The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016 at the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farham, Tracy Wright, Angelo Arnold, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Shaun Corbett. Also present were: Damion Craig and Greg West (representing Over 30 Men’s Softball League), Kevin Jacques and Nathan Reignier (representing Millstone Trails Association (MTA)), Pierre Couture, Randy Treis, Kelly Cleveland and Carl Rogers.

Chairman Doug Farham called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Farham made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dave Rouleau and approved 5-0 by the board. (Terry Smith was not present yet.)

On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Tracy Wright, the board voted unanimously to approve the January 4 meeting minutes without corrections or changes. (Smith was not present for the vote.) After a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Wright, the board voted all in favor of approving the January 13 special meeting minutes without changes or corrections. (Smith was not present.)

There were no guests to speak with the board about a matter not on the agenda.

Softball Field
(Smith arrived as discussion of this matter began.)

Damion Craig and Greg West said they spoke with Dwight Coffrin and were happy to hear Coffrin will have the crew do certain work after each game. They listed some concerns or repairs that are needed: dugout benches are tipping, bottom of the backstop allows balls to go under fencing. They said the league is willing to help. They could have a field day. They mentioned the league holding a tournament in September to raise money for the field. Field lighting was discussed. They said there might be 2 or 3 bulbs out now. West said his company is willing to help by providing a lift to change the bulbs. Work on the lights from laying the wire to changing the arms on which the lights are mounted was talked about. Craig said his employer could sell LED bulbs at its cost plus a very small mark-up. There was no action by the board.

Field Use
Spaulding High School - Rogers reviewed the Spaulding High School athletic director’s request for the boys and girls tennis teams to use the tennis courts and for the ultimate Frisbee team to use the soccer field. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Smith, the board voted 6-0 to approve SHS boys and girls tennis teams’ use of the courts, per the schedule provided by the A.D., with the condition that the courts are not available on June 4. Rouleau made a motion to approve SHS ultimate frisbee’s use of the soccer field for practice and games, per the A.D.’s written request, except practices are to be canceled and games postponed if the field is too wet. Shaun Corbett seconded the motion, which was passed by a 6-0 vote.

Rockfire - Pierre Couture spoke about last year’s event and plans for the 2016 Rockfire. He requested use of the town forest on Saturday, June 25 for the firewalk and musical performances. The 2016 event would be very similar to last year’s. The main area would be at Couture’s Littlejohn Road lodge. Before dark there would be music and iron guild performance. Funds would go to the effort of preserving the Grand Lookout trail. This year two large granite stones carved to show a column
emerging from the block will be added to the Grand Lookout trail. He asked if the Rockfire
performers could use the Brook Street parking area.

Wright asked about the town or MTA using his Littlejohn Road parking area. Couture said that
is possible but he would want two gates – one at the Littlejohn Road entrance and one at the lower end
that accesses a woods road on his property. Wright asked if proceeds could be used to make a small
contribution to the Recreation Board. Couture said he had not thought about that but preserving the
Grand Lookout would be a benefit the Town.

Rogers asked about set up and if that area of the town forest would be restricted on Friday
(24th). Wood would be delivered and dangerous areas closed or blocked off on Friday (24th) per
Couture. Candles for the firewalk would be set out on Saturday.

A motion to allow use of the town forest on June 25 for Rockfire, with proper clean-up, was
made by Rouleau. Corbett seconded the motion before it was adopted by a unanimous vote.

**School's Winter Carnival**

Rogers reviewed the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School’s (BTMES) request to use the
recreation area for a winter carnival on Friday, February 19. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by
Corbett, the Board voted unanimously to approve BTMES’ request with the condition that
preparations, especially snow clearing and obstructions, not interfere with the groomed bike path, nor
fields used for the softball tournament.

**Ultimate Frisbee**

Anne Watson, owner of Montpelier Ultimate, met with the Board in December. She has now
submitted a field use reservation form to use the lower soccer field during the morning the week of
July 4 – 8. Rouleau moved to approve Montpelier Ultimate’s field use request and require the usual
$500 fee for a week long camp and insurance certificate. Corbett seconded the motion which was
approved without dissent.

**VT Rustic Moose**

Tracy Wright operates VT Rustic Moose (VRM) summer day camps. Each camp is one week.
Five camps are offered starting with June 13-17. Each camp has about 25 children. Wright has two
other adult instructors. The campers spend 2 to 3 hours per day in the town forest. She teaches the
children the carry-in, carry-out principle. Each camp does some service work. The VT Rustic Moose
buys insurance for the season. Wright recused herself after giving the explanation.

On a motion by Corbett, seconded by Smith, the board voted unanimously to approve VRM’s
access to and use of the town forest with the condition that VRM give the town a certificate of
insurance.

**Tennis Program**

Kelly Cleveland was present to talk with the board about this summer’s lessons. Lessons
would start Monday, June 13. There would be two, 2-week sessions. Youth (3rd graders to 6th graders)
would meet from 9:00 - 10:30. Intermediate youth lessons would be 10:30 - 12:00. Adult (7th grade
and up) lessons would be in the evening. Beginners and intermediate classes would be offered. She
won’t try offering family lessons this summer. Last year no families signed up. The price would be
$65 for the two week lesson. Cleveland said she’ll need tennis balls. The recreation division has
plenty of adequate tennis racquets.

Smith made a motion to approve the 2016 tennis lessons program as described by Cleveland, to
provide tennis balls as give aways and to re-purpose gray Barre Town Recreation t-shirts for
registrants. Wright seconded the motion which was approved by all 6 members present.
Cleveland reported parents send their kids to play on the tennis courts, sometimes even during the lessons. They sometimes ride bikes or skateboards on the courts.

**Millstone Trails**

Nathan Reigner reported the winter trail grooming map is not finished. He did meet with the school board and got that board’s blessings for grooming the Millstone Hill West bike path. He said MTA doesn’t have mileage for the trails to be groomed because they haven’t done any grooming.

Kevin Jacques handed out a draft statement about closing trails. He talked about getting notice of the trails being closed out to the public. He mentioned MTA might use Lawson’s Store, the VMBA and MTA web sites. On an unrelated matter he said he is planning not to blow leaves from the trails this coming spring or fall.

Wright asked if MTA would be interested in conducting a bike safety check at the Spring Festival on June 4. Jacques said that might be a possibility.

**Spring Festival**

Randy Treis was present to talk about the Barre Kiwanis Club’s participation in the Spring Festival. He said last year they had a great response to their touch-a-truck event. They (Kiwanis) would like to hold it as part of the Spring Festival. He said Kiwanis charges a $10 per family admission fee and proceeds go to a children’s literacy service. He would like to set-up in the same area they did last year. The board was planning that location for the touch-a-truck event.

Treis said Ian Gauthier is a Kiwanian now and would be there for story-telling. Publicity would be a blend of Kiwanis and Recreation Board efforts. After some discussion the board felt Kiwanis could operate the concession stand.

The board talked about other Festival events. Wright distributed notes from the meeting Arnold, Smith and she had. It was suggested the event be called Spring into Summer Festival. There was a suggestion for having a fastest pitch (baseball) event. Rogers was asked to see if the police could bring a portable radar to measure the pitches. After a long discussion of the events and activities on Wright’s meeting notes there was a motion by Wright, seconded by Corbett, to pay Real Bounce $230 to set up the bouncy house for 4 hours and to use another $195 for supplies and volunteers identification t-shirts. The motion was approved 6-0.

**Trow Hill Playground**

Rogers reported that Elaine Wang informed him today that Barre Town was awarded a $15,000 Recreation Facilities grant. Wright brought the extra baby swing, which will be used at Trow Hill. Corbett reported he has talked to a Pike Industries management staff member about a donation for the 5’ path through the playground. He said chances of getting a donation (maybe the asphalt for the path) look good.

**Winter Workshop**

Wright asked for this to be on the agenda. She said it doesn’t have to be winter workshops. She mentioned night-time snow shoeing in the town forest, the ice cream socials, another apple tree pruning workshop. The board agreed next month every member will bring 1 workshop idea for each season.

Rogers and Rouleau will scout out a location for sledding party ideas.

**Egg Hunt**

Farnham, Arnold, and Wright will represent the board at a meeting with Barre City recreation committee members. They gave dates they could meet. Rouleau moved and Corbett seconded to commit the budgeted money to the egg hunt in cooperation with the City of Barre. The motion was passed by a 6-0 vote.
Round the Table

Wright presented two photos of granite signs that might be models for signs at the Upper Websterville Playground and at 44 Brook Street. Rouleau presented a photo of a sign he thought would be a model for 44 Brook Street. He said a sign company gave a price estimate of $250 for the sign board. Granite for the base and the posts (legs) would be in addition to the sign board. The Recreation Board will think about this for decision later.

Rouleau announced the Travis Mercy Skateboard Park fundraiser on February 6 at 12:30 (for lunch). He asked about sponsoring an ice-out fund-raiser. He showed the board 2 samples of banners; one was 6' x 2'. The cost could be $75 - $125. The board might hang it from the pop-up shelter at events.

Farnham said he has been at pickleball 4 weeks in a row. This past Sunday there were 8 people playing. He asked the board to help by taking one or two Sundays. Wright will be there February 7 and 14. Arnold offered to cover the 14th and 21st.

On a motion by Corbett, seconded by Rouleau, the board voted all in favor of adjourning the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm on motion by Corbett, and seconded, by Smith.

Recreation Board Members

Wright
Corbett
Farnham
Smith
Arnold