

**M E E T I N G   N O T I C E**  
**BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD**  
Monday, February 27, 2023  
Bennington Fire Facility  
Multi-Purpose Room - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
130 River Street  
Bennington, Vermont 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 February 13, 2023
  - B. Warrants
  - C. Licenses
  
4. Public Comment 6:05 PM - 6:20 PM
  
5. Implementing the Town Vision 6:20 PM - 6:40 PM
  - A. Bennington Police Department Update
  
6. Manager's Report 6:40 PM - 6:50 PM
  
7. Upcoming Agenda 6:50 PM - 7:00 PM
  
8. Other Business 7:00 PM - 7:05 PM

We endeavor to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Paul Dansereau, Facilities Director: pdansereau@benningtonvt.org or call 802-447-9715.

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

5 **MINUTES**

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

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Jonah  
10 Spivak-Communication Coordinator; Nicole Rogers and Rose O’Brien-VHB Engineers; Katrina  
11 Hastings-Sunrise Program Coordinator; Jack Rossiter-Munley; Tordis Isselhardt; Kelly Carroll;  
12 Mary Ellen Munley; Donald Washum; Debbie Matte; Asher Edelson; Shirley Adams; Nancy  
13 White; 5 citizens; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

14 At 6:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order.

15 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

16 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

17 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

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

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

22 Ms. Conner added that today is Stuart Hurd’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being employed by the  
23 Town and recognized him for his service.

24 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

25 **A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2023 AND JANUARY 23, 2023**

26 **B. WARRANTS**

27 **C. LICENSES**

28 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as*  
29 *submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

30 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

- 34 1. Public Comment is to allow residents an opportunity to share information or make  
35 announcements that benefit the community at large.
- 36 2. The topic should not be related to an agenda item. If a member of the public wants to  
37 comment on an agenda item they can do so during the discussion of that item.
- 38 3. Comments should be 3 minutes or less.
- 39 4. You are required to state your real name and town of residence.
- 40 5. Sharing comments, announcements and concerns are encouraged rather than asking  
41 questions. Public Comment is not a time for discussion. If you have specific questions it is best  
42 to call the Town Manager to get a full explanation and accurate information.
- 43 6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda item at a  
44 future meeting.

45 \_\_\_\_\_  
46 Kelly Carroll: The February Riverwalk will be February 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am beginning at People’s  
47 Park. The candidates for the Select Board and School Board have been invited and will answer  
48 any questions at the Q&A held at the VFW at the end of the walk. Also, the monthly CPARB  
49 meeting will be February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Facility at 6:00pm.

50 Jack Rossiter-Munley: Stated how successful the Community Café is on Saturdays 1:30pm-  
51 3:00pm at 121 Depot Street and shared a feel good story about sharing that took place this past  
52 week. He added that 40% of the people in the country will have 1 year of their life when they  
53 make less money that the federal poverty amount. Also, he is running for the Select Board.

54 Mary Ellen Munley: Bennington Cares is a 2-month old citizen organized group to see what they  
55 can do to work with the schools to help with youth mental health services. We have attended a  
56 school board meeting, are working with the school leaders on after school programs, sent out  
57 fliers to the 70 teachers/employees at Bennington Elementary, developed a relationship with  
58 Bennington Aces including transportation for students to be able to participate in Bennington  
59 Aces. The next meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at the Union Meeting House on 108 School  
60 Street.

61 Donald Washum: Spoke to the mental health and substance abuse issues in the schools and  
62 feels that there could be some things put in place so that resorting to calling the police isn’t  
63 necessary. Bennington needs to have more emphasis on the treatment of mental health,  
64 substance abuse, and a warming shelter for the homeless. “We deserve change.”

65 Debbie Matte: Is concerned about the Senior Center being “stuck under the Y” and being told  
66 that we can’t have certain programs at the Senior Center because we’re competing with the Y.  
67 She encouraged people to get out and vote and to vote against the budget.

68 Nancy White: Encouraged people to get out and vote and to vote against the budget that has  
69 an 8.4% increase. Cuts could have been made but the Select Board chose to not make them. If  
70 the budget passes the taxpayers will be subsidizing the Benn Hi for 30 years and Jon Hale is  
71 buying 70% of it.

72 Asher Edelson: There is a lot of interest in repairing the sidewalks and would like the priority list  
73 for that happening. Mr. Hurd will provide Mr. Edelson with the list and it is also on the website  
74 for anyone to see.

## 75 **5. THREE ROUNDABOUTS - LOCAL CONCERNS MEETING**

76 Nicole Rogers from VHB Engineering Consultants did the following presentation:

- 77 • There are 2 Roundabout Projects - NH-019-1(30) at US Route 7 at VT Route 7A and STP  
78 0137(20) Northside Drive and VT Route 7A/Orchard Road/Hicks Road.
- 79 • VSPS2 is a mechanism to identify, prioritize, and select state transportation capital  
80 improvement projects on the federal aid system.
- 81 • The VPSP2’s Vision: Develop a performance-based, data driven project selection &  
82 prioritization framework that maximizes the “transportation value” delivered to  
83 Vermont taxpayers. This will be done through:
  - 84 ✓ Providing a defined, consistent, and transparent process for selecting and  
85 prioritizing the projects that ultimately make up VTrans’ Capital Program.
  - 86 ✓ Providing a mechanism for input from the Regional Plan Commission’s (RPC’s), or  
87 BCRC for Bennington, and communities in the selection and prioritization of  
88 transportation projects.
  - 89 ✓ Utilizing criteria that delineate the “transportation value” that potential and  
90 planned VTrans’ projects will provide to the statewide transportation network.
- 91 • These are the areas of criteria with their weighted percentage:
  - 92 ✓ Safety - 20%; Asset Condition - 20%; Mobility and Connectivity - 15%; Economic  
93 Access - 10%; Resiliency - 10%; Regional - 10%; Environment - 10%; and Health  
94 Access - 5%.
- 95 • Obtain documented support for the advancement of the project as follows:
  - 96 ✓ TAC identifies project as regional priority for VPSP2.
  - 97 ✓ Scoring project based on process to date.
  - 98 ✓ Collaborative refinements to fill gaps.
  - 99 ✓ Standardized reporting to VTrans to document process and refinement.
  - 100 ✓ Project prioritization and advancement to design.

- 101 • The network connectivity of the 3 roundabouts involve all traffic funneling through on  
102 their way to Bennington with a regional connector, 4 schools in the area,  
103 commercial/industrial corridor, and 4 multimodal pathways.
- 104 • There have been studies done on the intersections since 2002 with the most recent  
105 done in 2018 with roundabouts recommended.
- 106 • Existing condition observations and 2012-2016 Crash Report:
  - 107 ✓ US 7 at Kocher Drive - Inefficient intersections resulting in delay; Represents  
108 important connection to multimodal path network; and Overbuilt intersections  
109 resulting in poor balance of modes and an unwelcoming gateway to  
110 Bennington. 56 crashes and 14 injuries.
  - 111 ✓ Northside Drive (Benmont Avenue) at US 7A - Inefficient intersections resulting  
112 in delay; Represents important connection to multimodal path network; and  
113 Overbuilt intersections resulting in poor balance of modes and an unwelcoming  
114 gateway to Bennington. 20 crashes and 2 injuries.
  - 115 ✓ US7A at Hicks Avenue/Orchard Road - Represents important connection to  
116 multimodal part network; Poorly defined curb radii resulting in vulnerability for  
117 pedestrians; and Inefficient intersections resulting in delay. 59 crashes and 10  
118 injuries between mile markers .200 and .500.
- 119 • Intersections are dangerous, inefficient, and unaesthetically appealing.

120 *Board comments/questions answered by Ms. Rogers:*

121 Mr. Corey: Will there be light signals for pedestrians? *The specific designs haven't been "flushed*  
122 *out yet" but there would be some kind of accommodations for pedestrians.*

123 Mr. Haley: What kind of traffic management will there be during construction? *A traffic*  
124 *management plan will be developed but I don't know what that is at this time.*

125 Ms. Conner: Will these be round roundabouts and not peanut shaped like the one at  
126 Bennington College? *Yes, they will be round, and more recent studies will tell us if they will be*  
127 *single or multi laned.*

128 Ms. Conner: The two by CVS and McDonald's are close together. Is that an issue? *There may be*  
129 *some realignment and they would probably be single laned so they would be smaller because*  
130 *traffic is not as heavy at them. Also, their proximity to each other would have a calming effect*  
131 *on traffic.*

132 Ms. Conner: Will there be more current crash information which may be lower because of  
133 COVID? *We will get more current information realizing that the numbers may be lower and that*  
134 *there have been traffic light improvements, as well.*

135 Ms. Perrin: How will this affect the disruption of businesses - some of which are privately  
136 owned that depend on this income - during construction? *This is something that will be in our*  
137 *report.*

138 Mr. Lee-Clark: Some of the “engineer speak” should be changed so that non-engineer people  
139 have a better understanding of what is being said. People don’t know what “mode users” and  
140 “multimodal connections” mean. Also, we need more safety on the Rail Trail crossing and the  
141 environmental stewardship should be stressed as part of correcting the inefficiencies.  
142 *Absolutely on all counts.*

143 *Public comments/questions:*

144 Debbie Matte: When did the crashes occur? *2012-2016.*

145 Mr. Hurd: What timeline are we looking at? *We will do the refinement process and give that to*  
146 *VTrans who will give you the project timeline.*

147 Shirley Adams: Is this one project with 3 pieces or 3 separate projects where one may go  
148 forward and the other 2 would not? *There are 2 Roundabout Projects - NH-019-1(30) at US*  
149 *Route 7 at VT Route 7A and STP 0137(20) Northside Drive and VT Route 7A/Orchard Road/Hicks*  
150 *Road.*

151 Ms. Rogers continued her presentation:

- 152 • Next Steps:
  - 153 ✓ We will reword the Project Refinements as suggested by Mr. Lee-Clark.
  - 154 ✓ Conduct detailed traffic analyses to determine appropriate alternatives (single  
155 lane vs. multilane roundabout) - March 2023
  - 156 ✓ Provide updated feasibility analysis (high level impacts and conceptual cost  
157 estimate) - March 2023
  - 158 ✓ Come back - hopefully with VTrans to give project timeline and estimated cost -  
159 to present basic alternatives and their associated risks to  
160 schedule/development. Confirm Preferred Alternative and endorsement from  
161 Select Board - April 2023
  - 162 ✓ Finalize Refinement Report to accompany previously submitted project scoring
  - 163 ✓ Project prioritization and advancement to design

164 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded that the Select Board agrees in***  
165 ***concept with the Purpose and Need Project Statement as follows and look forward to its new***  
166 ***iteration:***

167 ***“The Purpose of the Project is to develop transportation system improvements that***  
168 ***foster a welcoming gateway which safely and efficiently serves all mode users, while***  
169 ***enhancing important multimodal connections.”***

170 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

171 **6. SUNRISE FAMILIES AT THE CENTER PRESENTATION**

172 Katrina Hasting, Program Coordinator at Sunrise Resource Center did the following  
173 presentation:

- 174 ➤ Families at the Center bring together navigators and local families with services for a  
175 goal of families to promote their well-being and increase their social capital.
- 176 ➤ The definition of Social Capital is ties to make it possible for people and groups of  
177 people to share resources, develop social trust, and increase productivity in the  
178 community.
- 179 ➤ Bonding Social Capital - within families, friends, neighbors, and groups in the  
180 community.
- 181 ➤ Bridging Social Capital - when different social classes and socio-economic groups bridge  
182 together.
- 183 ➤ Linking Social Capital - relationships with leaders and public officials.
- 184 ➤ Those with higher social capital are happier, healthier, and find better jobs.
- 185 ➤ Families at the Center started in September 2022 with 12 navigators, 2 CIS social  
186 workers, early intervention, SVSU engagement, Headstart, Vermont Center for  
187 Independent Living, Homeless Center, and the WIC Department.
- 188 ➤ We have 17 participating families with a goal of serving 20 families/year for the 3 years  
189 of this pilot program.
- 190 ➤ The Select Board gave us some ARPA funding, the Vermont Community Foundation has  
191 given us funding, we are required to get matching funds to run the 3-year pilot program,  
192 and we're always seeking additional funding.
- 193 ➤ The families come in with whatever their issues are and we direct them to where than  
194 can get the help and guidance that they need.
- 195 ➤ The hope is that they will commit to the program for a year, they're compensated  
196 \$25/hour stipend if they complete a meeting survey, meals are provided as is childcare  
197 if needed.
- 198 ➤ We meet quarterly at the State level and are working hard to create change for Vermont  
199 families that are using support services within the State.

200 *Board comments/questions answered by Ms. Hastings:*

201 Mr. Lee-Clark: Have you contacted the Greater Bennington Community Services yet? If not,  
202 then I recommend contacting Natalie there. *They are not part of the Families at the Center but I*  
203 *will reach out to them.*

204 Mr. Lee-Clark: Encourages reaching out to credit unions to establish credit. *Thank you.*

205 Ms. Jenkins: Loves the list of future survey questions that shows the breadth of how you're  
206 looking for resources.

207 Ms. Conner: Can families that are just joining able to benefit from the earlier meetings? *Yes,*  
208 *there is an onboarding process and the families that have been there will bring the new ones up*  
209 *to speed, plus, we may repeat some of the sessions that were done earlier.*

210 *Public comments/questions answered by Ms. Hastings:*

211 Mary Ellen Munley: What is the budget for the Families at the Center and how much of that is  
212 paid by the taxpayers? *The Select Board gave \$5,000 of ARPA funding with funding coming from*  
213 *other sources that I don't know the amount of now. I can, however, find out and will send that*  
214 *to the Board along with the entire presentation.*

215 Mary Ellen Munley: Are the salaries of the navigators in-kind? Yes.

216 Nancy White: Who is getting the \$25/hour? *The participating families for their time at the*  
217 *meetings. We started out meeting once/month and now we are meeting twice/month so they*  
218 *are getting \$50/month. Families that are getting all of the support services are still below the*  
219 *poverty level so we are offering incentives for them to come such as the stipends, meals, and*  
220 *childcare.*

## 221 **7. POLICY - NON-PROFITS AND THE BALLOT**

222 Ms. Jenkins stated that we are reviewing this policy because the Town Manager has  
223 spent time reaching out to those agencies that have been on the ballot the year before but  
224 haven't supplied the funding request documents to the Town by the due date.

225 Mr. Hurd added that specific dates have been stricken from the Policy so it doesn't need  
226 to be revised every year. It is the intent of staff to make what is requested as clear as possible  
227 when it goes out to the agencies. The cover letter and policy are sent out to the agencies at the  
228 end of October giving them 2 months to respond.

229 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to make the changes identified in the***  
230 ***Cover Letter and Policy as follows, and to approve as rewritten:***

231 ***Cover Letter - At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, Add, "If submitted materials require***  
232 ***revision, the changes must be submitted prior to the deadline for the request to be included***  
233 ***on the ballot."***

234 ***Cover Letter - 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, Change "invited" to "strongly encouraged"***

235 ***Policy - 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 2, Delete "2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)"***

236 ***Policy - 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 4, Delete "Monday, December 5, 2022"***

237 ***Policy - 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 4, Add "6 weeks (42 days) prior to the statutory deadline***  
238 ***for articles to be petitioned."***

239 ***Policy - 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 6, Add "Those failing to meet the deadline must petition."***

240 ***Policy - 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 7, Change "invited" to "strongly encouraged"***

241 ***Policy - 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 2, Delete "2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)"***

- 242 ***Policy - 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 3, Delete “Monday, December 5, 2022”***
- 243 ***Policy - 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 2, Change “following” to “listed below”***
- 244 ***Policy - 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 4, Add “the first Monday in December”***
- 245 ***Policy - 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 4, Change “invited” to “strongly encouraged”***
- 246 ***Policy - 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Line 1, Change “The documents requested are:” to “The***
- 247 ***required documents are”***

248 Nancy White: Will the agencies clearly understand that if they don’t have their documents in by  
 249 the deadline that they will be off the ballot unless they petition? *Yes. That is the intent of the*  
 250 *changes.*

251 Nancy White: This is the first year they weren’t at the budget meetings. Were they invited? *The*  
 252 *ones in the budget come to the budget meetings and the ones on the ballot come to the Town*  
 253 *Meeting.*

254 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

255 **8. TIF DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT**

256 Mr. Monks stated that we submit a report to the Vermont Economic Progress Council  
 257 (VEPC) every year. Bennington has not bonded for any improvements yet, no tax increment has  
 258 been retained, and the TIF District taxable values have increased modestly by about \$129,000.  
 259 Grand List values as of April 2021 must be used in the FY2022 TIF Report. The report will be  
 260 sent to VEPC once the Select Board acknowledges receipt of the report.

261 ***Jim Carroll moved and Sarah Perrin seconded to acknowledge receipt of the FY2022 TIF***  
 262 ***Report. The motion carried unanimously.***

263 **9. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION**

264 Mr. Haley reiterated that the next CPARB meeting will be February 16, 2023 at the Fire  
 265 Facility at 6:00pm.

266 **10. MANAGER’S REPORT**

267 Mr. Hurd did the following report:

268 **BBC Street Closings - Mayfest and Harvest Fest -**

269 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to close Main Street from the Four***  
 270 ***Corners east to Valentine Street, School Street from Main to Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street***  
 271 ***from North to School Street and Silver Street from Main to Union Street from 6:00am until***  
 272 ***6:00pm on May 27, 2023 for Mayfest and on October 14, 2023 for Harvest Fest. The motion***  
 273 ***carried unanimously.***

274 Bond Loan Agreement Burgess Road Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Project -

275 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Bond Loan Agreement***  
276 ***Burgess Road Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Project and adopt the Resolution and Certificate***  
277 ***without reading for reimbursement of engineering expenses in the amount of \$55,380.00.***  
278 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

279 Armory/Bowen Road Trade - We have mutually agreed to accept the purchase price of  
280 \$230,000 for the lands on Bowen Road on or about March 15, 2023. This money will be  
281 reserved and held to be returned to the National Guard when all relevant paperwork is  
282 completed for the Armory to be transferred to the Town. We have re-noticed the sale of the  
283 land and will occupy the Armory in 2025.

284 Contract 3 Lead Service Line Replacement Project - Bids have been opened, reviewed by MSK  
285 and we are preparing to issue the Notice of Intent to Award to Casella Construction at a bid  
286 price of \$1,251,820.50 which will be reimbursed. Work is to start in March 2023, weather  
287 permitting.

288 Food Truck Event - Is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> Battle Days weekend. Street closures will  
289 probably be in the next Manager's Report.

290 Benmont Avenue/County Street Sewer Line Replacement - This project is essentially finished  
291 until Spring when some lead service lines may need to be replaced and the Town hopes to  
292 replace the County Street sidewalks and pave where needed.

293 Rail Cars - Have moved and the Town has requested and is awaiting the waybill. When received  
294 we will get together with counsel. We expect this to be an ongoing problem.

## 295 **11. UPCOMING AGENDA**

296 February 27, 2023 - Bennington Police Department Report

297 February 27, 2023 - Malone Solar Project

298 February 27, 2023 - Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance Agreement Adoption

## 299 **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

300 Ms. Perrin: Happy Valentine's Day.

301 Ms. Jenkins: The 2022 Annual Reports are out and on the website. Evan Yadeski was  
302 inadvertently left off from the Planning Commission list of members but he is a new, active  
303 member.

304 ***At 7:47pm, Jim Carroll moved and Sarah Perrin seconded the adjournment of the***  
305 ***meeting. The motion carried unanimously.***

306

307

308

309 Respectfully submitted,

310 Nancy H. Lively

311 Secretary

312

# TOWN OF BENNINGTON

## 2023 LICENSE APPLICATIONS

### **2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Renewals**

1. Corner Market
2. Cumberland Farms
3. CVS
4. Jolley #117
5. Jolley #145
6. Speedy Mart
7. Tennybrook
8. Willy's Variety Store
9. Yott's Market

### **2023 Tobacco License Renewals**

1. Corner Market
2. Cumberland Farms
3. Jolley #117
4. Jolley #145
5. Speedy Mart
6. Tennybrook
7. Willy's Variety Store
8. Yott's Market

### **2023 Tobacco Substitute Renewals**

1. Corner Market
2. Cumberland Farms
3. Jolley #117
4. Jolley #145
5. Speedy Mart
6. Tennybrook
7. Yott's Market

**The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above  
2023 License Applications  
Dated: February 27, 2023**

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Jeannette Jenkins, Chair

**MANAGER'S REPORT**  
**February 27, 2023**

**ACTION**

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) amendment As you may know the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) is proposing to construct a household hazardous waste collection facility at the Bennington Transfer Station. This requires towns to amend the SWIP in each member town. See attachment from BCSWA's Program Manager, Scott Grimm-Lyon

Action requested Motion to amend the SWIP as proposed.

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Truck Festival The Chief and LT. have approved the event scheduled for Saturday August 12, 2023 from 11am until 7 pm. The organizers are requesting that School Street be closed from Main to Pleasant Street and Pleasant Street from North to School Street from 8 am until 8 pm on that day.

Action requested Motion to close the streets designated for the hours designated above on August 12, 2023.

**INFORMATIONAL**

Town Meeting ballots Ballots are now available for early voting. Contact the Town Clerk's Office.

**FOLLOW UP**

The Communications Coordinator's Report is attached.

The Police Department will be reporting at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.



Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance  
210 South Street, Suite 6  
Bennington, VT 05201  
(802) 442-0713 x302

**Date:** Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

**To:** The Select Boards of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford and the Town Supervisor of Gastenbury

**Re:** Amendments to the Solid Waste Implementation Plan to include new household hazardous waste collection facility

**Summary:**

This memorandum outlines a request for the review and approval of amendments to the 2020 Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) (See Attachment 1), by the governing bodies of each of the member towns of The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA). The amendments were approved by the BCSWA Board at the Feb. 1, 2023 BCSWA public meeting, and will update the SWIP to include the use of a permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection facility that complies with state regulations. The amendments will become effective following approval of the Select Boards of the member Towns.

**Background:**

BCSWA was formed in 2015 through an interlocal contract between the Vermont towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford; and is governed by a Board of Directors made up of appointed representatives from each municipality.

On November 12, 2020, the BCSWA member towns adopted a Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) to assist in the management and reduction of waste in the region, and to ensure local compliance with the 2019 Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Materials Management Plan (MMP). BCSWA

Section H1 of the MMP outlines a requirement that local solid waste management entities provide access for the safe disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), by either holding collection events or by providing access to a permanent collection facility. Since 2015, BCSWA has hosted a series of HHW collection events to meet this requirement. However, due to rising costs related to hosting HHW collection events, the BCSWA Board has determined that the development and operation of a permanent HHW collection facility will offer improved opportunities for residents to dispose of waste, at a lower cost.

In 2021 BCSWA was awarded a Materials Management Infrastructure Grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation for the establishment of a facility for the collection and storage of HHW waste. Using these funds along with matching funding from our member towns, BCSWA has begun development of a facility at the Bennington transfer station located at 802 Houghton Lane, Bennington VT 05201; with an expected opening date in June of 2023.

**Request for municipal review and approval:**

In order to receive the required permits from the state of Vermont to open and operate the facility the BCSWA SWIP will need to be amended to reflect this change in operations.

In accordance with Article IX of the SWIP; the attached amendments were unanimously approved by the BCSWA Board at the Feb. 1, 2023 BCSWA public meeting (See Attachment 2). The BCSWA Board reviewed the proposed amendments and opened the hearing for public comment. No members of the public participated.

Following that vote, BCSWA requests that your municipality place the approval of these amendments onto the agenda of an upcoming select board meeting, and that the results of a vote related to these amendments are shared with us prior to April 15, 2023.

The amendments will become effective upon approval of the Select Boards of all of the member Towns.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions, need any additional information, or if you would like me to attend any events where this item is on the meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Grimm-Lyon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being the most prominent.

Scott Grimm-Lyon, AICP  
Program Manager  
Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance  
201 South St., Suite 6  
Bennington, VT 05201

**ATTACHMENT 1: Proposed 2023 SWIP Amendment**

Existing SWIP (below is the existing language in the sections approved for amendment, to see the existing SWIP in it’s entirety you may visit the BCSWA website at <https://bcswa.org/swip>):

**Existing Facilities and Services**

**Section 1 Solid Waste Facilities (pp.14)**

Appendix II lists facilities in the BCSWA area (Map 2). Appendix II.A. lists transfer stations and Appendix II.B. lists closed landfills that will require recertification by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources every five years. The Pownal, Rupert, Searsburg, Shaftsbury and Stamford stations are operated by those towns, and each station serves the residents of the respective towns. The Northshire (Dorset, VT) and Sunderland stations are operated by Casella and may be used by residents of Arlington, Dorset, Manchester, Sandgate, and Sunderland through the Integrated Solid Waste Applications Program (ISWAP). The Bennington Transfer Station, also operated by Casella, is used by residents of Bennington and Woodford. The Town of Rupert does not have a transfer station.

**HHW & CEG\* Hazardous Waste**

**Section H1 (pp29):**

The Alliance will hire a qualified HHW disposal company and hold three four-hour events within the Alliance area. This will include outreach and advertising. One event will serve the southern portion of the area, and a second the northern portion with one of those in the spring and one in the fall. We will hold a third event specifically for the towns of Searsburg and Stamford which are both more than 20 miles from either those event sites. These activities will be reported in ReTRAC and the annual SWIP reports.

The Alliance will work to develop a permanent facility for residents, businesses, and institutions. If and when that becomes operational, events will cease to occur.

**Transfer stations**

**Appendix II A (pp 48)**

Appendix II.A.. Transfer stations (see Map 2).		
Facility	Hours	Services Offered
Bennington Town Recycling Area (BN082)	Hours not specified	Asphalt, brick, and concrete recycling
Casella Waste Management Transfer Station (BN081)	M, W, F 8 A to 3P T, TH 8A to 3P	MSW, recyclables, E-Waste, mercury containing bulbs, appliances, clean wood, scrap metal, furniture and bulky waste, C&D, tires, lead-acid batteries, and yard waste

Appendix II.A.. Transfer stations (see Map 2).		
Facility	Hours	Services Offered
Casella (formerly TAM) Organics Compost Facility (Earthlife) (BN070)	Not open to public	Organics facility for collection of food scraps and composting

**ATTACHMENT 2: 2023 SWIP Amendments approved by BCSWA Board on Feb. 1, 2023**

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**Existing Facilities and Services****Section 1 Solid Waste Facilities (pp.14)**

Appendix II lists facilities in the BCSWA area (Map 2). Appendix II.A. lists transfer stations and Appendix II.B. lists closed landfills that will require recertification by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources every five years. The Pownal, Rupert, Searsburg, Shaftsbury and Stamford stations are operated by those towns, and each station serves the residents of the respective towns. The Northshire (Dorset, VT) and Sunderland stations are operated by Casella and may be used by residents of Arlington, Dorset, Manchester, Sandgate, and Sunderland through the Integrated Solid Waste Applications Program (ISWAP). The Bennington Transfer Station, also operated by Casella, is used by residents of Bennington and Woodford. The HHW Depot collocated at the Bennington Transfer station will be operated by the Alliance and open to all residents, schools and VSQG's located in the Alliance. The Town of Rupert does not have a transfer station.

**HHW & VSQG\* Hazardous Waste****Section H1 (pp29):**

The Alliance previously held three HHW collection events annually, in northern, central, and southeastern areas of the Alliance. In 2022 and 2023, The Alliance received funding from Vermont ANR to develop a semi-permanent, seasonal HHW Facility ("HHW Depot") to be located at the Bennington Transfer Station, 802 Houghton Ln. Bennington VT 05201 (see Appendix II A on page 48). It is anticipated that the HHW Depot will be open the summer of 2023. The proposed facility will meet all Vermont Solid Waste Facility certification requirements and meet the definition of a semi-permanent HHW collection facility as defined within Vermont's Materials Management Plan. All required HHW collection reporting will be completed in ReTRAC.

The facility will be open seasonally from May through October with a minimum of 18 weeks of operation. The facility will be open to all Alliance member town residents, schools, and Very Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste (VSQG). During that time, the facility will be open at least one day each week at a minimum of 4 hours per day. Residents using the facility may be charged a flat user fee (to be applied at the direction of the Board of Directors). Schools and VSQGs will be charged pertinent disposal fees and invoiced by the Alliance accordingly. Appointments will be required for residents to use the facility during open hours; Schools and VSQGs will be required to register materials to be dropped off in advance and schedule a special appointment.

A press release and promotional flyers will be distributed prior to opening each year to promote the facility. Social media outreach and newspaper ads will also promote the facility. The Alliance's HHW webpage will be modified to promote the new HHW Depot, and explain details related to acceptable materials, charges, etc. A website-based registration form and scheduling tool will be developed for residents, schools and VSQGs to complete.

**Transfer stations**  
**Appendix II A (pp 48)**

Appendix II.A.. Transfer stations (see Map 2).		
Facility	Hours	Services Offered
Bennington Town Recycling Area (BN082)	Seasonally from May through October, open 1 day/week. Specific days/hours TBD	Household hazardous waste, brick, and concrete recycling
Casella Waste Management Transfer Station (BN081)	M, W, F 8 A to 3P T, TH 8A to 3P	MSW, recyclables, E-Waste, mercury containing bulbs, appliances, clean wood, scrap metal, furniture and bulky waste, C&D, tires, lead-acid batteries, and yard waste, asphalt
Casella (formerly TAM) Organics Compost Facility (Earthlife) (BN070)	Not open to public	Organics facility for collection of food scraps and composting

\*Note Very Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste (VSQG) is being used to replace the previous terminology of Conditionally Exempt Generator of Hazardous Waste (CEGs) as per 2020 EPA guidelines.

\*\*Page numbers may be modified after amendments have been applied

## Stuart Hurd

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**From:** Bennington Food Truck Festival <bennfoodtruckfest@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 5:10 PM  
**To:** Stuart Hurd  
**Cc:** Dan Monks  
**Subject:** 5th Annual Downtown Bennington Food Truck Festival-2023-Requesting Approval

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Stuart,

Sarah Perrin and I are excited to begin organizing our 5th annual food truck event to be held downtown on Saturday, 8/12/23 from 11 am- 7pm.

Based on the success in 2018, 2019 and 2021, 2022 we are asking once again for permission to close School street (from Main to Pleasant) that day, additionally we'd like to close Pleasant from School St. to North St (Saturday 8/12/23) from 8:00 am-8:00 pm. This will enable us to provide ample space for our food and craft vendors.

We are seeking the town's approval as soon as possible to have the use of these streets that day so we can start reaching out to vendors and begin promoting the event.

This is also Battle Day Weekend and we are working every year to make it more exciting as we lead up to the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington in 2027.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sarah Perrin and Betsy Greenawalt  
Bennington Food Truck Festival Co-chairs

*Need EPH  
sign off.*



# Town of Bennington

Communications Coordinator Report — February 27, 2023

## Spring Already?

Let's hope not! While the sugaring season has already begun, we would prefer that mother nature not get too far ahead of herself so we won't risk fooling trees into budding and flowering too early.

## Elections, Town Meeting, and Bond Votes

The slate of candidates on the ballot for the Select Board and school boards have now been set and ballots are available for early voting as we speak. A ballot will not be mailed to you unless you request one. You can request a ballot by contacting the town clerk to have one mailed to you. Simply go to the Town website and under Government select "Town Clerk." Sample ballots are also available there as well as instructions on where to vote.

Town meeting is a time honored tradition in Vermont and just six other states. Town meeting this year is on March 6, at 7 pm and will be held at the multi-purpose room on the third floor of the Fire Department on River Street. Park in the lot off Lincoln Street and enter through the back. The site is handicap accessible and there will be sign language interpreters present.

Voting day is always the day after, on March 7. Voting will be open from 7 am to 7 pm at the Fire Department on River Street on the first floor.

Two Bond votes for improving our water system are on the ballot. Two areas of our town suffer from low water pressure during high usage events; the central downtown area around Gage Street and the south end area around Jefferson Heights and Crescent Boulevard. Improving those water lines are a requirement of our water permit with the state, and we have been slowly plugging away at the project to the tune of \$400,000 per year. The total cost of these needed infrastructure improvements is \$5.8 million and the town is asking residents to approve bonds for that purpose. Making these improvements to the water system are a requirement of the town by the

State. We have no choice about doing it, but HOW we do it can have a big impact on how much we pay both in the short term and long run.

The cost to our town budget is less per year if we do the work by using a bond. If approved by voters, the bond would be funded through a "Drinking Water State Revolving Funding" loan which is a 30 year repayment plan with only 2% interest. The result is an annual combined payment of just \$259,000 per year vs. the current \$400,000 a year we are currently paying to do the work piecemeal. Other advantages include having the work done quickly and avoiding future increases in project costs that are inevitable when doing the work slowly over time. And of course those sections of town with water pressure issues will no longer have those problems.

## Community Outreach

Work is progressing on planning for improvements at the Y woods with RJ Joly, director of Public Works, Cory Creagan, county forester, and Eric Bishop, forestry teacher at Southwest Tech. A public meeting to solicit input from the community on a forest management plan for the property is planned for March 9. I've also been coordinating with local groups around Earth Day, and Green Up Day activities. Planning has also begun for a 2nd annual Bennington Trailfest. I've also met with representatives from a number of organizations including GBCS, the Turning Point, the Fire Department, SVSU, and the Bike Hub on various projects and efforts.

## Citizen Outreach and Public Record Requests:

I met with citizens seventeen times over this past month on a variety of issues, ideas, and concerns. There were two public record requests to my office.

## 250th Anniversary Planning:

Work has started on a website for the Bennington 250th Anniversary Committee. I've also begun helping with early planning for Battle Day activities for this

year. I have been chosen by the State 250th commission to be one of two representatives from Vermont to a convening of state 250th planners that is happening in Williamsburg, Virginia later this month. I will be taking advantage of that meeting to connect in person with the several regional states (NY, MA, CT, VT, and RI) with whom I have been doing collaborative work around the 250th over the past year. Very exciting to see all these efforts beginning to bear fruit!

### Website Development

A major piece of work is now complete... namely the relaunch of a newly designed unified town website that combined three town sites that had not had an overhaul since 2013. I am thankful to all the department heads and fellow staff who have spent hundreds of hours collectively updating old content and then helping move content to the new site. My thanks to the many beta testers in the community who donated many hours of their time working with me to

fine tune the navigation and whose suggestions were invaluable in making the site more user friendly. We have now been “live” for almost three weeks and there have been no major failures or problems. I continue to work on improving the site daily to keep it current and fulfil its role as a valuable information resource for the community. I welcome input and suggestions and I ask your patience for the things that still may need fixing or updating that we have missed.

### Community Based Learning (CBL) Intern

I am working with our Town Clerks Office to host an intern from the SVSU Community Based Learning program. We are pleased to have Thomas Scheetz working with us for the rest of this school year. His primary focus is digitization of Town records, and his focus currently is digitizing our cemetery map records, starting with the Chapel Road cemetery.

## Facebook POST OF THE MONTH:

This month our biggest post was about the visit of Miss United States to Meals on Wheels and the Senior Center.

Also known as Lily Donaldson, Miss United States was visiting to distribute Valentines Day cards that had been created by students from her “Arts Technically” non profit that teaches kids to create code that generates the images used on the cards.

**Boost post**

**Thank you to Miss United States who visited Meals on Wheels and the Senior...**  
 February 16, 2023 at 3:23 PM  
 ID: 2594892647328103

**Interactions**

- 283 reactions
- 19 comments
- 9 shares

**Performance**

Reach	Reactions, comments and sh...	Results
Total: <b>11,007</b>	Total: <b>311</b>	Total: <b>--</b>
This post reached more Accounts Center accounts than <b>100%</b> of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.	This post received more reactions, comments and shares than <b>100%</b> of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.	Link clicks: <b>--</b>
Reach: 11,007	Reactions: 283 Comments: 19 Shares: 9	