

Town of Barre Recreation Board

April 1st Meeting Minutes

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, February 5th, 2024 starting at 6:00pm. The meeting was held in Conference Room #3 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present included: David Rouleau, Larry Rogacki, Jill Wilkinson, Annette Neddo and Anastasia Douglas. Carol Hebert and Jill Wilkinson attended virtually. Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley and University of Vermont intern Lillian Olsen. Members of the public: Brady Aldrich and Charlotte Kellett.

1. **Call to order:** Chair David Rouleau called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** Carol Hebert made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item 7e which concerned alcohol approval for Barre Slow Pitch Softball. Larry Rogacki seconded the motion, 7-0 approved.
3. **Consider approving March 4th Meeting Minutes:** Carol Hebert put forth a motion to approve March 4th meeting minutes as written. This motion was seconded by Larry Rogacki, 6-0-1 approved. Board member Anastasia Douglas abstained from voting due to her absence from the March 4th Recreation Board meeting.
4. **Public Input (for non-Agenda items):** No members of the public were present for input.
5. **National Honor Society Color Run Think Tank:** Spaulding High School students Brady Aldrich and Charlotte Kellett introduced their plans for a charity 5k to benefit UVM Medical Children's Hospital. They plan to host this all-ages event on Saturday May 18th at 10am. The colored powder for the event will be made with cornstarch and food dye, mitigating environmental concerns. The Recreation Board discussed the route of the 5k, suggestions for when to begin registration, and concerns about town tables being dirty after the event. Recreation Board member Laura Ireland has experience participating in 5k events and offered to provide further help to the organizers. Jill Wilkinson put forth a motion to waive the shelter use fee and give access to the pavilion, track, upper soccer field, and Millstone Hill West bike path from 8am to 1pm on May 18th. This motion was seconded by Larry Rogacki, 7-0 approved.
6. **Consider Approving Shelter Request Fee Waiver:** The board discussed the standards for a fee to be waived. Considerations included profit generated from the hypothetical event, what cleaning is necessary after the event, and whether the event is in support of a notable cause. Anastasia Douglas made a motion to waive the shelter fee for a Barre Foster Parent Appreciation event on Sunday June 23rd from 10:30am-1:30pm. The motion was seconded by Carol Hebert and approved 7-0.
7. **Update from Facility Use Policy and Fees Subcommittee:**
 - a. Update on Selectboard meeting regarding *Fields Unfit for Play Policy* – Recreation Board Chair David Rouleau, Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, and Board member Larry Rogacki attended the Selectboard meeting on March 26th to discuss the *Fields Unfit for Play Policy* put forth by the Recreation Board. The Selectboard proposed several changes to the document's contents. The first was to switch the word "division" to "department" so that language may be consistent throughout the document. The second suggestion was to remove the need for the Director's and Town Manager's signature on the last page, as only the Selectboard Chair's signature

is necessary. It was also suggested that the dates and signatures for the document's review and approval be moved to the end of the document. Finally, the Selectboard clarified that the Recreation Director, not the Recreation Board, may penalize parties who repeatedly damage recreation fields by charging a fee. The updated *Fields Unfit for Play Policy*, with these changes, is anticipated to be adopted at the Selectboard meeting this Tuesday.

- b. Consider approving language of General Rules and Guidance for Town Owned Recreation Properties and recommending to the Selectboard for adoption – The Recreation Board discussed the importance of the document, as it consolidates and standardizes the rules of all recreation facilities across the Town of Barre. UVM intern Lillian Olsen summarized the research that they completed for the consideration of the Selectboard regarding terminology used in other bike path rules as well as the legality of prohibiting political activities at town playgrounds. Laura Ireland put forth a motion to approve the language of the document and recommend it to the Selectboard for adoption. Anastasia Douglas seconded the motion, approved 7-0.
 - c. Consider approving language of Recreation Board Charge Revision 1.2024 and recommending to the Selectboard for adoption – Jill Wilkinson proposed that the end of the document include dates and signatures for the document's review and adoption. Anastasia Douglas put forth a motion to approve the language of the Recreation Board Charge and recommend the document to the Selectboard for adoption. The motion was seconded by Carol Hebert, 7-0 approved.
 - d. Review Facilities & Fees, Discuss Next Steps – Board member Larry Rogacki has formatted the Facilities and Fees document to be more organized and easier to understand. On Thursday April 11th at 5pm, the Facility Use Policy and Fees Subcommittee will meet with groups who regularly use the recreation facilities to discuss these changes. With the implementation of these changes, facility fees will be more consistent with Barre City and other similar facilities while also staying comparably cheaper. Fees for recreation facilities have not been raised in over 10 years. With the money collected by this updated policy, it will be easier to maintain, renovate, and make long-term investments in town recreation facilities.
 - e. Consider Alcohol Approval for Barre Slow Pitch Softball – Without an existing facility use request and or responsible party present, the board was unable to vote to approve alcohol use for the slow pitch softball league. If alcohol use were to be approved, it would only be permitted in spectator areas. Alcohol use is prohibited on the field or in dugouts. This topic will be reconsidered at the May 6th Recreation Board meeting.
8. Chronology – Community Science Project
- a. Board member Larry Rogacki presented information on a program from Georgetown University run by the National Association of State Foresters. A holder is provided so that community members can place their phone in a set position and take a picture of a location in nature that changes over time. Participants can then email their photo and have it added to a compilation time lapse of the location. By submitting a photo, participants are given access to the compilation. This offers an opportunity for community members to reflect on changes in nature. Similar to activities such as Geocaching, this program would encourage involvement in the outdoors. The yearly

cost would be \$200 a year per site. The Recreation Board would need to discuss possible sites to use for this opportunity.

9. Programs & Events

- a. April 24th Open Gym Event – From 5:30pm to 7pm on April 24th, Barre Town Middle and Elementary will host an open gym event. After some discussion, the Board decided that the intended age range of the event would be K-5th grade. Due to allergies, no food will be served at the event. The Board also discussed what safety measures will be necessary for this event. Gym teachers have the necessary certifications to keep the open gym and will be present for the duration of the event. Finally, the Board discussed which members would be available to volunteer.
- b. April 30th Vernal Pool Walk – Hosted by the Vermont Land Trust, this event will require prior registration through a VLT link. UVM interns recently completed signage to identify the pool's location and educate community members. This signage will be included in the upcoming budget.
- c. June 2nd Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt – The second annual Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt will take place on the first Sunday in June. While the event had previously been open to children K-2nd grade, it will be expanded this year to include children of all ages. Last year, the event involved hiding 204 plastic dinosaurs along a walking path. Children were allowed to pick up six of the dinosaurs and keep one. Participants were also given a coloring book and a temporary tattoo. Of the 204 dinosaurs used last year, 50 remain. The Board determined that more dinosaurs would be necessary this year and decided to secure up to 600. David Rouleau suggested that the event include two walking paths. This way, participants could be staggered to one path or the other, so no one walked through a path that was void of dinosaurs. Johnny Crossley also suggested creating instruction sheets for children so that they would be guided to find three specific types of dinosaurs. This element will make the event more like a scavenger hunt. Johnny Crossley will create mockups of these safari scavenger licenses for next Recreation Board meeting on May 6th. The Board also discussed which members would volunteer for the event. Carol Hebert put forth a motion to order up to 600 dinosaur toys within the limitations of the Recreation Program's budget. This motion was seconded by Laura Ireland, 7-0 approved.
- d. July 20th Summer Festival – Volunteers will be needed to referee the 3v3 tournament, assist with the Skills and Drills Competition, and assist with vehicle parking. In addition to Recreation Board members, other community members and Spaulding high school students may volunteer at the event. The Recreation Board discussed renting a bounce house or inflatable game for the festival. At 10am, a ribbon cutting ceremony will celebrate the improvements made to the little league field.
- e. Movie Nights –It is understood that the BTMES library and Aldrich Library may have public performance licenses for movie showings. The Recreation Department will reach out to collaborate on potential showings. Due to the sun setting later in summer, outdoor showings may not be feasible. Choosing an indoor location would allow for earlier, more reasonable start times because lights can be turned off for the projector to work optimally. Tentative movie night dates were chosen for June 7th, July 12th, and August 9th. All 3 are expected to be indoors, likely in Barre Town Middle School. Before the next Recreation Board meeting on May 6th, Johnny Crossley will talk to the library about licensing and Anastasia Douglas will talk to the middle school about using the school building as a viewing location.

10. **Subcommittee Conversations:** This agenda item was postponed until the next Recreation board meeting on May 6th due to limited time.
11. **Facility Lighting Pole Discussion – Continued:** In a motion in the March 4th Recreation Board meeting, Carol Hebert proposed using two of the new, broken 80-foot poles for lighting the volleyball/basketball courts and to use at least two of the older 10-foot poles to light the dog park. This motion was seconded by Jill Wilkinson, 7-0 approved. After some discussion by the board, Laura Ireland put forth a motion for the pole butts to go to Luke Paul to be milled and used in the Community Dog Park. Carol Hebert seconded the motion, 7-0 approved.
12. **Updates from the Recreation Director:**
 - a. Bike Path Committee – The Town of Barre Bike Path Committee has not met since 2018, the reason for their separation is unclear. In 2009, the Semprebaum family donated \$1 million to the Town of Barre and Barre City for the completion of bike paths. East Barre bike path would be a good place to resume the project of connecting regional bike paths.
 - b. BOR Turf Ribbon Cutting – On Saturday April 6th at 10am, the Recreational Board has been invited by the city manager to a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the introduction of the turf. This will also be an open house event to the general public as well.
 - c. Potential Grants – Keeping track of grants and consolidating them in one place can help with capital improvements. A new excel spreadsheet has been made and uploaded to sharepoint to maintain a list of grants to consider.
13. **‘Round the table**
 - a. Laura Ireland: Nothing to add at this time.
 - b. Anastasia Douglas: Proposed more communication with the Barre City Recreation Board. A potential annual meeting between the boards could help to facilitate collaboration.
 - c. Annette Neddo: Suggested asking a bike trailer if they would like to participate in summer festival with the vendors and advertise their business.
 - d. Carol Hebert: Pointed out that the pitcher’s mound will need to be built up in the next month. Johnny Crossley will follow up.
 - e. Jill Wilkinson: Jill Wilkinson recently walked on the Vermont trail that follows Winooski River and from Vermont’s east border to its west border. The opening of the full trail was delayed after the flooding in summer of 2023. However, it will hopefully be fully open this summer. 350ft of the trail is in the Town of Barre. Jill Wilkinson also pointed that a lot of programming is directed towards children. There are many opportunities to partner with other organizations or expanding programming to other age groups.
 - f. Larry Rogacki: Reflecting on the egg hunt, Larry Rogacki was impressed with the success of the event. He suggested that in future years, signage be used to direct people to the correct locations. Signage such as sandwich boards could be used in a variety of events. Larry Rogacki also noticed disparities in the number of eggs that children took home and wondered how this could be addressed in the future.
 - g. David Rouleau: Recently met a potential collaborator for pickleball.
14. **Set Tentative Agenda for May 6th Meeting**
 - a. Subcommittee updates, review facilities and fees with feedback from the April 11th meeting
 - b. Disc golf course CMA renewal
 - c. Programs and events

- I. Dinosaur scavenger hunt
 - II. Summer festival
 - III. Movie nights
- h. Subcommittee conversations (food trucks, communication, banner program)
15. **Adjourn:** On a motion to adjourn by Carol Hebert, seconded by Laura Ireland, the Board voted to adjourn, 7-0. **8:35pm**