

Barre Town Recreation Board

February 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, February 6, 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 (remote), Stacey Lynds, Anastasia Douglas (remote) and Amanda Gray (remote) Also present at the meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley. No Board members were absent. Amanda Gray arrived remotely on Agenda item #6 (other commitment).

1. **Call to Order:** 6:06pm
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** David Rouleau made a motion to add Freezing Fun for Families as item 5c and Barre Town Middle and Elementary School as item 5d to the agenda. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board voted 6-0 to add amendments.
3. **Consider Approving January 9th Meeting Minutes:** David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the January 9th Meeting Minutes. Annette Neddo seconded the motion. Board approved Minutes 6-0.
4. **Receive Guests:** There were no members of the public present at this time.
5. **Consider Facility Use Requests:**
 - a. St. Monica – St. Michael has requested use of the Town Forest on May 31st from 10am – 7pm for the Saints Shuffle 5k Fundraiser. David Rouleau made a motion to approve the request. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board voted to approve 6-0.
 - b. Barre Lions Club has requested use of the Disc Golf Course on June 6, 2023 from 4:30pm until dark for the Barre Lions Community Disc Golf Challenge to benefit sight and hearing fundraising efforts. Payment of \$50 and Certificate of Insurance, listing the Town as insured, were provided with the request. David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the request. Annette Neddo seconded the motion. Board approved 6-0.
 - c. Freezing Fun For Families (added through amendment to agenda) Chris Cadorette of FFFF was present at the meeting to discuss the organization's plans for this year's fundraiser. The event will take place March 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Chris provided updates on FFFF: 1) Second year in a row the organization will be able to pay off beneficiaries before the event; 2) five families are receiving payoff amounts; 3) Instead of \$300 team registration, FFFF challenges each team to raise as much money as possible. Last year this resulted in over \$60,000.00 being raised. 4) In the past, FFFF has partnered with UVM to find beneficiary families. They have now entered a partnership with Dartmouth which will allow them to help more families across a greater geographic area. The Board wished Chris and FFFF continued success and notified them that the baseball field will not be

playable at night due to the ongoing lighting project. The softball field, however, will be playable at night under the lights.

- d. Barre Town Middle and Elementary School (added through amendment to agenda): Jack Carrier, Athletic Director of BTMES requested times for practice and games for both baseball and softball from May 1st through June 1st. A calendar of Jack's requested times and dates was provided to the Board members present. Chair Doug Farnham asked Recreation Director Johnny Crossley to clarify the length of time, considering the starting times were different from last season. David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the times and dates requested May 1st through June 1st, with the exception that Crossley confirm the time ranges. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board approved request 6-0.

6. Discuss Capital Projects:

- a. Fencing at ball fields and playgrounds: Chair Doug Farnham provided an update on fencing projects. In the past Arnie Hill has been the Recreation Board's contact for fencing. Chair Doug Farnham had learned Arnie Hill had an unfortunate health diagnosis that may have prevented him from working, however, Doug recently heard that Arnie will be available this upcoming season to work. Fencing projects are needed at the Rec Area Little League Field and Major league baseball field. The Board has not received a formal response to date from Barre Community Baseball in regards to their input on the proposed little league field rehabilitation projects. Chair Doug Farnham advised he would reach out. Recreation Director Crossley added that there is fencing in need of rehabilitation at the Graniteville Playground as well.
- b. Baseball field Lighting Project: Chair Doug Farnham provided a recap and update on the baseball field lighting project; originally \$75,000.00 was budgeted, however, due to supply issues and finding local trades to perform the work the Board is looking at a price tag closer to \$200,00.00 now. The eight 80' replacement poles had to be ordered from Texas. Recreation Director Crossley has been following up with Benoit Electric to receive their proposal, however, has not had luck yet receiving it. He will reach out again tomorrow. The project will need to be performed in the Fall due to soil conditions at the Rec area during Mud Season and the high recreation traffic of the Summer months. Chair Doug Farnham advised the next steps may be finding a contractor to perform the entire capital project and hire out their own subcontractors instead of the Town of Barre trying to find each subcontractor. Stacey Lynd suggested reaching out to Royal Electric if Benoit Electric did not follow up.
- c. Travis Mercy Skatepark: \$2,700.00 was budgeted for '22-23 to refasten the screws on park fixtures. Multiple attempts have been made by Recreation Director Johnny Crossley to contact David Wood, original architect, to give the Rec Board a health assessment of the wood structures and refasten the screws. David Rouleau advised he would reach out to David Wood and Linda Mercy with the hope that Linda may be able to get David Wood to come out this Spring to look at the Skate Park. David Rouleau also added that Travis Mercy's friend

Jordan Maxham, professional skater, may be in Town this August and has an interest in collaborating.

7. Other Business:

- a. Review Field Use Fees: As a member of VRPA (Vermont Recreation and Parks Association) Recreation Director Johnny Crossley has had access to other Rec Directors from across the State. An email thread about Town's field use fees planted the seeds for this conversation. Crossley provided Field Use Fees from four other Towns who provided them in the email thread. Crossley asked the Board if they would like for him to continue this as a "Field Use Fees Study" to reassess Barre Town's Fees next offseason. Board members expressed an interest in learning how Barre Town's Fees compare with other communities. Chair Doug Farnham requested Recreation Director Crossley add the "monetary amount of insurance required," listing Barre Town as insured, to the Field Use Request Form. In addition, Chair Doug Farnham asked if Recreation Director Crossley could find out if the Co-ed Adult Softball league paid their fees from their 2022 use.
 - b. Update on Egg Hunt and movie nights with Barre City: Recreation Director Crossley informed the Board that his counterpart in Barre City, Stephanie Quarantana, has been out of work recently with a medical emergency and thus there have not been new developments in the Easter Egg Hunt and Movie Nights at the Civic Center conversations. Amanda Gray recommended reaching out to Stephanie's colleague Jeff Bergeron, Director of Buildings and Community Services, to see if he would have information in Stephanie's absence. Stacey Lynds made a motion to authorize Carol Hebert to produce six Easter Baskets for the event. Board voted 6-1 to approve, Amanda Gray voted against. David Rouleau made a motion to authorize Recreation Director Crossley to initiate the payment of \$750.00 to Barre City, as has been custom with this event in the past. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0. At the next meeting Recreation Director Crossley will provide three projector/audio options for the Board to review for purchase from the Programs fund.
8. **'Round the Table:** Amanda Gray requested Youth Sports be added to the Field Use Study; do other Towns run their own leagues or make reservations for leagues? Annette Neddo reached out to St. Monica – St. Michael to discuss student volunteers. There may be a student willing to volunteer some hours. Carol Hebert asked for clarification on seasonal festivals, ice cream socials, movie nights, and where that conversation left off. The Board had agreed to attempt smaller scale events this year because of their perceived lack of volunteers needed to help a larger scale event. Stacey Lynds spoke on the success of Dabble Day on February 4th, despite the cold temperatures there were 75 different families who came out. Stacey gave out Playground, bike path, and trail map flyers Recreation Director Crossley printed out. Discussed idea of "pop-up" events throughout the Summer and collaborating with Ian at Aldrich Library. David Rouleau shared information on the Barre Town Thunder Chickens Poker Run on Saturday, February 18th to benefit the Travis Mercy Memorial Skate Park. Silent Auction will take place from 11am – 2pm. In addition, Friday, March 10th the Barre Town Dog Park will be

hosting a dinner at the Canadian Club to benefit improvement projects to the Dog Park. Vermont Senior Pickleball is aiming to do a trial run of the VT Senior Games Memorial Day Weekend at the Barre Town Rec Area. This would be their first time utilizing the facilities in Barre Town. If all goes well, they will be considering hosting the VT Senior Games in Barre Town in August of 2024. Lastly, David Rouleau spoke on the "Traveling Pickleball Pros" a team of professional Pickle ballers whom travel the Country hosting hands on lessons with a community minded approach. David Rouleau discussed considering them as a future program as there is a strong Pickleball Community in Barre Town. Chair Doug Farnham asked Recreation Director Crossley to determine when the new Town website is developed if they will be able to receive reservation payments online. If so, will they be directed to the Recreation Revenue accounts?

9. **Adjourn:** Stacey Lynds voted to adjourn. Annette Neddo seconded the motion. Board voted to adjourn 7-0.












