The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, January 9, 2017 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farharn, Terry Smith, Tracy Wright, Dave Rouleau, Mike Gilbar. Also present were Amy Richard, Janice King and Carl Rogers.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

On a motion by Dave Rouleau, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the board voted without dissent to approve the agenda as presented.

Terry Smith made a motion to approve the December 5, 2016 meeting minutes. Tracy Wright seconded the motion. Gilbar pointed out that on page 2, under Snowshoeing, the word “let” should be “led”. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of approving the minutes with the correction noted by Gilbar.

There were no guests to talk with the board about a subject not on the agenda. Rouleau spoke on behalf of Garrett Washburn from the W.C.M.H.’s Choice Academy. He said Mr. Washburn contacted him to request use of the bike path and picnic shelter for a 5K run on April 29, 2017. The event is a fund-raiser for the Academy. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Wright, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Choice Academy’s use of the picnic shelter and Millstone Hill West bike path on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 6:00 am to 12:00 pm for a 5k run and to waive all fees for use of the facilities. (An insurance certificate is expected.)

**Dog Park**

Amy Richard and Janice King were present for this item. King distributed written materials including: a) results of a survey they posted on line, and b) draft Rules and Regulations for dog park users. Richard reviewed the survey results with the Board. Board members said a town resident has offered to donate a 6’ high chain link fence and some posts. Richard and King said 10 to 12 people attended a pot luck dinner held to discuss developing a park. The people are very interested.

Smith asked about placing a survey in the next town newsletter. Options for seeking input from the broader Barre Town public were discussed. Options for surveying include the newsletter, the January 31 special election, the March town meeting.

Consensus of the Board was Richard, King and others should continue collecting information and send it to Rouleau. Needed information includes: location, size, what’s needed, who will do what, and amount of money involved.

The Board asked to discuss this during the meeting on January 19.

**Sledging Party**

Smith said she met on site with the Thunder Chickens’ trailmaster. They decided to groom 4 “slopes” on Saturday morning. She said she has some firewood to bring. She noted the fire rings but didn’t know how water would be heated. Use of camping kettles and pots was suggested. Wright said she has a 5-gallon jug for water. The Board decided after short discussion to limit hot drinks to hot chocolate. The Board listed items needed: napkins, marshmallows for roasting (3 bags) and for hot chocolate, roasting sticks, cups and hot chocolate mix. Rouleau will go to Hannaford.

It was suggested a sign should be placed in front of the municipal building. Rogers said town staff would take care of that and a sign to recognize donors.

Farnham said he would not be there.
Pickleball

Farnham informed the Board he was taking the equipment after the meeting. He said there are plenty of paddles and balls. He said the hours are 4 -6 pm on Sundays. Rouleau offered to call Bill Kelly who called in and said he’d help. Farnham advised he would not be able to attend pickleball on February 26.

Snowshoeing

Wright reported Denise Bergeron is willing to lead walks on Saturday, February 4 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, on Saturday, February 25 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm and on Saturday, March 4 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. She has a basic emergency contact form she asks participants to fill out. The Board’s consensus was dogs will not be allowed. Gathering point is 44 Brook Street. The Board discussed offering hot chocolate on the trail the night of February 25. There was interest in this idea but plans were not made.

Softball Field Banner

Rogers distributed a new draft of the “Policy and Order Form.” He pointed out the few changes from the drafts the Board had seen previously. The form includes the policy statements submitted by Gilbar.

The Board read through the form and filled-in blanks and added some comments. In statement 1, allowed content will include logo/image. Cost will be $700 in year one, or $500 if the business supplies its own banner (to town specs). Fee for years 2 and 3 will be $500. Banners to be used 3 years. A statement 4a will be added. It will state the banner specifications if the business supplies its own banner. Also, in that case, the banner could have more than 2 colors. Banners to be displayed May 1 to November 1. Payment for years 2 and 3 will be due April 15 to get the banner hung on May 1. The Town will replace stolen or damaged banners once during the three-year period. Rogers will re-draft the form based on this input.

The Board discussed use of the revenue. Unofficially, the Board thought it could be used at any town recreation facility for a capital improvement or capital maintenance expense.

Egg Hunt

The Board discussed this briefly. Consensus of the Board was to continue contributing to the egg hunt and look for additional prizes, if possible.

Calendars

Rogers reported the town clerk’s office said 33 calendars had been sold. Rouleau said Vermont Bicycle and Next Chapter Bookstore each bought 10 calendars to sell at $10 each. They have some calendars left. A plan for selling or distributing calendars was talked over. Rouleau will ask the businesses when they usually stop selling calendars. The Board talked about lowering the price for the calendars everywhere to $5 and giving 10 free calendars to stores that bought calendars.

Other Business

Rogers told the Board Angelo Arnold submitted his resignation that day. Farnham said Mark Mast had indicated interest in serving on the board. Someone said Amy Richard mentioned an interest.

Farnham asked Rogers if he contacted Mast about the Town assuming responsibility for maintenance of the Bond Fields. Rogers said he hadn’t. Board members expressed the Town should have control of the fields if it pays for maintenance.

Rogers said the Vermont Land Trust invited Barre Town to submit an event to be incorporated into the VLT’s 40th anniversary celebration. The event could be existing or a new one-time event for this anniversary celebration. The Town would be responsible for planning, organizing and running the event. The Board suggested submitting a town forest Open House or Welcome to the Town Forest type event sometime in August. The event would offer several activities.
Round Table

Rouleau said he checked with Linda Mercy recently. David Wood (the skate park designer) has not given a proposal and cost estimate for the skate park addition. He said MTA has groomed all winter trails in the town forest and at the main park.

Smith said the Spring Festival is on June 3. The Board asked for this event to be on next month’s meeting agenda.

She asked if there should be "Entering Town Forest" signs on the VAST snowmobile trails. She said she called UVM about a maple tree tapping workshop. She hasn’t heard from UVM yet.

Wright talked about a possible beekeeping workshop or two. She said Sheri Englert from Vermont Beekeeping Supply was interested in offering a two-workshop series. The first class could be held at the town offices; the second would be at her shop, unless a suitable place with hives in Barre Town would host it. Wright said the workshop would be about 1 ½ hours. The Board thought Wright should coordinate with Englert to pick dates (late winter/spring and June).

There being no further business, at 8:37 on a motion by Gilbar, seconded by Smith, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

[Signatures]

Dan C. Peake

[Signature]