

Town of Barre Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes May 1, 2023

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, May 1, 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 (remote), Jackie Jancaitis (representing the Central Vermont Runners), Pierre Couture (representing RockFire), and several RockFire volunteers.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Annette Neddo, three items were added to the Agenda under Item #5 Facility Use Requests: 5d Central Vermont Runners, 5e Barre City Baseball, and 5f BYSA LAX. Board voted in favor of adding the three amendments 7-0.
3. **Consider Approving April 3rd Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Carol Hebert, seconded by Anastasia Douglas, the Board voted to approve the April 3rd Meeting Minutes 7-0.
4. **Receive Guests from the Public (for non-agenda items):** There were no guests of the public for non-agenda items.
5. **Facility Use Requests:**
 - a. **RockFire:** Pierre Couture and several volunteers were present on behalf of RockFire. This year marks the 12th Anniversary of RockFire. The event has been scaled back from two days to one day, taking place on Saturday June 24th from 6:00pm to Midnight. Road closures begin at 6:00pm at the start of the event. The first phase runs from 6:00pm – 9:00pm and the second phase from 9:30pm until Midnight. There will be performers, fire stages, art, and other surprises. They expect 700 – 1,100 attendees, pending weather conditions. There will be campfires at strategic corners, bonfires, and fireworks. RockFire will get permits for these through the Town of Barre.
 - i. Vice Chair David Rouleau asked about cleanup of fires after the event and if it could get done sooner than later. Pierre assured the board that volunteers and himself would handle cleanup. He advised the Board if anything is missed along the way to call him directly and he will attend to it immediately.
 - ii. Pierre advised the Board that candles are left out overnight to burn so that they can burnout completely. It is easier for cleanup. Otherwise when they blow out the candles there are issues with the wax.
 - iii. Chair Doug Farnham spoke of an issue last year where a mountain biker ran over broken glass from the event and fell over their handle bars. Concern is that he does not want anyone to get hurt or think it is okay to light fires in the Town Forest without a permit and permission from the Recreation Board.
 - iv. Pierre stated that if anything is missed by him and his volunteers to call him directly and they will respond to clean it up.

- v. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to approve of the RockFire event in the Town Forest 7-0.
 - b. **Coral Women's Soccer (formerly Northeast Kingdom Warriors):** Requesting permission to play on the Upper Soccer Field. Request lists a date range of Sundays, May 28th – June 30th, with the specification of 5 Sundays 5:45pm – 8:00pm needed for play. Board asked Recreation Director Crossley to verify the 5 Sundays needed for play in the date range. In addition, if playing on May 28th, the Board will authorize play on the Lower Soccer Field instead due to water saturation of the Upper Soccer Field historically at that time of year. On a motion by Amanda Gray, seconded by Stacey Lynds, the Board approved the request at a cost of \$10/per game, plus proof of Certificate of Insurance prior to play, 7-0.
 - c. **Barre Town Spring Run:** Requesting use of the Millstone Hill West Bike Path and Picnic Shelter on Saturday, May 20th from 6:00am – 11:00am. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Stacey Lynds, the Board voted to approve of the request 7-0, pending proof of Certificate of Insurance. Fee waived.
 - d. **Central Vermont Runners Barre Heritage Festival 5k:** Jackie Jancaitis (remotely) was present to represent this request. CVR requests Millstone Hill West Bike Path and Picnic Shelter for July 29th from 7:00am – Noon. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Stacey Lynds, the Board approved of the request 7-0, pending proof of Certificate of Insurance. Fee waived.
 - e. **Barre City Baseball:** The Middle School in Barre City has developed a Baseball program, this is its first year in existence. They are requesting use of the Major League Baseball Field on Fridays May 5th, May 12th, and May 19th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. On a motion by Stacey Lynds, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to amend the schedule to 4:15pm – 6:15pm and approve the request 7-0. Fee waived.
 - f. **BYSA LAX:** Requesting use of the Lower Soccer Field for practice this week Tuesday through Friday (May 2nd -5th). On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to approve use pending field conditions, 7-0. Fee and Certificate of Insurance waived.
6. **Consider Recommending Dog Park Committee Agreement Renewal to Selectboard:**
 - a. Anastasia Douglas expressed that there needed to be a uniform “Name/Title” for the Committee. Document had them listed as Committee and Organizers. Recreation Director Crossley will adjust language to uniformly refer to the Dog Park Committee as “Committee” throughout the document. On a motion by Amanda Gray, seconded by Stacey Lynds, the Board voted to recommend the agreement to the Selectboard 6-0-1 (David Rouleau abstained).
7. Discussion on Large Improvement Projects to Recreation (items not currently in the budget):
 - a. Following conversation on the topic from last month’s meeting, Chair Doug Farnham reiterated the focus of this Agenda item. There are additional funds through ARPA to improve wellness in the Community. Chair Farnham has been tasked by the Selectboard with developing a proposal of potential Recreation projects. Those projects include: updating the Recreation Area Access Road to a 4 season road, replacing the Major league field backstop fencing, building a bathroom at the Town Forest parking area at 44 brook street, replacing the lower restroom at the Recreation Area with a new restroom

structure, removing cedar trees along the pickleball courts and putting up a wind fence on 3 sides, and, lastly, putting up solid metal permanent pickleball nets to replace the temporary ones currently used. Recreation Director Crossley pitched the idea of acquiring the old Rock of Ages Visitor Center to be a Community Center.

8. Other Business:

- a. Recreation Director Crossley provided a few updates on the day to day of the Recreation Department. Playing fields are currently saturated from Spring rain, may cause a few game and practice cancellations this week. Water fountain likely to be installed at Rec Area before Summer starts. Crossley spoke on creation of digital maps of Town bike paths he is working on for the new Town website. Chair Doug Farnham mentioned the Town had a bike path committee at one point, however, they have not met in a few years. Motorcycle Cruisers group will not be hosting a fundraiser at the Skatepark this year, too much on their plate to plan properly. Will start an annual charity ride in 2024.

9. 'Round the Table

- a. AN: June 4th Event: Spray paint dinosaurs on bike path, meet at picnic shelter, coloring books for kids made by Annette and temporary tattoos to offer. Suggested a line that indicates fundraiser/nonprofit benefiting on request form.
- b. DR: Need COI from VT Seniors Spring Fling Tournament. Need signs from Rec Crew posted that tennis courts are closed for May tournament and June clinic.
- c. SL: Metal Tree Bench donated to Rec Board. Idea to dedicate the bench in memory of someone. Suggested hosting a babysitting course in the Winter through 4H.
- d. AG: Baseball – Concern if work does not get done on LLF by Barre Community Baseball, what will be the Recreation Board's plan to perform work?
- e. CH: Squat cups and spoons to order for upcoming ice cream socials
- f. DF: Johnny gave his Second Quarter report to Selectboard, went very well. Happy to have him onboard.

10. On a motion by Stacey Lynds, seconded by Annette Neddo, the Board voted to adjourn 6-0 (Anastasia Douglas had to leave earlier in the meeting).