

## Town of Barre Recreation Board

May 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

*The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, 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, Larry Rogacki, Annette Neddo, Carol Hebert, Laura Ireland, and Anastasia Douglas (remote). Absent: Jill Wilkinson. Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley. Members of the public: Christopher Meyer (PE Teacher St Monica/St Michael)*

1. **Call to order:** Chair David Rouleau called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** Date in the subparagraph title corrected and the following Agenda items added: 9a) Open Meeting Law Training, 9b) Bike Path Conversation, 9c) Dog Park Operation and Maintenance Agreement, and 9d) Facility Lighting Poles. On a motion by Carol Hebert, seconded by Annette Neddo, the Board voted to approve of the Agenda, as amended, 6-0.
3. **Consider Approving April 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes:** Date in the subparagraph title corrected. On a motion by Carol Hebert, seconded by Annette Neddo, the Board voted to approve of the April 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes, as amended, 6-0.
4. **Public Input (for non-Agenda items):** Christopher Meyer (PE Teacher at St Monica St Michaels school) spoke to the Board during Public Input. Christopher asked the Board if the school could put up lawn signs advertising the annual "Saints Shuffle 5k" on each end of the Millstone Hill West bike path. The race is held annually in the Town Forest at the end of May and has already received approval for this year. Christopher added that he would take down the signs by June 1<sup>st</sup>. On a motion by Annette Neddo, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to allow St Monica St Michael's school to post signage at each end of the Millstone Hill West bike path, 6-0.
5. **Consider Alcohol Requests:**
  - a. Barre Men's Metal Bat League – On a motion by Annette Neddo, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to approve the request, 6-0. The league plays Tuesdays and Thursdays May through July. Alcohol is not allowed on the playing field or in the dugouts.
  - b. USA Softball Tournament – The Tournament is a two-day venture spanning all day Saturday and Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Alcohol is not allowed on the playing field or in the dugouts. The group is requesting a food vendor be onsite. On a motion by Annette Neddo, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to approve the request, 6-0. In addition, if a food vendor is onsite, they are responsible for cleaning up after themselves.
6. **Town Forest:**
  - a. Quarries Disc Golf Course: Current agreement began in June of 2020 and expires June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. The Board reviewed and offered considerations for the Recreation Director. Hunting season clause should be kept in to seek Recreation Board approval for use in hunting season. "which is subject to" should be added to the first line of the document. Last page signatures: "Recreation Director & Selectboard Chair." On a motion by Larry Rogacki, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board recommend Recreation Director Crossley submit the Quarries Disc Golf operations agreement, with aforementioned modifications, to the Selectboard to consider, 6-0.
  - b. Chronolog Program: Background: Organizations set up a chronolog photo station. A passerby aligns their phone, snaps a photo, and emails it to chronolog. Their photo is automatically added to a chronolog time lapse of that specific location. People can view the time lapse online. Chronolog engages your community by recording environmental change over time. Larry Rogacki spoke about the Chronolog program with MTA President Kevin Spaulding, VLT Forester Caitlin Cusack, and Recreation Director Crossley. All are supportive of the idea. MTA is potentially willing to install one themselves. The cost is \$200 annually for a station, plus the one-time installation expenses. Potential sites in the Town Forst to consider: 1) Old logging site, 2) Area with a high concentration of Ash trees, 3) Scenic vista.

On a motion by Larry Rogacki, seconded by Laura Ireland, the Board voted to recommend that if there are surplus funds in Town Forest line item of '24-25 budget to proceed with the Chronolog program at a \$200/annual fee and \$50 for installation of the station. In addition, budget \$200 annually in future budget cycles to continue the program, 6-0.

- c. VLT Monitoring Report: See attachment.
- d. Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in May: Central Vermont is located within one of the “hot spots” for EAB within the State. The Town Forest has a considerable amount of ash trees within its borders. Larry Rogacki spoke with the Vermont Cooperative Extension Service (part of UVM) about partnering on a forest event May 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>. The event would raise awareness of EAB and educate participants.

**7. Facility Policy and Fees Subcommittee Update:**

- a. On April 11<sup>th</sup> the Subcommittee met with user groups to present and discuss potential fee updates. Subcommittee created an updated second draft acknowledging user feedback and emailed it to user groups. No additional feedback received yet. Subcommittee will meet again to update facility request forms in connection with updated fees and policies.
- b. Larua Ireland and Director Crossley attended the Selectboard meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss “General Rules and Guidance for Town Owned Recreation Properties” and “Recreation Board Charge v1.2024.” Selectboard offered additional edits to the former and determined it be adopted by the Recreation Board with the Selectboard being kept in the loop. The latter required additional work as the Town’s Charter will need to be amended in order to adopt a new charge. The Selectboard wished to utilize the language the Subcommittee created, minus the liaison positions.

**8. Programs & Events:**

- a. Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt: Leftover Green Up Day donations will be used to provide a cookout on a first come first serve basis. Kids will be given a Safari License containing three dinosaurs they will seek out along the nature loop at the Recreation Area. Anticipated volunteers: Laura Ireland, Patti/Larry Rogacki, Annette Neddo, Johnny Crossley, and Alysa Hoffman.
- b. Summer Festival: To date, we have received over 20 vendor registrations. Some applicants may be denied if there are already multiple vendors with the same products. Director Crossley is working with Walmart in Berlin to secure volunteers for the event.
- c. Movie Nights: BTMES librarian did not believe their license would cover a collaborative event. Single movie license cost \$425. Reach out to Aldrich Library and others to find a way to offer free movies nights to the public.

**9. Updates from the Recreation Director:**

- a. Open Meeting Law Training: Director Crossley and four Board members attended an open meeting law training put on by VLCT. All found the course to be insightful and shared thoughts on the training. Chair David Rouleau suggested that when new Board members come on there be a way to onboard them with this training.
- b. Bike Path Conversation: Director Crossley emailed a VTrans grant opportunity to Board members before the meeting. The Board has taken interest in the old bike path Committee and reigniting the movement to finish and connect the Town’s bike paths. The Town’s Bike Path Committee last met in 2018. At Department Head meeting, Director Crossley was told resident Paul Murphy would be very knowledgeable on the subject and could be a resource to learn more about Bike Path Committee work.
- c. Dog Park Operations & Maintenance Agreement: The Town of Barre Community Dog Park agreement with the Town expires June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. On a motion by Larry Rogacki, seconded by Larua Ireland, the Board voted to recommend Director Crossley submit the OMA for Dog Park for another 1-yr period “as is” with updated dates, 6-0.
- d. Lighting facility poles: Director Crossley met with the Selectboard on April 30<sup>th</sup> to share Recreation Board’s considerations for facility lighting poles. The Selectboard gave Town Manager authority to negotiate with interested party, Luke Paul, on 10foot poles and pole

butts removed in January. The broken 80footers will be used to light the basketball and volleyball courts.

**10. 'Round the Table**

- a. Anastasia Douglas: Met a nice father/son at Green Up Day BBQ. Son had a traumatic brain injury, Father expressed delight with the Town's accessible bike path.
- b. Laura Ireland: Nothing at this time.
- c. Larry Rogacki: Nothing at this time.
- d. Carol Hebert: Noticed portalets were not out at playgrounds. Director Crossley aware and communicating to Wind River. Update on portable pitcher's mound? User groups came to agreement. Seasonal staff will "build up" the mound with infield mix to widen it for baseball use and then remove mix and mound before Softball Tournaments on the field in August. Any updates on lighting poles? Ground is not suitable for a lift, when ground is suitable the project can continue. Conflict on May 18<sup>th</sup> with Spring Run and Crimson Crawl color run, update? Crimson Crawl received Board approval, Spring Run did not. Director Crossley contacted race director to help reschedule. Spring Run decided to join forces with Crimson Crawl and be better prepared in advance with their facility request next year.
- e. Annette Neddo: Town of Barre has a "Volunteer week" where they honor volunteers. Annette brought in copies of the "Thank You" to share with Board members who had not seen it. She expressed gratitude towards the Town for recognizing volunteers.
- f. David Rouleau: Discussed potential BOR Turf promotion ideas to help raise awareness of this community resource. Floated the idea of fun game or Olympiad series of lawn games of Barre City and Town of Barre staff and Board volunteers. Next meeting, Recreation Board members are reappointed, annual restricting meeting. All 3 members up for reappointment wish to continue: Carol Hebert, Laura Ireland, and Anastasia Douglas.

**11. Set Tentative Agenda for June 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:**

- a. Subcommittee Update
- b. Programs & Events

12. **Adjourn:** On a motion by Carol Hebert, seconded by Laura Ireland, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:26pm, 6-0.