

Town of Barre Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, March 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, Stacey Lynds, Anastasia Douglas (remote) and Amanda Gray. Also present at the meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, Chris Dayton representing Barre Men's Over 30 Softball League, and Shawn Sicard representing Co-Ed Softball League and One Nation Softball.

1. **Call to order:** Chair Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at **6:05pm**.
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** David Rouleau made a motion to add item '5h: Co-Ed Softball League' and '5i: One Nation Softball' under Agenda item #5: facility Use Requests. Amanda Gray seconded the motion. Board approved amendments to Agenda 7-0.
3. **Consider Approving February 6th Meeting Minutes:** Carol Hebert made a motion to approve the Minutes with an amendment to change the spelling of a word from "ebents" to "events." Stacey Lynds seconded the motion.
4. **Receive Guests from the Public (for non-agenda items):** No members of the public were present at this time.
5. **Facility Use Requests:** There were a number of Facility Use Requests received for the Board to consider. Those requests included:
 - a. **Rustic Moose:** A Kid's Summer camp program that has existed for a number of years requested use of the Town Forest. The Camp does not request exclusive use of the Forest. Dates requested: June 19-23, July 10-14, July 24-28, and August 7-11. David Rouleau made a motion to approve the request contingent on receiving a Certificate of Insurance prior to the event. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0.
 - b. **Pickleball Pros:** The Recreation Department wishes to reserve the Pickleball Courts June 24th and 25th from 8:00am – 5:30pm to host a Pickleball Clinic. The Clinic will provide the opportunity for local players to advance their game. In addition, David Rouleau spoke on how this clinic will give some local area players the opportunity to advance their skills in a way that they may be able to offer free Pickleball Clinics in the future. Amanda Gray made a motion to approve the request. Anastasia Douglas seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0.
 - c. **Civil Air Patrol:** Request to have the Picnic shelter fee waived for the Civil Air _Patrol Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on June 10th from 8:00am – 1:00pm. David Rouleau made a motion to approve the request. Amanda Gray seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0.
 - d. **Barre Amateur Soccer Association:** BASA is requesting use of the Upper Soccer Field August 14 – 18th from 8:00am – 3:00pm for their soccer camp with

Challenger Sports. The Board discussed fee schedule for a sports camp. Facility Use Request Form did NOT indicate Sports Camp Price uniform with Town website/policy. As such, the Board discussed waiving this year's fee due to the administrative error on the Facility Use Request Form. David Rouleau made a motion to approve the request and waive the fee this year. Carol Hebert seconded the motion. Board approved 6-1-0 (Amanda Gray opposed). Chair Doug Farnham asked Recreation Director to explain the error to BASA, explain the fee waiver, and offer a suggested donation based on the fee associated with Sports Camps (\$500.00/week).

- e. **Men's Over 30 Softball League:** Chair Doug Farnham suggested changing the field reservation from 6:00pm – 10:00pm to 6:00pm - 11:00pm. David Rouleau made a motion to approve the request. Amanda Gray seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0.
- f. **Barre Community Baseball:** BCB submitted three separate requests. First request listed dates of June 4 – July 16 for the Rec Area Baseball field with TBD times. Recreation Director will follow up on this request to ask for specific times and about field repair work BCB plans to do at Rec Area Little League Field. The second request was for the Wilson Street Park and Playground fields May 1st through June 17th, Monday – Friday 5:00pm – 8:00pm, Saturdays 8:00am – 12:00pm. Amanda Gray made a motion to approve the second request pending Certificate of Insurance prior to play. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board approved second request 7-0. The third request for the Rec Area Little League Field May 1st through June 17th, Monday – Friday 5:00pm – 8:00pm, Saturdays 8:00am – 12:00pm. Amanda Gray made a motion to approve the third request pending Certificate of Insurance prior to play. Stacey Lynds seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0. Chair Doug Farnham asked Recreation Director to speak with BCB about existing banners at Wilson Street being hung without Recreation Board approval. An Agenda item will be added to the next meeting of the Recreation Board to discuss methodology to allowing banners being hung at playing fields.
- g. **Barre Co-Ed Softball:** Schedule is not yet finalized. Shawn Sicard requested Respect Line painted in outfield and made a suggestion for a higher fence with fabric on the third base side to block out the Sun in the First baseman's eyes. Shawn asked Board for protocol if there are disruptive players. Chair Doug Farnham said the policy is to call the Barre Town Police Department and allow them to handle the situation. If someone is kicked out of the league and continues to show up, then the BTPD can investigate and possibly issue a no trespassing order if enforcement is needed.
- h. **One Nation Softball:** This is a newer league sanctioned under USA Softball. Shawn stated that the league prides itself on fair and respectful practices and a no nonsense tolerance. Shawn is hoping to host a softball tournament or two before August 1st. He needs additional information before he is ready to submit a formal request.

6. **Dog park Discussion:** Allen Kessler, Maggie, and David Rouleau present from Dog Park Committee. David formed dog park intention to hand over to people using the park and not be a burden of the Town. Facebook group 764 people. Used year round by hundreds of people. Few people come out to attend volunteer and fundraising events. Having trouble getting park users to step up and take over. David has too many hats to be primary overseer, intention was to hand it off to users of the park. Tried to do a Halloween last year to get the word out, had to cancel due to kennel cough outbreak. According to agreement, organizers are not responsible to find new owners. If they cease dog park they have the ability to remove fence and donate to humane society. If owners dissolve Town has first right to takeover before owners donate fence. Dog Park Committee does not want to make this a town problem, but are unsure how to get the message out there to people to respect the rules of the park and step up to take care of it. They have tried to host educational seminars, however, no one seems to show up. VT Creamery spruced up Dog Park in the past because company does community service projects. Dog Park was originally presented to the Selectboard as a standalone, nonmunicipal project. Call to Action: need volunteers to take over management and maintenance of the Dog Park or the park may be in jeopardy of closing. Back on Agenda next month.
7. **Other Business:** Board discussed projectors presented by Recreation Director for outdoor movie nights. Board requested projector have Blu-Ray/DVD capability. If it can have good sound system too that is an added plus. Egg Hunt with Barre City is ready for 10:00am start on April 8th.
8. **'Round the Table:** AD: Saturday, June 10th Barre Pride Day. AN: Interested in Forest walk through intros for Kindergarten and 1st graders. SL: Nothing at this time. AG: Nothing at this time. Carol: Request follow up on Musco lights and Baseball lighting project at next meeting. Also suggested having an Agenda list on future meetings for updates for ongoing projects. DR: Corridor Managers will be meeting with Community Forest Management Plan Committee next Monday. Asked Doug to come represent Recreation Board while David wears his two Corridor Manager hats. DF: Doug announced he was considering not retuning at the end of his current term, ending May 2023. Doug shared information on an incident that occurred in the Town Forest two weeks ago. A group of roughly 15 people intentionally cut a hole in the ice in a quarry and went swimming. It was a quarry near the 16th hole of the Disc Golf course. BTPD issued no trespassing orders.
9. **Adjourn** Stacey Lynds made a motion to adjourn. Carol Hebert seconded the motion. Board approved 7-0 to adjourn.