

**M E E T I N G   N O T I C E**

**BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD**

Monday, March 13, 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 27, 2023

B. Warrants

C. Licenses

4. Public Comment

6:05 PM - 6:20 PM

5. Casella Contract Extension

6:20 PM - 6:25 PM

6. Implementing the Town Vision

6:25 PM - 6:30 PM

7. Manager's Report

6:30 PM - 6:35 PM

8. Upcoming Agenda

6:35 PM - 6:40 PM

9. Other Business

6:40 PM - 6:50 PM

10. Executive Session

A. Contract

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 27, 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; Lt. Cam  
10 Grande-Bennington Police Department; Bill Karis; Ed Woods; Jenny Dewars-Better Bennington  
11 Corporation; Jack Rossiter-Munley; Kelly Carroll; Donald Washum; Debbie Matte; Nancy White;  
12 5 citizens; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

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

14 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

15 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

16 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

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

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

21 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

22 **A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

23 **B. WARRANTS**

24 **C. LICENSES**

25 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Consent Agenda with*  
26 *the Minutes of February 13, 2023 amended as follows.*

27 *Page 4, Line 135, Change "privately owned" to "smaller family owned and non-*  
28 *franchise businesses"*

29 Ms. Jenkins asked how long \$78,000 worth of salt lasts, and Mr. Hurd answered the cost  
30 is \$79-\$80/ton and it depends on the storms. This should get us through the rest of the winter.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

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

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

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

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Nancy White:

- Made a public service announcement by showing the Town Report and encouraging citizens to go to the Town Office and pick up their copy.
- Understands doing the sewer replacement on Benmont and County but doesn't understand what we're paying for it. *Mr. Hurd: Work done on County by town employees came out of either the Highway or Sewer Fund depending on what they were doing; Casella was hired to do the sewer line project that isn't anticipated to be more than \$1M but any lead line work came out of the lead line bucket which doesn't cost the Town anything; the Town will be doing the sidewalk replacement in the spring which was planned to be done anyway and any costs are coming out of the budget and not the reserves.*
- Is the list of water and sewer projects on the website? *Mr. Hurd: All of the town projects were posted on the website at the time they were being discussed but not sure if they are still there.*
- Encouraged the public to vote the bond down.

Bill Karis, Chair of the Bennington Energy Committee: The Energy Committee plans to table at the Town Meeting a set of resources for home weatherization to find an option that works for each individual. We will help people fill out their applications if needed.

Jenny Dewars, Executive Director of the Better Bennington Corporation: Her position will soon be split into two positions and she will become the Director of Events. This doesn't, however, mean that the number of events will be doubled - it's a shift of responsibilities. Upcoming events:

- Pop Up Downtown Saturdays - Saturdays from 11:00am-6:00pm March and April
- Mayfest and Harvest Fest - applications available at [director@betterbennington.com](mailto:director@betterbennington.com)
- Thursday Night Live - 7 Thursdays to be funded by fundraising
- Hemmings - going from 4 to 5 events
- Applying for the Better Places Grant for \$9,000 - new street banners with a Bennington theme and art from students of all ages and from everywhere. The art will be juried from which 48 will be chosen to go on the banners and the artists will be awarded 100 downtown dollars. Anyone can Adopt-A-Banner which they will receive after 2 years.

## **5. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION**

### **B. CPARB UPDATE**

Kelly Carroll reported that CPARB had a retreat on Saturday with Brian Corr where community outreach and team work were discussed at length. We also discussed how we would review cases since we're not an accountability board. Our next meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Facility at 6:00pm where we will be discussing our goals and the location for our June 24<sup>th</sup> listening session. Any questions or comments can be made on the comment section on the CPARB section of the Town website and will be responded to in a timely fashion. We will have a meeting with Mr. Spivak on how to get more information to the community.

### **A. BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (BPD) UPDATE**

Lt. Cam Grande did the following presentation:

- The police department remains very busy.
- We are working on completing the procedure sections of the Quality Control and Internal Investigation Policy with CPARB and Brian Corr. Once complete, they will be reviewed by CPARB and ultimately all members of the BPD.
- The Chief has completed a statistical summary of the 2022 internal affair investigations and complaints. There were 6 internal affairs investigations.
- We also provided information on compliments - there were 15 - the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2022. We weren't tracking them during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2022. We receive far more compliments than complaints.

- 101 ➤ We have completed the onboarding process for 2 new female patrol officers that have
- 102 started this week. They will be going for their Level 2 training and in August will be
- 103 going to the Police Academy for Level 3 to be completed in November. They will be on
- 104 the road in the community in early 2024.
- 105 ➤ We have been meeting with UCS and a nutritionist on the annual Employee Health and
- 106 Wellness services.
- 107 ➤ Our calendars are filling up with the upcoming spring and summer events.
- 108 ➤ The 2023 New Experience Camps will be July 10<sup>th</sup> through July 14<sup>th</sup> with applications
- 109 available on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the police station or on the Town's website.
- 110 ➤ Our budget has been submitted and we ask the community to vote in favor of the
- 111 Town's budget.

112 *Board comments/questions answered by Lt. Grande:*

113 Mr. Corey: Are you expecting to hire more officers? *We only have 1 more from another State at*

114 *this time, and after the 2 that have just started, we are still down 6.*

115 Mr. Carroll: Are the 2 new officers from Bennington? *One is from Bennington and the other one*

116 *is from Rensselaer County.*

117 Ms. Conner: Is it possible to notify the Select Board when there is a swearing in? *Yes, that's a*

118 *good idea.*

119 Ms. Conner: Has there been any resistance in meeting with a UCS counselor? *We were*

120 *concerned about that but there hasn't been any push back.*

121 Ms. Conner: Do we have anything here that would replicate the situation in Memphis? *We do*

122 *not.*

123 Mr. Lee-Clark: Once the Quality Control and Internal Investigation Policy is finalized, will it be on

124 the website? *Yes.*

125 Mr. Lee-Clark: Do we have any current traffic stop data? *The data for 2020 and 2021 is*

126 *complete and should be going up on the website soon. We have until August 2023 to complete*

127 *the data for 2022 and we are working through doing this in our new system.*

128 Mr. Lee-Clark: Where are we on the social worker grant? *The human trafficking position is filled*

129 *and working well but we have decided to not make that a public figure because of the work that*

130 *they do. She has put up a training PowerPoint for all officers to watch.*

131 Ms. Jenkins: Is there talk in the legislature on how to accomplish training more efficiently? *The*

132 *Academy is focused on getting Level 3 officers certified. We get new hires on staff and train*

133 *them with our certified field training officers to a Level 2 officer. They are then ready for the*

134 *Level 3 training at the Academy.*

Ms. Perrin: How do you see community help with recruitment/retention, or just stay out of the way? *We encourage anyone interested in becoming a police officer to do their research to understand what it takes to become a Bennington Police Officer. We have officers that want to start recruitment drives and we will always answer any questions.*

*Public comments/questions answered by Lt. Grande:*

Ed Woods-Trustee of the Village of North Bennington: Thanked the BPD Chief and Mr. Hurd for their work on the agreement that allowed Bennington residents the additional police security they voted on 4 years ago.

Donald Washum: Verified the 6 internal affairs investigations and that there were law suits out there. *Yes, there were 6 internal affairs investigations and I cannot comment on any law suits. There is a difference between a complaint and a civil suit.*

Jack Rossiter-Munley: Do you know how the 6 internal affairs investigations compares with other police departments in Vermont, or elsewhere? *I don't know about all agencies but one of the largest ones in Vermont only had 18.*

Debbie Matte: Because of the police calls she hears on her scanner, should police officers have training on how to handle mental health issues? *The Vermont Criminal Justice Council provides a limited training to Level 2 and 3 on mental health. In 2022, all members of the BPD received an additional 8-16 hours of training for mental health first responders.*

## **6. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hurd did the following report:

***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Letter of Support for the Better Bennington Corporation's application for the Better Places Grant to fund the 2023 Street Banner Project. The motion carried unanimously.***

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Truck Festival -**

***Jim Carroll moved and Tom Haley seconded to close School Street from Main to Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street from North to School Street from 8:00am until 8:00pm on August 12, 2023 for the Annual Food Truck Festival. The motion carried with Sarah Perrin abstaining.***

**Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) Amendment -**

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) is proposing to use State funding to construct a household hazardous waste collection facility at the Bennington Transfer Station. This requires the 13 towns that make up the BCSWA to amend the SWIP in each member town.

***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Sarah Perrin seconded to approve the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance Solid Waste Implementation Plan amendment as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **7. UPCOMING AGENDA**

March 27, 2023 - Bennington Sports Foundation

March 27, 2023 - Chelsea Solar Project (postponed as requested)

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Corey: Absentee ballots are available. Be sure to vote.

Mr. Haley: Early ballots are available. Be sure to vote.

Mr. Carroll: Congratulations to all involved with the MAUHS Wrestling Team for their win making it an unprecedented 34 consecutive years as State Champions.

Ms. Conner: Come to Town Meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and vote on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Polls are open 7:00am-7:00pm.

Ms. Perrin: Vote early and often so she can be re-elected!

Mr. Lee-Clark: In addition to being sure to vote, the Community Market will open on March 9<sup>th</sup> following the ribbon cutting at 11:00am.

***At 6:58pm, Jim Carroll moved and Sarah Perrin seconded the adjournment of the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy H. Lively

Secretary

# **TOWN OF BENNINGTON**

## **2023 LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

### **2023 1<sup>st</sup> Class Renewals**

1. Avocado Pit
2. Ramuntos
3. Publyk House, The

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

1. Price Chopper #171

### **2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Renewals**

1. Ramuntos
2. Publyk House, The

### **2023 Tobacco & Tobacco Substitute**

1. Stewarts Shops #195

**The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above  
2023 License Applications  
Dated: March 13, 2023**

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Jeannette Jenkins, Chair

cc: Town Clerks Office



## MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board

From: Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager



Re: Casella Contract extension

Date: March 3, 2023

The contract with Casella to operate the Transfer Station and the Recycling Depot has expired. The new contract term officially began January 1, 2023, and will run through December 31, 2026. The extension includes new pricing which will take effect May 1, 2023. It now includes an annual increase at the rate of inflation in order to avoid stagnate pricing that then dramatic jumps in a given year. It took a short while to agree on the inflation rate indicator and thus I present it to you now.

I seek a motion to authorize the Manager to sign the contract extension.

AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AMENDED and RESTATED  
AGREEMENT

By and between the Town of Bennington and  
Casella Waste Management, Inc.

CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC., a Vermont Corporation with its principal place of business in the City of Rutland, Vermont (hereinafter "CASELLA") and the TOWN OF BENNINGTON, a Vermont municipality (hereinafter "TOWN") hereby amend the Municipal Waste Management Amended and Restated Agreement ("Agreement") as follows, effective October 1, 2022:

**RECITALS**

Whereas the parties entered into a Municipal Waste Management Agreement on January 6, 1993, amended on August 30, 1995, and amended and restated on October 10, 2002, and the parties wish to extend the term of the Agreement through December 31, 2026 and amend the recycling pricing structure, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Term of the Agreement shall be extended through December 31, 2026.
2. Effective January 1, 2023, pricing for recycling shall be as provided on Schedule A hereto.
3. Effective May 1, 2023, tip fee pricing shall be as provided on Schedule B.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Casella Waste Management, Inc.:

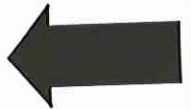
Town of Bennington:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



here

## EXHIBIT A

1. **Paper and cardboard** will be priced based on the PPI Index (PPI NE HY #11) and a \$40/Ton Transportation and Processing charge shall apply. Allocation: 60/40 between the Town and Contractor, respectively.
2. **Co-mingled recyclables** will be priced as follows:

### Single Stream Recycling Formula

**Average Commodity Revenue (ACR)** - means the *current market value* for each recyclable commodity (including residue tons) multiplied by the product mix percentage of each recyclable commodity tons from that facility for the residential line of business over the same month, less any direct costs of related to transportation, storage, or marketing of product. In addition, if there is a material change in the ACR during any thirty-day period, Contractor reserves the right to make an immediate adjustment to the ACR to take effect upon thirty (30) days notice.

**Rebate (Charge)** - means the percentage of value paid to the Town when the ACR is greater than the Threshold. When the Rebate is negative, each dollar below the ACR will be charged to the Town.

*Rebate Split = 50% to Town when ACR is above Threshold*

**Threshold= \$175/ton** means the base rate required to process Recyclable Materials (including increases in labor expenses and to cover capital investments).

The below referenced pricing for contamination would apply:

Threshold for material received above 20% contamination will be charged to Town at market rate.

### Example (current) Pricing Scenario

| Based on Today's Market  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| ACR = \$15.73/ton  | Threshold= \$175/ton |
| Pricing Formula: $\$15.73 - \$175 = \$159.27/\text{ton}$   |                      |
| Rebate/Charge: Rebate of 50% when ACR is <i>over</i> Threshold (to Town) and Charge (to Town) dollar for dollar when ACR is below the Threshold. |                      |
| Net Charge to Town is \$159.27 /ton ( $\$159.27 \times 100\%$ )/ton  |                      |

Annual Increase: All pricing (except ACR, which is market based as provided above) will be increased annually on the anniversary of each year of the Term by a percentage equal to the year-over-year percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in U.S. City Average (CPI-U). Consumer Price Index increases will be based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics as reported for the most recent month prior to the date of pricing increase/reset using the unadjusted percentage change for the most recent month as compared to the same month for the prior year. Reference is made to <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t02.htm>.

## Exhibit B

Effective 5/1/2023

# Bennington Transfer Station Pricing

1 (802) 447-8737

Monday - Friday: 8AM-4PM

Saturday: 8AM-12PM

| Solid Waste:        | Per Item Charges  | Pricing   |                |
|---------------------|---|-----------|----------------|
|                     |   |           |                |
|                     | 13 Gallon Kitchen Bag   | \$ 3.25   | Each           |
|                     | 30 Gallon Bag   | \$ 4.25   | Each           |
|                     | 39 Gallon Bag   | \$ 5.25   | Each           |
|                     | 55 Gallon Bag/Barrel  | \$ 8.00   | Each           |
|                     | <b>Per Ton Charges</b>  |           |                |
|                     | Solid Waste (MSW) and Construction & Demolition Debris  | \$ 145.00 | Per Ton        |
|                     | Commercial Hauler Brush and Yard Waste  | \$ 123.00 | Per Ton        |
|                     | Residential Brush and Yard Waste  | No Charge |                |
|                     | Minimum Scale Weight  | \$ 15.00  | Each           |
| Other Wastes:       | Bulky Furniture & Mattresses/Box Springs  | \$ 20.00  | Each           |
|                     | Waste Oil Per Gallon  | \$ 0.25   | Per Quart      |
|                     | Appliances (Non-Freon Containing)   | \$ 7.75   | Each           |
|                     | Appliances (Containing Freon)   | \$ 11.00  | Each           |
|                     | Water Heaters (Up to 100 Gallons)   | \$ 11.00  | Each           |
|                     | Sleeper Sofa  | \$ 51.00  | Each           |
|                     | Loose Scrap Metal   | No Charge |                |
|                     | Food Scraps/Compost   | \$1.25    | Per Gallon     |
| Electronics:        | Electronic Waste as specified in Vermont Act 79: Computers, monitors, Printers, Computer Peripherals and Televisions from Covered Entities which are: Consumers, charities, School Districts, and small businesses that have ten or less individuals and are dropping off <u>seven or less</u> items. |           |                |
|                     | Other Banned Electronic Devices as specified in Vermont Act 79 or items from Non Covered Entites: Minimum personal electronics, telephones, answering machines, VCR players, DVD players, digital converter boxes, stero equipment, power supply cords, and electronic game consoles.                 |           |                |
|                     |   | \$ 0.58   | Per Pound      |
|                     |   | \$ 5.00   | Minimum Charge |
|                     | Flourescent Light Bulbs   | No Charge |                |
|                     | Compact Flourescent Bulbs   | No Charge |                |
| Unacceptable items: | Liquid Waste, Wet Paint, Household Cleaners/Chemicals, Paint Thinner, Anti-Freeze,Transmission Fluid, Pesticides, Auto Batteries  |           |                |

Annual Increase: Pricing will be increased annually on the anniversary of each year of the Term by a percentage equal to the year-over-year percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in U.S. City Average (CPI-U). Consumer Price Index increases will be based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics as reported for the most recent month prior to the date of pricing increase/reset using the unadjusted percentage change for the most recent month as compared to the same month for the prior year. Reference is made to <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t02.htm>.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

**March 13, 2023**

### **ACTION**

Queer Connect Pride Event Queer Connect will be holding its annual Pride Event Sunday June 25 from noon until 5 pm. The event will begin with a parade starting at Hemmings Motor News moving east along Main Street concluding at Main and School Streets. Following the parade , a bock party is planned along Pleasant from North to School Street and along School Street from Main to Pleasant Street.

Action requested Motion to close the streets as requested for the dates and times noted above.

### **INFORMATIONAL**

Contract 3 Lead Service Line Replacement Project Bids have been opened, reviewed by MSK and we are preparing to issue the Notice of Intent to Award to Casella Constructions at a bid price of \$1,251,820.50. Work will start on Elm Street soon.

Benmont Ave/ County Street Sewer Line Replacement This project is essentially finished until the Spring. Some lead service lines may need to be replaced in the Spring. The Town hopes to replace the County Street sidewalks in the project area and pave where needed.

Rail Cars The Town has requested and is awaiting the waybill. We will get together with counsel when we have that.

### **FOLLOW UP**

The Community Development and Permitting/Planning Reports are attached.



*Mgr Report*  
*3.13.23*

**Stuart Hurd**

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**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 3:08 PM  
**To:** Stuart Hurd  
**Cc:** queer connect; Grande, Camillo  
**Subject:** Queer Connect Pride Event

Mr. Hurd,

Lt. Grande and I were able to speak with Jessica, representing Queer Connect, this morning. Plans are underway for the Pride Event being held on June 25, 2023. The parade will start at Hemmings this year and travel east along Main Street. The parade will end at the intersection of School Street.

Following the parade Queer Connect will host a block party on Pleasant Street, School Street at at the Splash Pad. They have requested two BPD Officers for the event and I approve their plans. Please ask the board to approve the road closures. Thank you.

*NOON to five pm*

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

**Recreation:**

**YMCA program planning:**

The Bennington Community Center (Rec Center) pool schedule and winter programs for adults and youth are updated regularly on the Facebook page and town's website. New exercise equipment is available in the weight room, and a strength and conditioning room has opened in the basement. YMCA after-school programs and youth and adult fitness programming are happening at the Bennington Sports Center, with many new classes for seniors that have been very popular. Teen use of the Community Center continues to grow, and Kayla and Taylor are meeting with teens to plan a space and more programming for them. The YMCA received additional grant funding from the state for summer camp and after school programs, as well as a grant from Vermont After School to create a teen program.

**Walloomsac Riverwalk Improvement Project:**

The Town received a \$200,000 Downtown Transportation Fund grant for improvements along the Riverwalk that will begin this spring. We are planning the construction schedule this winter and the updates to the riverwalk will include a connection to the new Rail Trail.

**Willow Park play structure upgrade:**

I am on the working group with Paul Dansereau, Mark Sawyer, and Jonah Spivak. We reviewed the proposals that responded to the RFP and selected Play by Design to lead the project. Play By Design removed the old play structures and installed the new play structures and pathways. Some modifications are needed before the park can reopen in the spring.

**Appalachian Trail Community:**

I'm meeting with the AT Community in February to start planning the next Trailfest for July. The Bennington AT Community is a volunteer run group committed to raising awareness of the Appalachian Trail in Southwestern Vermont. [Bennington, Vt. | Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#)

**Vermont Begins Here:**

Eight Oh Two Marketing is continuing the digital marketing campaign to promote Bennington. The VBH blog post for March promoted Maple Open House weekend and local maple syrup producers.

**Bennington Community Market:**

I have been working closely with the board of the Bennington Community Market, located at 239 Main Street. The market received a town loan of \$200,000 to construct a commercial kitchen at the market space and purchase equipment for the market. They have now raised over \$500,000, including the town loan. They have a website- <https://www.benningtonmarket.com> and have launched a social media campaign and fundraising campaign. The market also received their 501c3 status from the IRS as a non-profit organization. Construction is complete on the space and the ribbon cutting and opening day will be on March 9.

Congressman Peter Welch nominated the Bennington Community Market along with other local partners for a federal earmark and he visited the market on his recent trip to Bennington. We received

## Community Development Report: March 8, 2023

Shannon Barsotti

word that the Bennington Fair Food Initiative, including the market, Southwest Tech, Bennington College, and the Vermont Veteran's Home, was fully funded with a 2.2 million earmark in the government spending bill that passed at the end of 2022. The funds will be administered through Housing and Urban Development, and I received the grant agreement from HUD this week.

### **Community Development Block Grants:**

The Town received a Vermont Community Development grant of \$500,000 to support the Shire Housing Bennington Family Housing project at 300 Pleasant Street, and this project is nearing completion. Shires Housing has also received VCDP funding through the Town for two recovery housing projects on North Street and Gage Street. I submit paperwork required for each grant agreement and subgrant agreement along with progress reports on the projects. At the end of the year, I also submit financial reports to the state of Vermont on past HUD loans that have been granted to the Town or sub-grantees.

### **Benn Hi Redevelopment:**

I am on the team with other town staff Dan Monks and Paul Dansereau, and we are meeting weekly to plan the redevelopment of Benn Hi. The Town hired Goldstone Architecture to create conceptual plans and Engelberth Construction to do a cost estimate on the project. I organized meetings with Jeff Goldstone and our partners at the Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, and the Berkshire Family YMCA for their input on program design. The Town signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hale Resources, a private local housing developer, to work on a plan for creating housing at Benn Hi. I am researching grants to help support the redevelopment of the building and identifying partners for the community spaces. I'm also submitting applications for Congressionally Directed Spending requests for the Benn Hi redevelopment to Senators Sanders, Welch and Balint.

In January I met with Will Stevens of Bernie Sanders office and gave him a tour of the Benn Hi space. In February, I met with Sarah Waring, state director of the USDA, and discussed USDA resources for Benn Hi, the Bennington Fair Food Initiative, and grants and loans available for small business development. In March, I met with State Treasurer Mike Pieciak to discuss the 10% for Vermont program from his office that could be applied to the Benn Hi project.

### **Health Impact Assessment of the Benn Hi Redevelopment**

Zak Hale and I met with Rory Price and Megan Herrington from the Vermont Department of Health because they would like to lead a Health Impact Assessment of the Benn Hi redevelopment. The assessment will likely last from January through April and will include the collection and analysis of secondary data, as well as community engagement efforts to gather qualitative information about the health needs of the community and the potential impact of the redevelopment. Rory will present findings from the assessment and recommendations in May/June. Rory and I are organizing focus groups with teen users of the Bennington Community Center and with senior participants at the Senior Center and Meals on Wheels. Rory and Zak will organize a focus group with Hale Resources tenants who live on Pleasant Street.



Community Development Report: March 8, 2023

Shannon Barsotti

**Armory Reuse Study:**

I am on the committee that the BCRC is convening to explore the municipal and community reuse of the Armory building. The study is funded by a Municipal Planning Grant.

**Annual Report Presentation:**

Jonah and I presented at the Town Meeting with department highlights from the Town's annual report.

**Vermont Council on Rural Development:**

VCRD asked me to join their board as a local government representative and I will be attending their next board meeting as well as Downtown Day at the statehouse in Montpelier on March 22.

**Summit to Improve Violence and Harm Reduction in Bennington:**

I met with Colonel Jim Baker to discuss the Benn Hi project and participated in the focus group he organized with educators and local agencies working on substance use prevention. I will be attending the March 20 summit that Col. Baker is organizing at the Center for the Advancement of Public Action at Bennington College. The summit will include representatives from each focus group and will also be attended by the Governor and several state agency leaders. Zak Hale and I will be giving a presentation on the Benn Hi redevelopment and its potential impact on Bennington.

**Housing Committee:**

Zak Hale organized a meeting of various professionals working to improve the housing crisis in Bennington, including representatives from BCRC, the Health Department, Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless, Neighborworks, Bennington Housing Authority, Shires Housing, Maple Leaf Realty, and the Sheriff's department. We are working on a problem statement for the summit mentioned above.

**Community Outreach:**

In the past month, I have met with the Benn Hi Redevelopment team, Berkshire Family YMCA management team, Hale Resources, Historic Preservation Commission, Bennington Community Market, Bennington College's CAPA program, Vermont Health Department Bennington district office, Goldstone Architecture, Better Bennington Corporation, SVSU, and the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

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

| <b>Month</b>     | <b>2012</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>January</b>   | 12          | 11          | 5           | 8           | 15          | 10          | 5           | 6           | 5           | 11          | 15          | 16          |
| <b>February</b>  | 7           | 6           | 7           | 15          | 8           | 5           | 7           | 5           | 8           | 9           | 10          | 12          |
| <b>March</b>     | 31          | 13          | 12          | 10          | 14          | 19          | 11          | 13          | 9           | 19          | 22          |             |
| <b>April</b>     | 31          | 18          | 22          | 27          | 14          | 15          | 15          | 23          | 11          | 29          | 33          |             |
| <b>May</b>       | 27          | 38          | 20          | 23          | 19          | 27          | 23          | 24          | 19          | 23          | 29          |             |
| <b>June</b>      | 32          | 20          | 19          | 21          | 19          | 10          | 14          | 12          | 25          | 16          | 21          |             |
| <b>July</b>      | 24          | 33          | 29          | 47          | 16          | 29          | 30          | 28          | 12          | 16          | 20          |             |
| <b>August</b>    | 30          | 21          | 29          | 20          | 18          | 25          | 25          | 16          | 27          | 16          | 28          |             |
| <b>September</b> | 21          | 32          | 27          | 22          | 21          | 21          | 23          | 26          | 9           | 14          | 23          |             |
| <b>October</b>   | 38          | 30          | 21          | 28          | 9           | 19          | 20          | 20          | 17          | 29          | 17          |             |
| <b>November</b>  | 10          | 16          | 11          | 12          | 8           | 16          | 11          | 8           | 15          | 19          | 19          |             |
| <b>December</b>  | 18          | 18          | 7           | 10          | 5           | 8           | 11          | 11          | 5           | 10          | 12          |             |
|                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Total</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>  | <b>211</b>  | <b>249</b>  |             |
|                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |

**Summary of Building Permits Issued  
February 2023**

| 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               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Duplex                      | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Mobile Homes                | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Apartments                  | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Apartment Renovations       | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Condominiums                | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Residential Renovations     | 1             | \$120,000.00         | 4             | \$194,060.00        |
| Residential Additions       | 1             | \$80,000.00          | 1             | \$80,000.00         |
| Commercial Construction     | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Commercial Renovations      | 2             | \$135,000.00         | 7             | \$185,300.00        |
| Industrial Construction     | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Industrial Renovations      | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Garages                     | 1             | \$86,460.00          | 2             | \$106,460.00        |
| Sheds                       | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Decks                       | 0             | \$0.00               | 1             | \$10,000.00         |
| Institutions                | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Signs                       | 1             | \$750.00             | 2             | \$1,858.00          |
| Use & Zoning                | 0             | \$0.00               | 2             | \$28,000.00         |
| Subdivision                 | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Home Occupation             | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$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               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Handicap Access/Ramps       | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Concreate Slabs             | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Cell Towers/Communications  | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Solar Installations         | 0             | \$0.00               | 1             | \$69,800.00         |
| Camps                       | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Withdrawn                   | 1             | \$0.00               | 1             | \$0.00              |
| Demolition                  | 1             | \$0.00               | 3             | \$0.00              |
| Fire Supression             | 3             | \$0.00               | 3             | \$0.00              |
| Sprinkler System            | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
| Exhaust Hood                | 1             | \$0.00               | 1             | \$0.00              |
| Fire Alarm                  | 0             | \$0.00               | 0             | \$0.00              |
|                             |               |                      |               |                     |
| Total                       | 12            | \$422,210.00         | 28            | \$675,478.00        |

Permit types included: Building

Approval status included: Granted

Occupancy status included: Any status

Decision dates included: Between 02/01/2023 and 02/28/2023

| <i>Parcel number<br/>Land Record<br/>Book and Pages</i> | <i>Permit<br/>number</i> | <i>Owner's name<br/>Applicant's name<br/>Location</i>  | <i>Permit type<br/>Cert. of Occ.</i>                        | <i>Decision</i>      | <i>Fee paid<br/>Cost of project</i> |
|---|--------------------------|--|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 49533000  | 21-079                   | BANULIS DAVID C & DIANNE M<br>BANULIS DAVID C & DIANNE M<br>316 ELM ST<br>Construction of a 15 SF deck with 12 SF stairs | Building<br>C.O. Not required                               | Withdrawn 02/09/2023 | 25.00<br>2,000.00                   |
| 51528600  | 23-013                   | WEST LILLIAN<br>Lillian West<br>214 GROVE ST<br>1,200 Sq-Ft House Renovation (Interior/Exterior)                         | Building<br>C.O. Pending                                    | Granted 02/06/2023   | 120.00<br>120,000.00                |
| 49536300  | 23-014                   | CROSS SALLY<br>Joseph Smith<br>11 FROST DR<br>Construct A 831 Sq-Ft Living Space Addition                                | Building<br>C.O. Pending<br>(1 Bedroom/1 Bathroom)          | Granted 02/21/2023   | 126.25<br>80,000.00                 |
| 50572500  | 23-015                   | VERMONT REALTY LLC<br>The Carpenter Group LLC<br>239 MAIN ST<br>Interior Renovation - Office (460 Sq-Ft)                 | Building<br>C.O. Pending                                    | Granted 02/10/2023   | 92.00<br>15,000.00                  |
| 56521000  | 23-016                   | KOST KATHLEEN A<br>Kathleen Kost<br>218 SILVER ST<br>Construct Garage Addition (242 Sq-Ft)                               | Building<br>C.O. Pending                                    | Granted 02/21/2023   | 45.00<br>86,460.00                  |
| 51531500  | 23-017                   | GREENAWALT DUANE E<br>Naef Alnamer<br>713 MAIN ST<br>Do Fit-Up From Old Stewarts Building To New                         | Building<br>C.O. Pending<br>Vermont Chef Corp (1,300 Sq-Ft) | Granted 02/23/2023   | 260.00<br>120,000.00                |

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning  
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Local/Custom  
Approval status included:   Granted  
Occupancy status included: Any status  
Decision dates included:    Between 02/01/2023 and 02/28/2023

| <i>Parcel number<br/>Land Record<br/>Book and Pages</i> | <i>Permit<br/>number</i> | <i>Owner's name<br/>Applicant's name<br/>Location</i>   | <i>Permit type<br/>Cert. of Occ.</i> | <i>Decision</i> | <i>Fee paid<br/>Cost of project</i> |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 45014108  | 2023                     | GARDEN HOMES MANAGEMENT CORP<br>Garden Homes Management Corp<br>120 BELL ST<br>Removal Of A Holly Park 14x18 Mobile Home - Poor | Local/Custom<br>C.O. Not required    | Granted         | 02/06/2023<br>25.00                 |

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning  
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Exhaust Hood  
Approval status included: Granted  
Occupancy status included: Any status  
Decision dates included: Between 02/01/2023 and 02/28/2023

| <i>Parcel number<br/>Land Record<br/>Book and Pages</i> | <i>Permit<br/>number</i> | <i>Owner's name<br/>Applicant's name<br/>Location</i>   | <i>Permit type<br/>Cert. of Occ.</i>  | <i>Decision</i>       | <i>Fee paid<br/>Cost of project</i> |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 51531500  | F22-020                  | GREENAWALT DUANE E<br>Valley Restaurant Equipment Inc<br>713 MAIN ST<br>Install (2) 8' Exhaust Hoods w/Make Up Air, Install (2) | Exhaust Hood<br>C.O. Pending<br>VXD85 Exhaust Fans, Install VA2-20 Untempered | Granted<br>02/24/2023 | 232.00                              |

# Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning

## Detailed Permit Report

**Permit types included:** Fire Suppression

**Approval status included:** Granted

**Occupancy status included:** Any status

**Decision dates included:** Between 02/01/2023 and 02/28/2023

| <i><b>Parcel number<br/>Land Record<br/>Book and Pages</b></i> | <i><b>Permit<br/>number</b></i> | <i><b>Owner's name<br/>Applicant's name<br/>Location</b></i>  | <i><b>Permit type<br/>Cert. of Occ.</b></i>         | <i><b>Decision</b></i> | <i><b>Fee paid<br/>Cost of project</b></i> |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|--|
| 50556400   | F22-009                         | COMPASS POINTS PROPERTIES C LLC<br>GSS Fire Extinguishers, LLC<br>430 MAIN ST<br>Install Fire Suppression System In An Existing Type 1 System | Fire Suppression<br>C.O. Not required               | Withdrawn 02/09/2023   | 50.00                                      |
| 51531500   | F22-021                         | GREENAWALT DUANE E<br>Valley Restaurant Equipment Inc<br>713 MAIN ST<br>Install ProTex II Fire Suppression System, will include:              | Fire Suppression<br>C.O. Pending                    | Granted 02/24/2023     | 44.00                                      |
| 25500700   | F23-001                         | TOWN OF BENNINGTON<br>GSS Fire Extinguishers, LLC<br>904 HOUGHTON LN<br>Making Final Connections Of A Pre-Piped System -                      | Fire Suppression<br>C.O. Pending                    | Granted 02/21/2023     | 50.00                                      |
|  |                                 |   | In A Prefabricated Hazardous Waste Storage Building |                        |  |

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning  
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Sign  
Approval status included:   Granted  
Occupancy status included: Any status  
Decision dates included:    Between 02/01/2023 and 02/28/2023

| <i>Parcel number<br/>Land Record<br/>Book and Pages</i> | <i>Permit<br/>number</i> | <i>Owner's name<br/>Applicant's name<br/>Location</i>  | <i>Permit type<br/>Cert. of Occ.</i> | <i>Decision<br/>02/08/2023</i> | <i>Fee paid<br/>Cost of project</i> |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 49516402  | S23-003                  | BENNINGTON MILL LLC<br>The Bike Hub<br>160 BENMONT AV 36<br>The Bennington Bike Hub - New Sign | Sign<br>C.O. Not required            | Granted                        | 20.00<br>750.00                     |