

Town of Barre Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes ^{July 17} June 5, 2023

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, ^{July} June 17, 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, Stacey Lynds, Annette Neddo, Carol Hebert (remote), and Anastasia Douglas (Absent: Amanda Gray). Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley and Millstone Trails Association President Kevin Spaulding.

1. Call to Order: Chair Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:09pm

2. Consider Approving Agenda: Recreation Director Crossley presented a Facility Request form from the Central Vermont Special Olympics. David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the Agenda as presented with the addition of the Vermont Special Olympics added as Agenda item #5f. Carol Hebert seconded the motion. Agenda approved with addition, 6-0.

3. Consider Approving June 5th Meeting Minutes: David Rouleau made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Minutes approved 6-0.

4. Public Input (for non-agenda items): No members of the public added input.

5. Facility Use Requests:

5a. Spaulding Girl's Soccer: Stacey Lynds made a motion to approve of the request and waive the fee, pending proof of Certificate of Insurance. David Rouleau seconded the motion. Board approved 6-0.

5b. Sr. Babe Ruth: David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the request and waive the fee, pending proof of Certificate of Insurance. Anastasia Douglas seconded the motion. Board approved 6-0.

5c. CV 13U Babe Ruth All-Stars: David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the request and waive the fee, pending proof of Certificate of Insurance. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board approved 6-0.

5d. NORBU – Ernie's Speed Camp: Requested fee be waived. Based on request, Board was unsure if NORBU qualified to have fee waived. Discussion was based on if NORBU charges entry fees for the camp or if it is offered for free to participants. David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the request and waive the fee (contingent on if the camp is free to participants), pending proof of Certificate of Insurance. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board approved 6-0.

5e. Easter Seals – Picnic Shelter fee waived request: Stacey Lynds made a motion to approve of the request and waive the fee. Carol Hebert seconded the motion. Board approved 6-0.

5f. Vermont Special Olympics: David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the request and waive the fee, pending proof of Certificate of Insurance. Anastasia Douglas seconded the motion. Board approved 6-0.

6. Millstone Trails Association – Pump Track Project: MTA President Kevin Spaulding was present to speak to the Board about plans for a pump track.

Background: MTA came before the Board a year ago to discuss building a pump track in the Town Forest. At that time, the Board made a recommendation to build the pump track within the Recreation Area at 46 Websterville Road.

The proposal by MTA is to build a pump track in the Town Forest adjacent to the parking facilities at 44 Brook Street. The scope of the project would be less than an acre. It would require some fill to be brought in along the track. It would not require the removal of any trees. MTA wishes to use the natural topography of the site. MTA wants to build the pump track in Town Forest instead of Recreation Area, because it allows users the ability to practice on the pump track and then apply the skills on the surrounding trails in the Town Forest. VMBA (Vermont Mountain Biking Association) offers a matching grant that MTA would like to apply for to build the pump track. The grant requires preapproval/authorization from the Town. MTA is seeking a motion of approval from the Recreation Board so they may move forward with a grant application. The Board considered MTA's project scope. Chair Doug Farnham asked members of the Board to share their thoughts and vote on a nod of approval, or disapproval. The Board voted 6-0 in favor of approval.

11. Discussion on Town Forest VAST Bridge: Moved forward in the Agenda following discussions under Agenda item #6 and to allow MTA President Kevin Spaulding to share MTA's perspective on the bridge.

Background: There is a bridge, located along the VAST trail in the Town Forest, that has been maintained by Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile clubs since before the inception of the Town Forest in 2013. The bridge existed prior to VAST. The snowmobile club has had to make repairs in recent years as some boards have rotted out or become damaged. The trail itself is only used by snowmobiles in the Winter. All four seasons the trail and bridge are used by a variety of pedestrians from hikers to mountain bikers and XC Skiers. David Rouleau, head of the Barre Town Thunder Chickens, has considered in recent Board meetings whom the responsibility falls on to repair the bridge, or even close the bridge in the event it is deemed unsafe to use.

David Rouleau shared that they are considering rerouting the snowmobile trail to go around the bridge and no longer use it. Kevin from MTA shared that the old aesthetic of the bridge is complimentary to the history and contents of the Forest. MTA would be willing to work with Thunder Chickens to improve or replace the bridge. Several options were discussed. The two user groups will continue the conversation to determine a path forward.

7. Potential Capital Improvement Projects related to ARPA Funds:

7a. Recreation Access Road: Need to verify length of Recreation Area Access Road.

7b. Bathroom Facilities at 44 Brook Street: Johnny Crossley spoke with Caitlin Cusack last week regarding the scope of the project. Caitlin and Johnny have a phone meeting arranged for this Thursday. Caitlin will have reviewed Conservation Easement to determine VLT's thoughts on the project.

7c. Permanent Pickleball Nets: David Rouleau supplied an estimate to dig, set, supply, and install six sets of Edwards Pickleball Nets, Posts, and footings in new concrete sleeves for \$2,100.00.

7d. ADA Compliant Trail in Town Forest: MTA President Kevin Spaulding shared that they worked with "Vermont Adaptive" to determine if any trails were currently ADA compliant for hand cyclist. Hand cyclist athletes tested out several trails in the Town Forest and determined three to be ADA compliant with Hand cyclists.

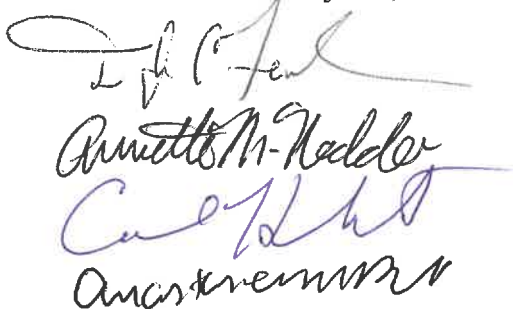
8. Recreation Rental Program: Johnny Crossley shared additional information with the Board in terms of how to start and institute a Recreation Rental Program. Johnny envisions a Rec Dept that has a Public facing staffer that could handle calls from the public, escalate priorities to the Director, and handle exchange of rentals. Johnny also shared means of instituting a locker system where residents could handle an exchange on their own. The Board discussed various ways a rental program could work and what equipment they might offer (snowshoes, sports balls, lawn games, etc.). Johnny Crossley and Finance Director Katelyn Kran had a meeting recently with a company that creates password based lockers that can be customized. The company lacked a payment system and ability to change locker passwords.

9. Updates on newly formed Dog Park Committee: David Rouleau provided updates on the newly formed Dog Park Committee. Attendance at first two meetings was good. Roughly 14 people at each meeting, and a mix of different people at each. People are becoming more familiar with the Dog Park being a user ran entity and not owned or ran by the Town. Discussion at meetings about how to upkeep the park, Public Relations and messaging, rules of the park, and possible events to host at the park.

10. Considerations for Barre Town Fall Festival '23: The Board and Recreation Director set October 14th as the date for this year's Fall Festival. The rain out date is scheduled for October 21st. There was discussion on what to offer at Fall Festival. Discussion included: a hay maze and photo staging area, a pumpkin carving contest, a Haunted Trail, food vendors, Community partners, vendors/ business booths, showing an outdoor movie, and music entertainment during the day. The time range of the event will be from the afternoon through dusk, with specific times to be determined.

12. Updates from the Recreation Director: Johnny Crossley provided pertinent information from the day to day as Director. Updates included: Anonymous complaint to VLT about Rustic Moose Kid's Camp use of Vernal Pools in the Town Forest, still awaiting procurement of 80' poles for baseball field, recent issues with kids climbing on pavilion shelters at Playgrounds and main Rec Area, and status of CFMP Subcommittee. In the interest of time, Johnny Crossley kept the update concise, due to time, and expressed to the Board that they can utilize this Agenda item at future meetings to ask questions about the Recreation Department's day to day or ongoing projects.

13. Adjourn: At 9:03pm, on a motion by Anastasia Douglas, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to adjourn, 6-0.



Handwritten signatures of board members, including Anastasia Douglas, Carol Hebert, and others.

