

# Town of Barre Recreation Board

## Meeting Minutes August 7, 2023

*The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, August 7, 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, Annette Neddo, Carol Hebert, Amanda Gray (remote) and Anastasia Douglas (Absent: David Rouleau and Stacey Lynds). Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley and Heather Slayton representing Top Soccer.*

**1. Call to Order:** 6:23pm

**2. Consider Approving Agenda:** Annette Neddo made a motion to approve of the agenda as presented. Carol Hebert seconded the motion. Board approved 5-0.

**3. Consider Approving July 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes:** Carol Hebert made a motion to approve of the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with the heading date corrected from June to July. Amanda Gray seconded the motion. Board approved 5-0.

**4. Public Input (for non-agenda items):** There were no members of the public received during this Agenda item.

**5. Facility Use Requests:**

**5a. National Life Insurance Cricket Tournament:** Held on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, Board considers retroactive approval. Anastasia Doulas made a motion to retroactively approve, Carol Hebert seconded the motion. National Life Insurance held an all-day Cricket Tournament. The tournament had a strong turnout of participants and spectators. The Board discussed how much to charge the group based on their field usage in line with the Town's Recreation Fee Structure. The Board determined to ask for a donation of at least \$100.00. Anastasia Douglas amended her motion to include, "requesting the fee be paid as a donation of no less than \$100.00." Carol Hebert seconded the motion. The Board retroactively approved of the field use by National Life Insurance by a vote of 5-0.

**5b. Top Soccer:** Heather Slayton appeared remotely to speak on behalf of Top Soccer's Facility Use Request. U.S. Youth Soccer's "The Outreach Program for Soccer" (TOPSoccer) is a national program designed to connect youth with intellectual, emotional, or physical disabilities with volunteer peer mentors to enjoy the sport of soccer. According to its website, "TOPSoccer provides people with diverse abilities an opportunity to play soccer in a structured environment that is safe, fun, supportive, and inclusive." It states that participating athletes gain social skills, teamwork, perseverance, and confidence. This year, coordinators Cassandra Demarais and Heather Slayton founded a TOPS program for the capitol region of Vermont, based in Barre. There are two other TOPS programs in Vermont, in Essex and Woodstock." This program will begin the first Sunday after Labor day and continue for six weeks. Annette Neddo made a motion to approve of Top Soccer's request, contingent on certificate of insurance, and waive the fee. Carol Hebert seconded the motion. The Board approved 5-0.

**6. Planning Fall Festival '23:** The Board extensively discussed the logistics of hosting Fall Festival at the Recreation Area on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>. Recreation Director Crossley has

begun gathering a list of volunteers and interested vendors. The Board decided on offering the following activities at Fall Festival: Apple Stacking, Gourd Bowling, Pumpkin Painting, hay bale maze, hands on big rigs, and lawn games. Board members will reach out for face painting and bounce houses. Food Vendors will be allowed. The Event will run from Noon to Six, followed by a Halloween themed movie at Dusk. Johnny Crossley will reach out to the Police and Fire Departments to ask if they have an interest in operating obstacle courses at the event. If any outside groups, organizations, or individuals wish to add to the festivities the Board will consider such activities or offerings so long as they are not the responsibility of the Board. A Haunted Trail on the Nature Loop would be considered if volunteers could manage.

**7. Updates from the Recreation Director:** Johnny Crossley provided the Board updates on ongoing projects of the Recreation Department listed as Agenda items 7a.-7f.

7a. 80' poles: The Recreation Department is awaiting procurement of eight 80' poles from Cobb Lumber. The delivery of poles has been delayed several times. At this time Cobb Lumber has not procured the poles and there is no timeline or guarantee of procurement.

7b. Status of light order: The 32 Sentry LED lights for the Major League Baseball Field were ordered on June 14, 2023 with an 8-10 week lead time. Anticipated arrival at Needham Electric by the end of the month.

7c. Installation of lights and poles: At this time, installation is dependent on the procurement and delivery of the eight 80' poles by Cobb Lumber. Plan is for installation to take place this Fall in October through November. Worst case scenario, installation will be delayed until next year.

7d. Doors on lower bathroom: Two new external metal doors were ordered last Fall through R.K. Miles. The doors were delivered earlier this Spring. Paint has been acquired. The doors must be painted before installation. Anticipated installation this season.

7e. Batter's circle on major league field: Seasonal Recreation Crew added infield mix to the batter's boxes on the Major League Baseball Field.

7f. Rfp for fence on little league field: The RFP for the Little League Fence has not been sent out. Johnny Crossley stated he is prioritizing the RFP as time allows.

**8. 'Round the Table:**

Annette Neddo – Given Ice Cream supplies from David Rouleau. Double check supplies prior to next Ice Cream Social. See if we need to restock any supplies.

Carol Hebert – Asked about EV Grant program attachment from last meeting. Johnny stated it is a grant to place EV chargers at Recreational Attractions in Town. Municipalities must match at least 5%. Applications are open through 2026.

Amanda Gray – Need to make sure we are ready to be task masters next meeting for Fall Festival. Need to make official change of date for next meeting of the Recreation Board, due to Labor Day Holiday conflict. Rescheduled date should be Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

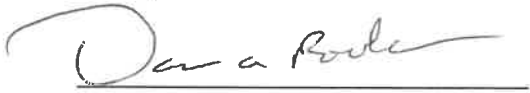
Anastasia Douglas – Asked for clarification on remaining dates for Ice Cream Socials. There are three remaining: August 15<sup>th</sup> at Lower Graniteville Playground, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Trow Hill Playground, and August 29<sup>th</sup> at East Barre Park and Playground.

Doug Farnham – Going before Selectboard members on August 8<sup>th</sup> to present idea to replace temporary Pickleball nets with permanent nets. Vermont Senior Games has committed to host their tournament at our facilities next August. Working on a proposal to convert Recreation Area Access Road to a four-season road. Specifications for a bathroom at 44 Brook Street have gone out to contractors for bidding. Facilities would be ADA compliant. Space was added to closet between the bathroom doors to possibly be used with a Recreation Rental program.

**9. Adjourn: On a motion by Carol Hebert seconded by Amanda Gray the Board approved of adjourning, 5-0. End time: 8:35pm.**

  
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