

Town of Barre Recreation Board

March 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, March 4th, 2024 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 David Rouleau, Vice Chair Carol Hebert (remote), Larry Rogacki, Jill Wilkinson, and Laura Ireland (remote). Absent: Annette Neddo and Anastasia Douglas. Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley.

1. **Call to order:** Chair David Rouleau called the meeting to order at 6:02pm
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** Carol Hebert made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, Larry Rogacki seconded the motion. Agenda approved 5-0.
3. **Consider approving January 8th Meeting Minutes:** Carol Hebert made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, Larry Rogacki seconded the motion. No discussion. Minutes approved 5-0.
4. **Public Input (for non-agenda items):** No members of the public attended the meeting, so no non-agenda items were discussed.
5. **Consider Approving Barre Men's Over 30 Softball League Alcohol Use:** Board member Larry Rogacki raised a question about where alcohol use is permitted on fields, prompting a short discussion by members. Alcohol use is prohibited on the field and in the dugout but permitted in the stands with Recreation Board approval. Carol Hebert put forth a motion to approve alcohol use, Jill Wilkinson seconded the motion, 5-0 approved.
6. **Update from Facility Use Policy and Fees Subcommittee:**
 - a. *Consider Approving Fields Unfit for Play Policy* – Carol Hebert suggested that the dates of Recreation Board approval and Selectboard approval for the Fields Unfit for Play Policy be recorded for record keeping purposes. In Anastasia Douglas's absence, Carol Hebert narrated a comment left by the absent board member which asked who should be contacted for field use in Recreation Director Johnny Crossley's absence. Johnny Crossley clarified that a designated Town of Barre staff member, likely one of the seasonal staff members or Town manager, can make the decision in the Recreation Director's absence. Larry Rogacki made a motion to approve the policy and recommend to the Selectboard for adoption, Jill Wilkinson seconded the motion, 5-0 approved. The policy attached to minutes as appendix A.
 - b. *Review General Rule and Guidance for Town Owned Recreation Properties* – Larry Rogacki listed changes to the document made since the last Subcommittee meeting. In board member Anastasia Douglas's absence, Larry Rogacki also read a comment made by Anastasia which raised three questions about the document. The first question asked about the accessibility of the document upon approval and was answered by Recreation Director Johnny Crossley. According to him, the document will be available on the Town of Barre website and at recreation facility information kiosks in the future. The second question asked whether a rule concerning correct use of equipment may be relevant for the playground. All board members agreed with this suggestion and the rule was added to the document. The third question asked whether political events may be allowed on playground property. With regard to the bike path, David Rouleau suggested that a rule be added to allow class 1 ebikes. Examples of prohibited vehicles were added to the rule banning motorized vehicles. After

discussion, the board concluded that further research and discussion would be necessary to finalize rules concerning political events at the playground or allowance of motorized vehicles on the bike path.

- c. Review Recreation Board Charge Revision 1.2024 – David Rouleau suggested that the description of the Chair position specify that the role uses Robert's Rules of Order as protocol for meetings. Laura Ireland pointed out that liaison role descriptions have not been completed and will need to be written in more detail. Recreation Director Johnny Crossley also noted that the charge does not specify how many times a year the board will meet. After some discussion, the board decided not to define a required meeting amount so that the board may meet as often as it needs to. Larry Rogacki made a motion to extend the working time for the subcommittee to June 3rd so that the documents can be finalized and interested parties can talk about changes to the fee structure. Jill Wilkinson seconded the motion, 5-0 approved.
 - d. Review Facility Fee Structure – Due time concerns, this item was not discussed and will be added to future agenda.
7. UVM Intern Athena Fowler-Shaw's Forest Accessibility Recommendations *Draft*: Intern Athena Fowler-Shaw introduced herself and her internship initiative. Athena presented actionable recommendations after visiting the forest, evaluating the Conservation Easement and 2013 CFMP, and reviewing results of the Community Survey performed in 2023 by the CFMP Committee. Millstone Trails have been working to improve signage in the forest with a focus on balancing clarity with natural feel. Flooding over the summer may have delayed the installation of signs at intersections. Current accessibility tools also include a digital map made by a former UVM intern which is available through a QR code at trail kiosks. Board member Jill Wilkinson recounted a recent experience wherein she struggled to navigate the forest trails, confirming the need for improvements such as those suggested by Athena. David Rouleau suggested a possible partnership with Vermont Adaptive to improve the trails' accessibility for adaptive equipment. Johnny Crossley also suggested that Athena Fowler-Shaw meet with MTA to move forward with her project, as well as meet with Anastasia Douglass to talk about signage accessibility. Athena will provide a final draft of recommendations at the May 6th Recreation Board Meeting.
8. Review Upcoming Events
- a. Egg Hunt – 3/30/24 – Johnny Crossley has met with his counterpart and cohost of the event Stephanie Quaranta to discuss preparations for the event. Stephanie offered to contribute 326 donated baskets to children prior to the event. This development was meant to replace the prize baskets awarded to the silver and gold egg finders, but the Recreation Board enjoys the tradition and has asked to continue it. Johnny Crossley and Carol Hebert will coordinate the creation of the prize baskets. The board discussed how responsibilities will be divided among the Town of Barre volunteers. The Egg Hunt will be advertised on social media as well as in the newspaper.
 - b. Eclipse Viewing – 4/08/24 – The Town of Barre will be promoting the recreation area as a local viewing place for the eclipse to be observed. This is not a formal event, but the public space will be available as an option for viewing. Jill Wilkinson raised the question of whether public bathrooms will be available on the date of eclipse. According to Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, water for the bathrooms will not have been turned back on for the spring by the date of the eclipse. Instead, viewers

can walk to the town offices and use facilities there or use the porta potty on site. Volunteers may be required to answer questions or direct people towards the town offices.

- c. *Summer Festival – 7/20/24* – A ribbon cutting ceremony may be planned at 10am on the date of Summer Festival to celebrate improvements made to the little league field. A co-ed little league skills and drills competition as well as a co-ed, all age 3v3 basketball tournament will be taking place as part of Summer Festival. Volunteers will be needed for both events. Johnny Crossley suggested the creation of a town policy on food vendors, which would be relevant to this event. The board reviewed a map of how recreation facilities will be used for Summer Festival, as well as promotional posters. Laura Ireland asked whether a rain date may be planned for Summer Fest. After discussion, the board determined that the event would be hosted rain or shine as long as fields are fit for play. David Rouleau suggested Summer Festival be an Agenda item at the April 1st Recreation Board meeting to continue preparations. Board members were comfortable with Recreation Director Crossley moving forward with advertising the event and registration for the Skills and Drills Competition, and 3v3 Basketball Tournament.
- d. *Set dates for Ice cream Socials, Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt, and Movie Nights:* Ice Cream Socials will begin at 6:30pm on the following dates:
 - July 9th at Trow Hill
 - July 16th at Upper Graniteville
 - July 23rd at Websterville
 - July 30th at South Barre
 - August 6th at East Barre
 - August 13th at Lower GranitevilleThe Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt will also be hosted on the same date as last year, the first Sunday of June. Movie Night dates will be chosen at the next Recreation Board meeting on April 1st.
- e. *April School Vacation Consideration:* An open gym may be held on the week of April vacation (4/22-4/26) in the multipurpose room of BTMES to entertain Elementary school students. This item will be discussed further at the April 1st Recreation Board Meeting.

9. Updates from the Recreation Director

- a. *Recreation Facility Light Poles* – A few years ago, the 80-foot poles supporting lights at the baseball field were determined to no longer be safe due to rot near the bottom. These were then cut below the electrical box and stored at the DPW yard following their removal. These poles have been cut down into 10 foot sections. January of this year, the butts of the poles were removed by Charles Curtis LLC as apart of the baseball field lighting project. Recreation Director Johnny Crossley has been approached by two parties interested in using the pole butts removed this January: The Dog Park Committee, which would use the butts of the poles to create an obstacle course in the park, and Luke Paul, who would remove them himself, pay the Town \$100/per 1000ft of Board, and cut them into lumber. The sections removed years ago of the 80-foot poles, stored in the yard, were also added to the discussion. In addition, three of the eight new 80-foot poles that were delivered to the Recreation Area this past year were added to the conversation. These three poles broke during the offloading process, snapping between 52-58 feet. That

amount of pole is still available to be used elsewhere. Discussion followed about alternate uses for the different poles in play as well as the logistics of moving and practically using them. Town Manager Chris Violette and Recreation Director Johnny Crossley have discussed using two of the new, broken 80-footers to light the volleyball and basketball courts. David Rouleau suggested maybe lighting the additional parking area adjacent to those courts with the same poles. David Rouleau also suggested using the older 10-foot section poles from the yard to light the dog park, possibly with solar lights. Carol Hebert made a motion to entertain using two of the new, broken 80-foot poles for lighting the volleyball/basketball courts and to use at least two of the older 10-foot poles to light the dog park. The motion was seconded by Jill Wilkinson, 5-0 approved. Further discussion will be required to determine how the rest of the poles may be used.

- b. *Freezing Fun for Families* – From the tournaments held on March 1st-3rd, \$64,000 were raised. Despite the lack of snow, it was a successful and fun event. The event was moved from the recreation area fields to the Wilson Industrial Park due to the prospect of the weather adversely affecting the fields.
- c. *Baseball Field Lighting Project* – At this stage of the project a lift is required. However, the lift was delayed due to concerns that the field would be unable to support its weight. No further progress has been made.
- d. *Littlejohn Road Parking Lot Expansion (grant submission)* – The grant has successfully been submitted on February 11th. When an announcement is made, Johnny Crossley will pass information on to the Recreation Board.

10. 'Round the Table

- a. Carol Hebert: Nothing to add at this time.
- b. Laura Ireland: Having swung by Freezing Fun for Families, Laura Ireland commented on how fun the event looked. Despite the lack of snow, it looked like everyone was having a good time.
- c. Larry Rogacki: Also stopped by Freezing Fun for Families and agreed with Laura about the success of the event. Larry Rogacki also raised a question about how events are being advertised. According to Johnny Crossley, Front Porch Forum has been a popular site along with other social media. The town newsletter had previously been used, but it is being limited to 3 newsletters/year due to postage costs.
- d. Jill Wilkinson: Suggested that a subcommittee potentially be formed to ensure events are being properly advertised to the public.
- e. Johnny Crossley: Nothing to add at this time.
- f. David Rouleau: Vermont Rural Water will be requesting use of the disk golf course; a request form can be expected.

11. Set Tentative Agenda Next Meeting: April 1st Meeting

- a. Summer Festival planning
- b. Movie Night dates and movie selection
- c. Open gym for April school vacation
- d. Communication subcommittee
- e. Discussion about how remaining poles should be used

- 12. **Adjourn:** On a motion to adjourn by Carol Hebert, seconded by Jill Wilkinson, the Board voted to adjourn, 5-0. **8:45pm**

Town of Barre
Parks and Recreation Department
Fields Unfit for Play Policy

The Town of Barre Parks and Recreation Department recognizes athletic competition and practice on soggy, soft, wet fields can damage fields by tearing up sod and by creating rough and uneven surfaces. Attempts to fix wet fields on the spot can lead to further damage. **No field maintenance may occur without prior authorization from the Recreation Director.**

Director's Office Number: (802) 477-1382 / Town Office Number: (802) 479-1382

The Parks and Recreation Department recognizes that everyone is busy and has full schedules. Postponing games is an inconvenience and can change the outcome of a season. The Town of Barre Recreation staff will make every effort to make fields suitable for practice and games. Despite these efforts, there will be days when ground conditions and weather result in unsuitable field conditions. Therefore, it is the policy of the Parks and Recreation Department to authorize the Recreation Director to deem fields unfit for play following the guidelines below:

1. Standing water on the field;
2. An average sized participant in that day or night's activities would make a 1" or deeper footprint;
3. The presence of impending inclement weather, including but not limited to: lightning, hail, severe rain, or wind;
4. Determination by the authorized game official (umpire or referee) to cancel the game due to weather.

The Recreation Director, or designated Town staff member, will inspect field(s) when it is suspected the field(s) might not be fit for play. If they determine the field(s) are unfit for play, they will post a sign conspicuously on the field or fence gates. If games or practices are scheduled for later that day or evening, they will attempt to communicate with the league's, association's, or team's contact person.

The Recreation Director, or designated Town staff member, will make a decision about the field(s) conditions and communicate with the appropriate contact person approximately two (2) hours before scheduled activities, or whenever possible, recognizing weather conditions may necessitate less than two (2) hour's notice.

The policy will apply to the soccer field, baseball field, softball field, little league field, and multi-purpose fields (baseball and softball outfields) at the Barre Town Recreation Area, to the East Barre Park, and to the South Barre ballfields.

Revised: January 19 – March 4, 2024

Approved by Town Recreation Board: March 4, 2024

Adopted by Selectboard: _____

Anyone playing on a field posted closed or unfit for play must leave immediately when directed by any Town Recreation Division employee, police officer, or the Town Manager.

If a league, association, or team violates the decision to prohibit play, the Recreation Director will note the date, time, and offending party or parties and contact the league's, association's, or team's responsible party to confirm the violation. When a violation is confirmed, the party involved may be assessed a \$50.00 penalty per violation. The Recreation Board may impose more penalties for multiple offenses or in the case of severe damage.

Authorizations:

_____ Recreation Board Chairperson	_____ Date
_____ Recreation Director	_____ Date
_____ Town Manager	_____ Date
_____ Selectboard Chairperson	_____ Date



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY MARCH 30

10:00 a.m. Sharp



EGG

Hunt



WATCH FOR DETAILS

ROTARY PARK JUST BELOW
BCEMS - AGES 3 - 10

Begins: 2:15pm
Maximum: 3:28pm
Ends: 4:37pm

Town of Barre
Recreation Area
46 Websterville Road

SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING



Parking at Barre Town
Middle and Elementary
School Lot



Summer FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 20th - 10am - 4pm

**Town of Barre Recreation Area
46 Websterville Road**

Free General Admission

Summer Slam 3v3 Basketball Tournament

Three Age Groups: 10-14, 15-20, & 21+

Craft Vendors

Food Trucks

Skills & Drills Competition

Baseball & Softball Ages 9-12

**Advanced registration necessary for 3v3
Tournament and Skills & Drills Competition**

Register at: www.barretown.org

TOWN OF BARRE

Summer Festival

Barre Recreation
Skate

Town of Barre
Community



Barre Softball Field

Map Key

 Picnic Table

 Vendor Booth


 Food Vendor

 Handicap Parking

 General Parking

Skills & Drills 

3v3 Tourney 

Bouncy House 

Emergency
Services 

Summer Festival Planning

Activities:

1) Bouncy House - \$170 - \$250/day

- a) Options: Bouncy House (themed) or Interactive Games
- b) 10am – 4pm

2) LLF Rib Cutting – Co-Ed Skills & Drills Competition

- a) Ages 9-12 - \$10/per participant
- b) 10:00am: Ribbon Cutting
- c) 10:15am – 12:30pm: Skills and Drills Competition
- d) **Volunteers: 5**

3) Craft Vendors

- a) \$15 Registration / Waive fee for non-profits
- b) Maximum 30 Spaces available
- c) 8:30 – 9:30am (SHARP) - Set up booths
- d) 10:00am – 4:00pm OPEN
- e) 4:00 – 5:00pm – Breakdown booths
- f) **Volunteers: 2**

4) Food Trucks

- a) Maximum 4
- b) Need Rec Board permission
- c) Concession Stand to BCB or other Sports entity

5) 3v3 “Summer Slam Basketball Tournament”

- a) Three Age Groups: 10 – 14, 15 – 20, 21+ \$30/Team
- b) *Half-Court Or Full-Court, depending dimensions
- c) Estimate 10:00am – 4:00pm
- d) **Volunteers: 4-8**
- e) Open registration March 18th – July 10th Fill out Form and Return to Rec Director
 - i) Email JCrossley@barretown.org
 - ii) Web link to Town website fillable form
 - iii) Mail in or hand in at Town Offices
 - iv) QR Codes on Ads

Parking:

- 1) BTMES Lot
 - a. Handicap parking directly next to bike path to allow access
- 2) Over Flow Lot
- 3) Lower Restroom/Pickleball

Skills and Drills Competition

10:00am: Event begins with a ribbon cutting ceremony

- Town Staff and Selectboard/Recreation Board Members will cut a ceremonial ribbon to signify a new era for the Little League Field at the Recreation Area.
- The Town has completely replaced all of the fencing, added a homerun fence, warning track, restored the infield, and painted the dugouts.

10:15am: Stretching

- Players will step out on the field for stretches.

10:30am: Speed Drill (Individuals)

- Players will line up behind Homeplate. A volunteer at first base will call go and the player at Homeplate will run out a single through first base. The volunteer will use a stopwatch and provide the player with their time.
- Following this, players will line up at Homeplate to run a homerun. This time the volunteer will be behind Homeplate with the stopwatch.
- When players finish their runs they will grab their glove and head over to a foul line in the outfield to begin warming up their arms with a game of catch.

11:00am: Relay Throws (Team)

- Players will be grouped into relay lines. The ball will start on one end of the line and work its way to the other end and back. Repeat 3 times.
- A perfect score (no dropped balls/bad throws) will add 10 points to the team's score.
- For each dropped ball or bad throw, a point is deducted from the 10 points.

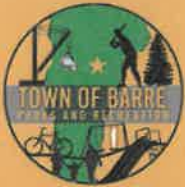
11:15am: Ground Ball (Team)

- Relay teams will transition to the infield (one at a time) for ground ball work.
- Positions(4) :3rd Base, Short Stop, 2nd Base, 1st Base
- Each position will field a groundball and throw to 1st base. Next, each position will field a ground ball and "turn 2." Last, each position will field a ground ball and throw home. Each successful fielding/throw will result in a point for the team.

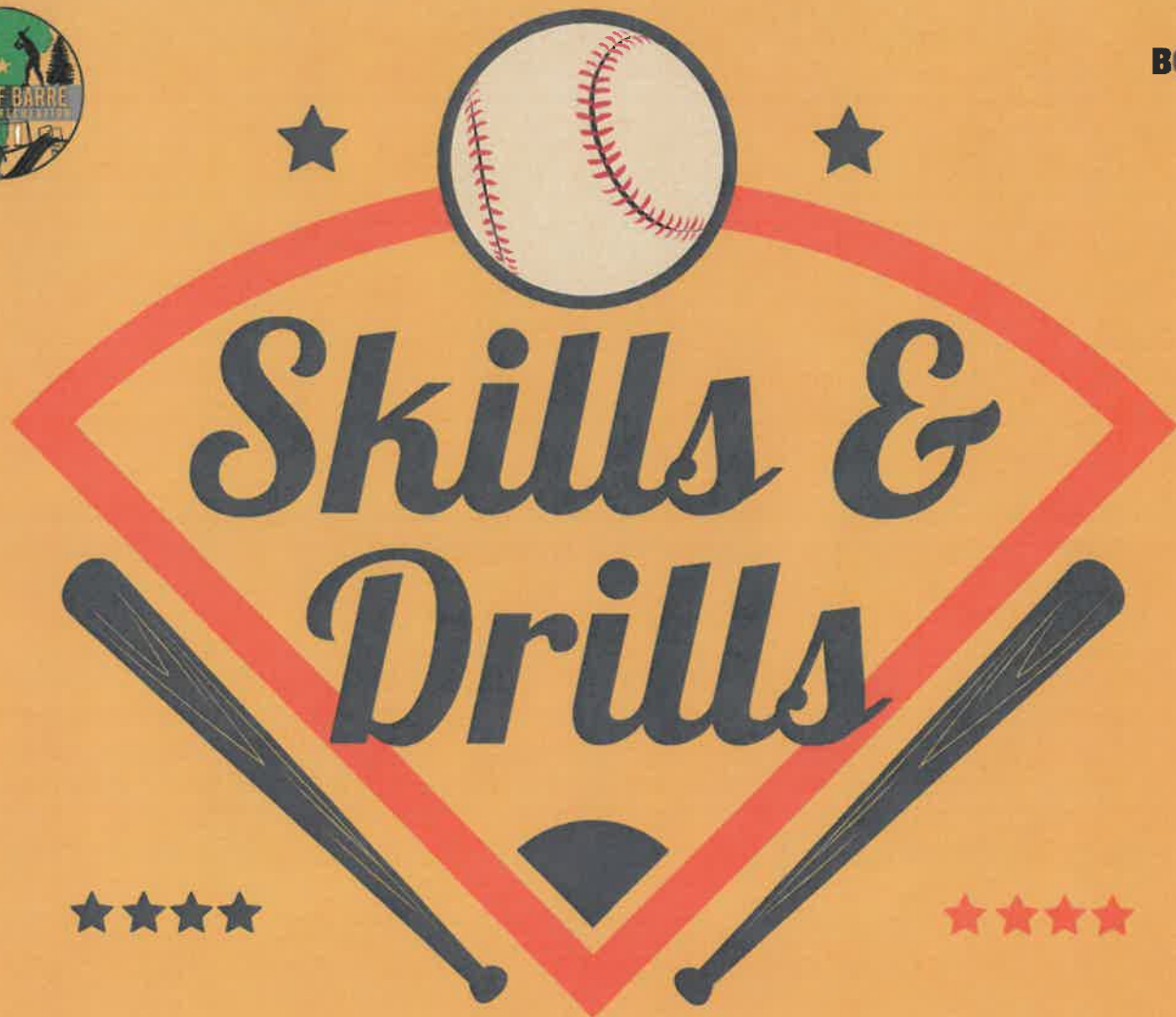
12:00pm: Pop Flies & Hit the Target (Individual)

- Players will line up in right and left field respectively to field pop flies. After catching the ball they will need to hit their relay target at first or third base (depending if they are in RF or LF). Each player will have the chance to field five pop-ups. They will be given a point for a catch and a point for a good throw to the target. Catches deemed as *Extraordinary Catches* by volunteer staff will be awarded 3 points.

12:30pm: Closing Ceremonies and Awards



BCB LOGO



SATURDAY, JULY 20TH

RECREATION AREA

RIBBON CUTTING AT 10:00AM

SKILLS & DRILLS COMPETITION TO FOLLOW

LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD AT 46 WEBSTERVILLE ROAD

REGISTER BY JULY 10TH

WEB LINK HERE



3V3 SUMMER SLAM

TEAMS:

Ages (10-14) & (15-20) & (21+)

GAME SCHEDULE:

Schedule will be released to team captain prior to tournament

ADMISSION:

- Ages (21+) - \$30 per team
- Ages (10-20) - \$20 per team

LOCATION:

46 Websterville Rd. Barre VT. 05641

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO @BLANK

