The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farham, Terry Smith, Tracy Wright, Dave Rouleau, Mike Gilbar and Shaun Corbett. Also present were Stephanie Quaranta, Janice King, Darlene Ayer, Shelly Hanson, Isabelle Druzba, Amy Richard, Kathy Vorce, Kade (Kip) Vorce and Carl Rogers.

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

On a motion by Farham, seconded by Dave Rouleau, the board voted 6 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented with the exception that the order of items 6 and 7 be reversed.

Rouleau made a motion to approve the November 7 meeting minutes as presented. Mike Gilbar seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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

5. Egg Hunt - Stephanie Quaranta, Barre City’s recreation program director, was present to discuss future egg hunts. Farham started the discussion with several questions: Where will the 2017 hunt be held? When will it be held? Will Barre Town have a voice in where it is held? Quaranta said the 2017 hunt will be the 30th hunt, therefore she (and the city recreation board) would like to have it at the city’s park (Charlie’s Playground). She said it is easier for some city families to get to the city playground as compared to reaching the town’s park. She said she’d like to maintain the city/town partnership. The hunt will be the Saturday before Easter.

Rouleau asked if something special is being done for the 30th anniversary? Quaranta said the vision is the same but maybe there’d be something special like gold and silver eggs that entitled the finder to special prizes. Farham noted organizers need to inform children what to do if they find these eggs. He said donors need to be credited with a thank you letter.

Tracy Wright said the hunt needs to be held in the town and in the city. She said she doesn’t feel the Town has a say.

There was discussion about pros and cons of both sites. Parking and foot traffic are not convenient at the city location. The age group sites are stretched out linearly at the city site making it very difficult for parents to monitor children in the oldest and youngest hunt locations. The city site has less snow, and on the tennis courts and playground, two age group sites are free of mud. The public knows about and is used to the city park location.

The town park offers convenient parking and little vehicle traffic/foot traffic conflict. Two age group sites could be across the park road from each other allowing adults to be fairly close to the children in different age groups. For Barre Town, hosting the hunt informs more people of the town park. On the other hand, there is more chance the town park could have snow on the ground and the ball fields and park road could be very sloppy. Alternating locations could cause confusion for the public. For city residents, transportation to the town park would be more challenging.

The board asked for this item to be back on its January meeting agenda.

7. Dog Park – Rouleau offered background on this topic. Amy Richard talked about using the Barre City dog park along the bike path. She said it is not an ideal location. She and the other guests, who are dog park users, would support and work to support, a dog park in Barre Town. She said social media (especially
Facebook) dominates the dog park world; she said the park could be used dawn to dusk, year round with evening hours (after work), on weekdays and mornings on weekends being the busiest; dog barking isn’t an issue; winter maintenance would be needed for access to the dog park and to keep the snow level down so dogs can’t escape over the fence; convenient access to water would be great; users stay about ½ to 1 hour; easy access for the elderly or mobility-impaired is a big consideration, a picnic table and/or a bench would be helpful; an air lock, a fenced in area for unleashing the dog is needed. 

The Recreation Board asked the dog park supporters to come back next month with more information. Farnham reported on fence cost estimates. Rogers pointed out the park area being considered is a picnic grove used by the public and by family and friends of players on the baseball field.

6. Maintenance Supervisor Report — There was no report.

8. Banners — Gilbar reported he talked with VLCT Municipal Assistance Center’s staff. They said the banners as a sponsorship would be a “limited public forum.” With a policy the board could address who and what is on a banner. He said other public agencies do this. In Montpelier, the VT Mountaineers handle their own sponsorship boards.

Farnham said a 5’ x 10’ 2 color on white banner would cost $175 to buy. He suggested a 3 year commitment with the first year costing $700 and years two and three sponsorship rate being $500.

Terry Smith suggested an introductory offer of $200 sponsorship for year 1, plus the cost of the banner. She stated businesses and organizations should have the option of supplying their banner. The board discussed options:
1. The business has to buy and supply its banner that meets the town’s specifications.
2. Give the business the option of supplying it banner or use the town supplied banner.
3. Town supply all banners.

The season might be May 1 or start of softball season and run through the end of October. Board members will continue collecting information and discuss next month.

9a. Pickleball — Farnham said as of now there will be no pickleball this winter. He said the school committed the Sunday mid-afternoon time slot for the gym, to another user. Farnham said he has not given up working with the BTMES to find a time slot that is open and would work for pickleball.

A pickleball court measures 20’ x 44’.

The Board wondered if other indoor locations were available in Barre Town.

9b. Snow-shoeing — Wright reported two people are interested in leading snow shoe walks in the town forest. One declined to set a day and time, instead wants to wait and see before committing. The other person is willing to set a day and time and is interested in some night walks. Wright is contacting two other people who have let town forest walks during the summer. It was requested this subject be back on the agenda next month for more discussion.

9c. Sledding — The board was asked about changing the first sledding party to January 15. After discussing for awhile the Board decided to keep the first sledding party on January 14. Logistics were discussed. Suggestions made included:

- Getting a metal 55 gallon drum cut to use as a fire ring
- Using a certain type of wheel as a ring
- Collecting and disposal of ashes
- Installing a sign, “Sledding at Your Own Risk”

10. Metal Slide — Smith made a motion to accept Jeff Wagner’s $20 donation to a heating assistance program as payment for an old surplus metal slide. Gilbar seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of the motion.
11. **Budget Requests** – Rogers handed out copies of the current Recreation division budget and the budget report YTD. There was some review and questions. The Board discussed calling a special meeting to decide what to request in the FY 17-18 budget.

12. **Other Business** – Farnham moved and Shaun Corbett seconded the motion to change the January meeting to January 9 at 6:00 pm. The board voted 6 – 0 to approve the motion. Gilbar moved and Farnham seconded that the Board have a special meeting on January 19 at 6:00 pm. The meeting would be for preparing a budget request. All were in favor.

13. **Round Table** – Corbett said he'd like to have a discussion about the Little League field when preparing the budget request. Wright reported on calendar sales. She said the Quarry Hill Quick Stop owner said customers think the calendars are free. Wright would like the Board to offer one workshop during the spring. Pruning fruit trees, beekeeping and composting were mentioned. Farnham said if the dog park goes in there may be a budget provision for a port-a-let November through April. Rouleau reported on calendar sales.

Farnham mentioned an invoice for a banner was turned in recently. He asked Rogers about the board members' authority to make purchases. Rogers said no town board members make purchases. He advised the Board should authorize members to make specific purchases for events they are organizing.

Farnham asked about the Bond Field, if that property was included in the sale of the business. No one knew. Farnham said he'd ask.

At 8:50 on a motion by Farnham, seconded by Corbett, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

[Signatures]

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