

Town of Barre Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes April 3, 2023

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The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, April ~~20~~, 2023, starting at 6:00pm. The meeting was held in Conference Room #3 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board Members present included: Chair Doug Farnham, Vice-Chair David Rouleau, Annette Neddo, Carol Hebert, Stacey Lynds (remote), Anastasia Douglas and Amanda Gray (remote). Also present at the meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley (remote), Josh Dickinson representing Barre Men's League Slow Pitch Softball, Ian Gauthier from Aldrich Library, Linda Mercy and Jared Henry on behalf of the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark, and the following individuals representing the Barre Town Dog Park: Allen Kesser, Maggie Kesser, and Jim Graves,

1. **Call to Order:** 6:05
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** Two additions were presented by Recreation Director Johnny Crossley to be added to the Agenda under Facility Use Requests: 6e One Nation Softball and 6f Picnic Shelter Request for Fee Waived and Alcohol Consumption. David Rouleau made a motion to approve the Agenda with the two amendments. Carol seconded the motion. Board voted in favor 6-0. (Amanda Gray not yet in attendance).
3. **Consider Approving March 6th Meeting Minutes:** David Rouleau made a motion to approve the March 6th Meeting Minutes as presented. Stacey seconded the motion. Board voted in favor 6-0. (Amanda Gray not yet in attendance).
4. **Receive Guests from the Public (for non-agenda items):**
 - a. Linda Mercy came before the Recreation Board on behalf of the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark. Alongside her was Jared Henry of the Cruisers Motorcycle Group. The two are planning a fundraising event for the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark. They would host a charity motorcycle ride followed up by a pig roast at the Recreation Area Picnic Shelter. They would like to reserve the picnic shelter for August or September. After discussion with the Board, it was decided to place a pending reservation for the Picnic shelter on August 13th and 20th. Jared will speak with the other members of the Cruisers Motorcycle ride to finalize a date. Chair Doug Farnham instructed the two to reach out to himself, David, and/or Johnny once they finalized a date.
5. **Dog Park Committee Discussion:**
 - a. The Dog Park organizers came to the March 6th Recreation Board meeting to discuss the need for volunteers and willing members of the public to step up and steer the future of the Park. This Agenda item was to continue the conversation. The organizers are aware that they must update their agreement with the Town. Recreation Director Johnny Crossley advised them to do so before making any formal changes to the Park. A good number of people have expressed a desire to have a shelter at the park to block the wind, especially during the Winter. Jim Graves provided a design of the structure. Design is similar to a bus stop to focus

attention of humans towards the open park area. They do not want to create a situation where people are not watching/attending to their dogs, hence the bus stop like design that faces attention forward towards fence enclosed park. Desire is to have the back wall face the direction at which the wind blows the most. The Recreation Board and Dog Park organizers discussed materials that could be used in the entrance to the dog park as well. There was further discussion on reorganization of the Dog Park organizers into formally appointed positions on a Dog Park Committee. There was also discussion on placing a lockbox for donations next to the park.

- b. The Board held a vote to determine if the members were in favor of the Dog Park moving forward with the bus stop structure once their agreement with the Town is renewed. The Board voted in favor 6-0-1, Anastasia Douglas abstained. Johnny Crossley will talk to the Town Manager's Office about the Dog Park getting on a Selectboard meeting Agenda in the near future to renew their agreement. The Dog Park organizers will return for the May Recreation Board meeting with a Draft Agreement to receive the recommendation from the Recreation Board.

6. **Consider Facility Use Requests:**

- a. **Barre Men's League Slow Pitch Softball:** Josh Dickinson came before the Recreation Board to seek approval for his 2023 schedule: Softball Field Tuesdays and Thursdays May – August from 6:00pm – 11:00pm. Board approved 7-0, with permission to use the lights and pending certificate of insurance.
- b. **Barre Co-Ed Softball:**
 - i. Requesting to use the Softball Fridays 6pm – 11pm and Sundays 8am-9pm May 5th through August. In addition, August Tournament on a Sunday 8am – 9pm and another Tournament June 24/25. Tournament dates need clarification from Barre Community Baseball on their schedule before they can receive approval. Doug made a motion to approve the Fridays and Sundays, save the Tournament dates, pending Certificate of Insurance. Anastasia seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0.
- c. **Granite City Fitness 5k Fundraiser on Millstone Hill West Bike Path May 6th:**
 - i. David made a motion to approve of the 5k fundraiser, pending certificate of insurance and waive the Shelter fee. Carol seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0.
- d. **Aldrich Library Story Walks:**
 - i. Ian Gauthier, representing the Aldrich Library, came before the Recreation Board to seek approval for several "Story Walks" in the Town Forest and Millstone Hill West Bike Path. David made a motion to approve the story walks on the #6 Trail in the Town Forest and on the Millstone Hill West Bike Path. Anastasia seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0. Board requested the stories be picked up at the conclusion of each story walk.
 - ii. Fairy house stories have been led by Ian for three years. Ian leads the kids down the #6 trail in the Town Forest with his bagpipes. Kids use natural

items to build fairy houses, no artificial materials. Ian also requested putting out painted rocks along the trail for the set out David/Anastasia 7-0 permission for story walk and fairy painted rocks (will p/u afterwards)

- e. **One Nation Softball** – Calendar tentative until response received from Barre Community Baseball regarding their schedule.
 - f. **Picnic shelter** – Pending approval for alcohol. Board needs to know if this is a fundraiser or not.
7. **Discussion on Large Improvements to Recreation (not in budget)**: Chair Doug Farnham shared the Town has a fair amount of ARPA funds left. \$100,000 was budgeted for the major league baseball field lighting project. There was discussion on what might be a project(s) to consider. Doug asked Board members to send ideas to Johnny before the next meeting. Any project would need selectboard approval. Projects discussed included:
- a. Repair Recreation Area Road, Convert to a 4-season road.
 - b. Back stop fence at major league baseball field.
 - c. Bathroom Facilities at 44 Brook Street Town Forest Parking Area. Water/sewer already onsite.
 - d. Ongoing work needed at Lower Restroom (Recreation Area).
8. **Consider Setting Recreation Schedule for the Summer**
- a. Ice Cream Socials Series at the Playgrounds
 - i. The Board approved of the following schedule for ice cream socials:
 1. July 11th – Trow Hill
 2. July 18th – Upper Graniteville
 3. July 25th – Websterville
 4. August 1st – South Barre (Wilson Street)
 5. August 8th – East Barre (Pleasant Street)
 6. August 15th – Lower Graniteville
 - ii. Stacey Lynds spoke with MacAuley's whole sale food Service. They offered, for each two and a half gallon ice cream Recreation Department buys at \$20 they will donate the second (two and a half gallons). Board discussed rotating flavors each week and entertaining the idea of a community poll to determine ice cream flavors posted to the Recreation Facebook page. David made a motion to approve of the ice cream social schedule, with the switch of Upper and Lower Graniteville in the order, and to use the programs budget for ice cream purchases. Stacey seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0. Stacey will find out if MacAuley's supplies cups and spoons as well.
 - b. **Dinosaur Trail Walk in the Town Forest**
 - i. Annette Neddo proposes a Dinosaur Trail walk for younger children. Annette brought in different sized dinosaurs she would like to leave along the trail for the children to collect. The children may collect the dinosaurs and exchange them for coloring books. Board discussed location for the walk and decided on the Forest Trails near the top of the Rec Area Road

off of the Millstone Hill West Bike Path. The Board set the date as June 4th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm and reserved the picnic shelter for said event.

- c. **EMS/Fire Department Trivia Nights at East Barre Fire District:**
 - i. Tentative dates of June 7th July 12th set for the East Barre Fire District. Johnny Crossley has been working with the Town EMS Director and Fire Chief to develop themed trivia nights hosted by Johnny. One Firefighter themed and the other Medical/EMS themed. They will be open to the Public to attend.
- d. **Outdoor Rec Night with Laura Thygesen:**
 - i. March 21st Open Gym was a success. Laura has expressed an interest in putting on one more event before the school year ends, preferably outdoors. Board needs further conversation with Laura to determine: 1. Outside at Rec area or in school zone; 2. Activities to offer outdoors. Johnny Crossley will reach out to Laura to obtain more information.
- e. **Movie nights:**
 - i. Johnny Crossley asked that each Board member send an audio/projector they prefer for outdoor movie nights and the Board will vote on a purchase at the next meeting.
- f. **RISE Basketball Camp(s) with Paul Booth (Norwich University Basketball Coach):**
 - i. Johnny Crossley spoke with Paul Booth about offering a Basketball Camp and/or Clinic in Barre Town. The Board is interested in learning more about a Clinic, if it is co-ed, and what the exact age range would be.
- g. **Local Motion:** Bicycle Themed Events for the Kids. They supply a trailer with 30-50 bikes, including adaptive bikes. Trailer is parked for a number of weeks. Community can offer Bike Safety Curriculum. David made a motion to apply for the Bike Smart Trailer Program. Carol seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0.

9. **Other Business :** Johnny Crossley shared that he is the Green Up Day Coordinator for Barre Town and requested members share a call to action for volunteers on Green Up Day. The Board discussed some components of the '23-24 budget, including: money for a chest freezer to store ice cream for the ice cream socials, money budgeted for grant matches to upgrade Little John road forest parking area, and the approved \$100,000 for the major league baseball field lighting project.

10. **'Round the Table**

- a. **Stacey Lynds** – Can the Millstone Hill West Bike Path be open in the Winter for walkers? What would it take to clear the path? This was brought to her attention by people within the community.
- b. **Amanda Gray** – PTO approached about co-sponsoring a Bingo night with the Recreation Department.
- c. **Annette** – Reserve picnic shelter for Dinosaur walk in June.
- d. **Anastasia** – Spoke with a representative of the Central Vermont Trail, neat concept. Great to work towards bike path connectivity infrastructure.
- e. **Carol Hebert** – Asked that we confirm with Stephanie in Barre City the number of baskets to use per age group.

- f. **David Rouleau**– Next 3 Mondays Forest Committee meeting, invite other members to come and share their input. Learn to play pickleball – clinic to be hosted by David recreation Department has balls and paddles to provide. Clinic will also teach you how to keep score. Alfred Lad will be evaluating the skate park this Spring and installing the water fountain at the Lower Restroom of the Recreation Area. Suggested Recreation Department do a food truck/vendor license/request for proposal at brook street or Rec Area on high traffic days. Will discuss further next meeting.
- g. **Doug Farnham**– Banner needs to be made for ice cream socials – Jet Services, reach out see if they have old design. Has decided to stay on the Recreation Board at the end of his term in May. Will not be Chairman at the end of current term. Trow Hill Playground has unleashed dogs running around. BTPD will watch out for them.

11. **Adjourn:** On a motion by Carol Hebert, seconded by Stacey Lynds, the Recreation Board voted 7-0 in favor of adjournment.

David C. Farnham
Arnette M. Reddy
Carol Hebert
Angela Cunningham

