

## Town of Barre Recreation Board December 4, 2023 Meeting Agenda

*The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, December 4, 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: Annette Neddo, Carol Hebert, Amanda Gray, Anastasia Douglas, in addition to new Board member Larry Rogacki. Absent: David Rouleau. Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, Linda Mercy, Randy Henry, and Willisa Smith.*

1. **Call to Order:** In the absence of Interim Chair David Rouleau, Board member Carol Hebert called the meeting to order at **6:07pm**.
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** On a motion by Amanda Gray, seconded by Anastasia Douglas, the Board voted to approve of the Agenda with the addition of “Central Vermont Runners Town Forest Request” added as item 5a, **5-0**.
3. **Consider Approving November 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Annette Neddo, seconded by Amanda Gray, the Board voted to approve the November 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes, as is, 4-0. Larry Rogacki abstained, he was not present at the November meeting, this is his first meeting as a Board member.
4. **Public Input (for non-agenda items):** There were no other members of the public present for this Agenda item.
5. **VT Wins Motorcycle Group 2024 Fundraiser:**
  - a. **Organizers Present:** Randy Henry, Willisa Smith, and Linda Mercy. Group wishes to host a fundraiser to benefit the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark at the Town Recreation Area. They would utilize the picnic shelter to host a Pig Roast dinner (open to public), silent auction, and motorcycle ride. There will be a waiver that all motorcycle riders will need to sign that covers their liability during the ride and while on Town property. The motorcycle ride will start at BTMES Parking Lot and extend 85-100 miles before returning. The organizers are hoping to host this fundraiser on August Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. They are requesting use of the Picnic Shelter. Director Crossley will follow up with shelter request form. Organizers will have liability and catering insurance plus waiver form signed by all riders. No motion needed at this time. Shelter request form needs to be filled out and returned to Director Crossley.
  - b. **5a: Central Vermont Runners Town Forest Request:** Jackie Jancaitis was present at the meeting to speak on behalf of this request. The CVR are requesting use of the Barre Town Forest and 44 Brook Street parking area for a 5k Snowshoe race through the Town Forest on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The race will begin at Brook Street parking lot and loop back. Racers will be done and cleared out by 11:00am. CVR obtains permission from the Fire Chief for a small fire after the race. CVR make donations back to MTA. The race will be cancelled if there is not enough snow or the conditions are too muddy, or any condition in which use of the trails would cause damage. February 24<sup>th</sup> will be set aside tentatively in the case that the race must be rescheduled. CVR will share with Director Crossley their Emergency Access Plans for the race. Dogs are not allowed to race under

conditions of CVR's insurance. CVR recognize the forest is a public area, they will not compete for space. The Forest is always open to public use during a race. On a motion by Amanda Gray, seconded by Anastasia Douglas, the Board voted to approve of the request, pending proof of insurance, **5-0**.

**6. Restructuring of the Recreation Board Positions – Ongoing Conversation**

- a. Backstory: Doug Farnham and Stacey Lynds resigned from the Recreation Board effective at the Board meeting on October 2, 2023. At the November meeting of the Board, Vice Chair David Rouleau offered to serve as Interim Chair until the two Board member vacancies can be filled. Once the vacancies are filled the Board will elect a new Chair, as David only wishes to serve in the "Interim." The Board welcome a new Board Member at this meeting, Larry Rogacki. Larry served as Chair of the Community Forest Management Plan Committee from November of 2022 to June of 2023. Larry took a moment to introduce himself to the rest of the Board. Larry and his wife lived in Jeffersonville, VT moved to Minnesota for 20 years to be close to family then moved to Barre only 2 years ago. He wants to make Barre a great place to live. Ready to be involved. Each Board member took a moment to introduce themselves to Larry. During this Agenda item, Remote Attendee Chris Violette (Town Manager) spoke up to share information he has received interest from 4 new candidates for the remaining Board vacancy position. The Board can anticipate filling their last vacancy by the time of the January meeting. Carol Hebert asked why Recreation Board does not interview with candidates? Chris responded, SB likes to maintain the authority of appointment to keep it unbiased. Annette Neddo asked Chris, Can the Board have alternates? Chris stated that alternates are usually associated with Board that require a certain amount of members present, however, he would speak with Director Crossley about entertaining options. Chris recognizes there can never be too many volunteers with a Board as active as the Recreation Board. Every volunteer helps the Board realize their goals. The Board discussed having a "Volunteer Sign-Up" added to the Town website under the Recreation tab.

**7. Review Draft Policies**

- a. The Board and Director have intention to make recommendations to the Selectboard by February. Those recommendations will include: Field Use Fees (For Facility Requests) and updated Facility Requests Forms. Following these recommendations, the Board will then work towards recommending updated: 1. Recreation Board Charge, 2. Recreation Area Rules & Guidelines, and 3. Playground Rules and Guidelines. The Board and Director will compile research and rationale as needed for recommendations to the Selectboard. There was discussion of putting together a community survey to gauge the Community's interests and priorities as they relate to Recreation around Town. It could aid in creating a 10-year vision for the Recreation Department. Also, Board members requested a new Agenda item at future meetings titled, "Discuss Draft Agenda for Next Meeting." It can be added to the "Round the Table" item at the end of the Meeting Agenda.

**8. Updates from the Recreation Director**

- a. RTP Grant is open. Intention is to apply for Little John Road Parking Expansion. \$4,000 match was set aside in '23-24 budget. RTP is a reimbursement grant with

a 20% match. Preapplications due December 30<sup>th</sup>. Director has submitted online form and will follow up with submission of “Work Plan” required before December 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

- b. LLF Fence project has not moved. A.H. fencing is awaiting shipment of all materials. A.H. fencing will contact Director when supplies are received to meet onsite prior to conducting work.
- c. Baseball Lighting has had issues with scheduling. Intention was to perform work at the beginning of November. Poles were delayed, however, did arrive in line with this schedule. November proved to be an issue of man power. Benoit Electric did not have enough manpower for the project during the month. Director Crossley has been attempting to get all parties to meet. Carol Hebert suggested if parties prove too hard to work with then we should consider alternative companies.
- d. A 2024 \*draft\* Recreation Calendar was shared with the Board. Director Crossley highlighted the importance of planning and preparing a Community Calendar in advance. Intention will be to release a “Recreation Calendar” at the very beginning of each year listing Department hosted events for the entirety of the calendar year.

9. **‘Round the Table:**

- a. Larry Rogacki: Insightful meeting. This Board is very active. I like the attitude.
- b. Amanda Gray: Public notice of Meeting date change, current calendar lists January 1<sup>st</sup> as the next meeting, however that is a holiday. It should be scheduled on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Asked if BYSA’s turf estimate Deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup> was known by Selectboard members. After that date the estimate could change.
- c. Annette Neddo: Nothing to add.
- d. Anastasia Douglas: There is a Parade put on by the Barre Partnership where Santa kicks off the tree lighting in Barre City. Might see if we can get involved next year and/or consider doing something similar.
- e. Carol Hebert: Recreation Department Booth at next year’s Heritage Festival with Kid centric activity(ies). Asked Director Crossley to update the April, June, and August minutes from “Draft” to “Final” on Town website.

10. **Adjourn:** On a motion by Anastasia Douglas, seconded by Annette Neddo, the Board voted to adjourn 5-0: **8:44pm.**

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