

Final

~~Draft~~

Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2022

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, December 5, 2022, starting at 6:00pm. The meeting was held in Conference Room #3 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board Members Present: Doug Farnham, David Rouleau, Annette Neddo, Amanda Gray, and new Board member Anastasia Douglas (remote). Also present at the meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers and Recreation Director Johnny Crossley. Absent from the Recreation Board were members Carol Hebert and Stacey Lynds.

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chair Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.
- 2) **Consider Approving Agenda:** David Rouleau made a motion to approve the Agenda as is. Amanda Gray seconded. Board approved 5-0.
- 3) **Consider Approving November 14th Meeting Minutes:** David Rouleau made a motion to approve of November 14th Meeting Minutes as is. Amanda Gray seconded. Anastasia Douglas abstained, due to not being a member of the Recreation Board at the last meeting. Board approved 4-0-1.
- 4) **Receive Guests (for non-agenda items):** No guests from the public appeared at this time.
- 5) **Forest Committee Brief:** David Rouleau gave The Recreation Board an update of the Community Forest Management Plan Committee's first two meetings: First meeting, November 21st, was an introduction. The Committee discussed their Charge from the Selectboard and how to run their Committee. Second meeting, November 28th, addressed the nuts and bolts of the Committee Charge in actionable steps. David Rouleau expressed the Committee was formed in June 2022 with the intention to complete its work by February 2023, however, given the later than expected start it would seem reasonable to extend the completion to the Summer of 2023. David Rouleau explained that the shifting timeline directly affects the Charge of the Committee. One Charge is to obtain a professional Forester's written recommendation for a forestry plan. Rouleau explained that Washington County Forester Robert Nelson has expressed to the group he can perform a review of the forest for a written recommendation in the Winter, however, the best time of year for him to do a thorough review would be between April and June. At that Recommendation, and the Committee not having a chance to have met between June and late November of this year, Rouleau believes the Committee should not be focused on February as an end date. Rogers expressed he had shared with the Committee that February was more of a self-imposed deadline, and the Committee could take a few months and even years. Rogers expressed that the Committee's timeline is dependent on whether they want to quickly review the CFMP, go through facts and figures of the last 10 years, or completely

rewrite it. Crossley expressed with the addition of the facilitator at the next meeting, they will have the chance to further articulate a systematic approach to reviewing the CFMP. Farnham wrapped up the Agenda item by saying a total rewrite shouldn't be needed and the Committee just needs to follow the Charge to move forward.

- 6) Budget Forecasting:** The Recreation Board discussed items to budget for in 2023-2024 fiscal calendar. Annette Neddo expressed an interest in investing in audio and projector equipment to continue the outdoor movie nights next Summer. Amanda Gray expressed an interest in holding an event in the Winter. The Board then discussed offering activities on a Quarterly basis to operate at least one event in each season. Some of the activities discussed included: snowmobile poker run, sledding, snowshoeing, and guided walks in the Town Forest. Rouleau expressed an interest in having the new Department Head (Crossley) explore partnership opportunities with Barre City and other area organizations to collaborate on events and programs. Rouleau also expressed an interest in expanding parking opportunities in the Recreation Area, in addition to lighting the Skatepark. Anastasia Douglas expressed an interest in creating more accessibility for children in Recreation. She mentioned a lot of area Summer programs occur in July, subsequently at the same time as Summer school. Students enrolled in Summer school do not have the same opportunities for programs come August. Anastasia Douglas expressed interest in providing more opportunities for kids during the period after Summer school ends before school picks back up in September. Farnham discussed funding to replace and/or repair fencing and poles at playing fields. Farnham suggested forecasting future work and budgeting portions of a project's cost over time. Crossley suggested using surveying with SurveyMonkey over social media, in addition to in person events hosted by the Recreation Board. The surveying would be tailored to understand the Recreational interests of the public and which Recreation capital projects the community would or would not want to support. Crossley shared information on utilizing the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program of UVM. Crossley's proposal is for the Intern to work 32 hours a week for 12 weeks at a rate of \$16.19/hour, following Option #2 offered by the program, starting in May and ending in August. UVM pays for 70 hours of the program. Crossley provided an update to the Recreation Board on the Little John Road Parking Expansion and Trail Kiosk Project. Additional details on the RTP Grants 20% match were requested. Crossley agreed to look into the details of the 20% match and share them with the Board.
- 7) Discuss Improvements to Little League Field:** The Recreation Board was hoping to have representation from Barre Community Baseball express their list of project priorities. Farnham expressed an understanding that BCB would like the Little League field to have the infield graded and all of the fencing replaced, in addition to a new outfield fence. Amanda Gray agreed to reach out to a contact from Barre Community Baseball. Doug Farnham requested the Board revisit this Agenda item at the next meeting once Amanda has had a chance to speak with someone from Barre Community Baseball who can communicate the organizations priority for each project.

- 8) **Revise Field Reservation Form:** The Recreation Board looked at the Facility Use Request form to discuss revisions that need to take place. Contact info needed to be changed to reflect the new Department Head as the primary contact.
- 9) **Other Business:** The Recreation Board discussed hosting a Winter movie night in the Selectboard room or at BUUSD's facilities. Rouleau agreed to send Crossley the point of contact for BUUSD's facilities to check on their availability. The Recreation Board further discussed field reservations. Crossley provided an update on the Town's new website possibly having a reservation system built in for Recreation. Amanda Gray considered if the Recreation Board needs to approve of reservations with the addition of this system and Department Head Crossley's hiring. Rogers stated the Board could authorize the Director to allow approval of reservation if they wish. The Board would need to create guidelines. Farnham suggested it be a "Trial Year" in order for Crossley to take part in the reservation process as is.
- 10) **'Round the Table:** Amanda Gray suggested we revisit hosting a Winter event, host guided hikes to acclimate kids and their parents to the Town Forest, and consider creating a scavenger hunt as another means to acclimate residents to the Forest. Annette: Nothing more to add. Anastasia: happy to have the opportunity to be on the Recreation Board and further access to recreation for kids. Rouleau: collaborate with Barre City and other organizations to create events like family bingo and open gym. Rouleau also discussed the Recreation Area gate being closed for the Winter. He expressed an interest in maintaining the notion of carry in carry out for the Winter, as other public facilities do. Farnham: Nothing more to add. Farnham brought up the next meeting of the Board would fall on January 2nd, an observed holiday. The Board agreed to meet on January 9th instead.
- 11) **Adjourn:** Amanda Gray voted to adjourn. Annette Neddo seconded. The Board approved adjournment 5-0.

Sign:

D. J. Farnham

Anastasia

Carl Hill

Amanda Gray

D. J. Farnham

Annette M. Neddo

Amanda Gray
