ANTHONY DR 18x22 Home Addition- New Bedroom and Bathroom	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/05/2021	80.00 40,000.00
58521600	21-161	HAYES JOSEPH T & ANGELA N Zahra Wynter 40 SHADY LN Rooftop Solar (540 sq-ft)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/10/2021	54.00 5,399.50
50528100	21-162	ROFFI STEPHEN & SHERRY Stephen Roffi 218 PARK ST Interior Renovation of Two Units	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/10/2021	199.80 8,000.00
51516300	21-163	WALCZAK RONALD J & ANNE M Zahra Wynter 107 JOHN ST Rooftop Solar (779 sq-ft)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/10/2021	77.90 4,776.53
49534600	21-164	BOUCHARD ROGER Roger Bouchard 213 STARK ST 10x18 Shed	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/10/2021	45.00 10,000.00

12/01/2021

08:34 am

# Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning

## Detailed Permit Report

Page 2

wleblanc

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
12014201	21-165	JARECKIE DAVID STEPHEN David Jareckie 617 NILES RD 10x17 Shed Addition	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/23/2021	45.00 2,000.00
48500100	21-166	BITTEKER BRIAN D Plug PV LLC 15 JENNINGS DR Rooftop Solar (363.3 sq-ft)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/24/2021	36.36 8,840.00
57514700	21-167	BIASI TIMOTHY & LAUREN Timothy & Lauren Biasi 172 MORGAN ST Renovation/Conversion of Garage into Living Room, m into 4th Bedroom, adding pantry & 3 Closets	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/29/2021	53.60 30,000.00
24504800	21-168	HAYDEN KATHRYN A Ed Shewell 288 APPLE HILL RD Adding 6x20 Deck	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/24/2021	25.00 9,800.00
45012300	21-169	ALLEN RAYMOND E & DOROTHY Raymond & Dorothy Allen 551 N BRANCH ST New 12x36 Barn/Shed	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/30/2021	63.20 15,335.15
50531500	21-170	PINSONNEAULT JAMES C & LAURIE A James & Laurie Pinsonneault 227 PARK ST Interior Renovation/Insulating	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 11/30/2021	25.00 20,000.00

12/01/2021

08:34 am

# Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning

## Detailed Permit Report

Page 1  
wleblanc

Permit types included: Sign

Approval status included: Granted

Occupancy status included: Any status

Decision dates included: Between 11/01/2021 and 11/30/2021

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision Granted</i>	<i>Decision Date</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
50561600	S21-019	SHAFFE DAVID B TRUST Berkshire Sign Studio 475 MAIN ST New 16"x18" Sign: G's Records & Books	Sign C.O. Not required	Granted	11/03/2021	20.00 150.00
50570602	S21-021	BENNINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL TPW Real Estate LLC 109 SOUTH ST 2 Signs (one is 8 sq-ft and other is 2.64 sq-ft)	Sign C.O. Not required	Granted	11/12/2021	40.00 1,000.00



12/01/2021

08:34 am

**Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning**  
**Detailed Permit Report**

Page 1  
wleblanc

Permit types included: Subdivision

Approval status included: Granted

Occupancy status included: Any status

Decision dates included: Between 11/01/2021 and 11/30/2021

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
50510300	21-160	CLARK THOMAS R & LAURA L Beverly Sigsbury 201 DEPOT ST 2-Lot Boundary Line Adjustment	Subdivision C.O. Not required	Granted 11/23/2021	50.00

12/01/2021

08:34 am

**Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning**  
**Detailed Permit Report**

Page 1  
wleblanc

Permit types included: Local/Custom

Approval status included: Granted

Occupancy status included: Any status

Decision dates included: Between 11/01/2021 and 11/30/2021

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
36501400	2021	ALEX INVESTMENTS INC Thomas Dailey 201 NORTHSIDE DR Removal of an 16x30 Shed	Local/Custom C.O. Not required	Granted 11/01/2021	30.00