

# Town of Barre Recreation Board

## Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023

*The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, October 2, 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 (absent before item 5b), Carol Hebert, and Anastasia Douglas (remote). (Absent: Amanda Gray). Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley and Alyssa Johnston representing Websterville Christian School.*

1. ***The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm.***
2. ***Consider Approving Agenda:*** On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to change item 5b to Websterville “Christian School,” add a retroactive request for the Pickleball Court as item 5c, and remove item 6 “VT Wins Motorcycle Group” in exchange for “Memorial Bench;” 4-0.
3. ***Consider Approving September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes:*** On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to approve the September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes, 3-0 (Anastasia Douglas Abstained as she was not present at the meeting).
4. ***Public Input (for non-agenda items):*** No members of the public appeared during this Agenda item.
5. ***Consider Facility Use Requests***
  - a. ***Vermont USA Softball 2024 Tournament Weekend***
    - i. Requesting use of the Baseball and Softball fields for a tournament weekend August 9, 10, 11, 2024. The temporary fence may need to be installed on the baseball field. Chair Doug Farnham noted the request did not fill out the alcohol permission request and that it would be allowed if the requester seeks permission, as they did at a past event. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Anastasia Douglas, the Board voted to approve of the tournament request, provided Proof of Insurance, 4-0. Requester will need notice of potentially needing \$2 million in insurance coverage. Chair Doug Farnham stated in conversation with requester to anticipate a donation to the Recreation Department.
  - b. ***Websterville Christian School:***
    - i. They requested use of the Soccer fields at the East Barre Park and Playground from 4:00 - 5:30pm Monday and Wednesday, starting immediately and likely to end Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup>. The school is starting an after school intramural program. They currently have 15 kids signed up and hope to add a few more. They will not need the field the Monday of Indigenous People’s Day/Columbus Day. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board vote to approve of the request, pending Proof of Insurance, 5-0.
  - c. ***Pop-Up Pickleball Tournament:***
    - i. David Rouleau was contacted about the potential for an indoor tournament to be moved outdoors to the Town of Barre Recreation Area Pickleball Courts on Saturday, September 30th. David Rouleau shared this

communication with Chair Doug Farnham and Recreation Director Johnny Crossley a week prior to the event date. The Tournament was originally with Essex Recreation. Green Mountain Community Fitness put on the outdoor event at the Town Courts. 6 teams played in the morning, 5 teams played in the afternoon. David stated the Courts were full all day and that the community hung around to watch others play. On a motion by Doug Farnham, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to retroactively approve of the use of the Pickleball courts by Green Mountain Community Fitness on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 5-0.

6. Memorial Bench Discussion:

- a. Background: Last Summer, Wanda Miller approached the Recreation Board about placing a Memorial Bench for her Husband along the Millstone Hill West Bike Path. The Central Vermont Career Center Building Trades Program was set to work on the bench. Wanda Miller got in touch with Recreation Director Crossley recently to arrange a meeting at the potential site with CVCC Building Trades Instructor Dimitri Kolomeitsev. The site is located along the Bike Path almost directly across from the Lower Graniteville Picnic Area and before the three granite benches already existing along the Bike Path. A concrete slab will be poured and the bench will be bolted down to the concrete.
- b. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board voted to approve of the Memorial bench being placed in the discussed site along the Bike Path. 5-0 move forward with Wanda and Demetri to install memorial bench at agreed upon location.

7. BYSA Turf Project Discussion:

- a. Chair Doug Farnham stated the Selectboard heard from BYSA at their meeting last Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The Selectboard did not take a vote on approving the contribution of \$15,000.00 to the Project, however, they took a poll among the Board to determine a consensus. All five Board members were in favor of supporting the project. At this time, funding the project is contingent on potential Town spending after the July Floods. The Town is currently working with FEMA on several projects and will soon have a better idea of where funds stand.

8. Consider Capital Improvements (Ongoing Discussion):

- a. Chair Doug Farnham shared that they have not received the estimate for the bathrooms at the 44 Brook Street town Forest Parking Area. More information to come soon. As for the Recreation Area Road, they are looking at pricing points for converting the road to a 4 seasons road and what it would cost to update the parking areas to 4 seasons as well..

9. Updates from the Recreation Director

- a. Update on Baseball Field Lighting Project: The eight 80' poles arrived at the Recreation Area on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at approximately 12:50pm. Recreation Director Johnny Crossley worked the logistics of getting the poles delivered through the BTMES Bus circle and up the Bike Path to the Yellow Recreation Garage. Superintendent of DPW Richard Tetreault brought a crew onsite with equipment to offload the poles. During the offloading process, three poles rolled simultaneously off the truck and snapped roughly sixteen to twenty four feet down from the top of the poles. There are currently three poles still

standing at the Baseball Field. New approach will be to test the existing 3 poles for health and longevity. Next step would be to go forward with installation of the five remaining intact poles. Benoit Electric would install the new Sentry LED lights on three existing poles and five new poles.

- b. RFP for Little League Fencing: RFP was sent out prior to Town Manager Chris Violette leaving for vacation. Will receive bids proposals in Mid October. Work could potentially get done before snow falls.
- c. Infield Projects at Little League Field and Wilson Street Fields: Bellavance Land works is scheduled to rototill and grade the Little League Field at the Recreation Area and the two T-ball fields at the South Barre Park and Playground on October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.
- d. Fall Festival 2023 – Planning Discussion:
  - i. The Board and Recreation Director discussed items needed to finalize set up of Fall Festival. Terry Smith is volunteering to carve six pumpkins for pumpkin mini golf. Carol Hebert said she will have one race car to add to the “hands on big rigs.” Carol Hebert and Amanda Gray are providing Corn Hole sets. Carol Hebert is going to bring decorations such as pumpkins and cornstalks, however, she will not seek reimbursement from the Town as she plans to use them after Fall Festival to decorate her own home. Anastasia Douglas will set up a Sensory table and coordinate with Johnny about what is in storage and if anything needs to be ordered. Johnny will continue to add postings to Front Porch Form and Facebook advertising the event. In addition, he will reach out to the Times Argus to try to get added to the “Talk of the Town” column.
- e. David Rouleau asked the Director if there is an update on the Town Forest Plan. Johnny explained that Washington County Forester Robert Nelson completed the field work portion of the plan before leaving to fight wildfires in Quebec. Upon returning in recent months, Robert has had a backload of work to catch up on. Robert needs to consolidate his field notes into the written Management Plan. When that is done he will send it to Johnny.

#### 10. ‘Round the Table:

- a. Annette: Nothing to add at this time.
- b. Anastasia: Nothing to add at this time.
- c. Carol: At the previous meeting there was mention of potentially doing reservations for the shelters at playgrounds. Do we want to address this on the next Agenda? Chair Doug Farnham responded with a thought that any party over 20 people at one of the playground shelters should require prior authorization. There would need to be posting of this policy at the shelters. David Rouleau added that the Town Newsletter could be used to get info out there about not overparking and overcrowding the playgrounds; communicate to the public how too many cars on the streets can create a safety issue. Consensus of conversation was to add an Agenda item at the November meeting to further discuss this issue and consider the need for a new policy.

- d. David Rouleau: Love the water bottle filling station at the Recreation Area, will continue to praise the installment of this fixture. A lot of positive comments from the Pickleball Community. Great use. Pickleball Nets will need to be taken down when weather says so. David will coordinate with Johnny. Reiterated to Dog Park Committee they cannot excavate soil based on current CMA with the Town. Dog Park started a suggestion box at the park. Allows people to report bad dogs, poor behavior, or leave feedback/suggestions. The Dog Park Committee is working to set up a formal bank account. Fundraising ideas are in the works. Howlathon Dog Parade is set for Fall Festival, participants donate to receive a bandana for the event. Looking to have CVCC build a durable "Donation box" to install within the Dog Park.
- e. Doug Farnham: Trail restoration directly adjacent to the 44 Brook Street Town Forest Parking Lot came out very nice. Asked Recreation Director why Baseball field recently has "Closed" signs hanging up? Recreation Director responded that it is to preserve the playing fields longevity as the record level of saturation on the field this year has left the Outfield in a wet, swampy state. Recent weather has helped to dry out the field. Spaulding High School Athletic Director Derek Cipriano has actively communicated with Johnny about field use and has preferred Field Hockey stays off the outfield until it dries out. Derek directed his crew to line the Upper Soccer Field with an alternative color to allow their Varsity Soccer and Field Hockey teams to use the field. Johnny stated that the BTMES Athletic Director Jack Courier had also been made aware not to use the field and was understanding of the circumstances. The first Field Hockey game, to be played on the Baseball Field, will be tomorrow, Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. "Closed" signs are to be removed prior to the game.

11. Adjourn: On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Annette Neddo, the Board voted to adjourn, 5-0. Chair Doug Farnham declared that this would be his last meeting with the Recreation Board. Doug submitted a letter of resignation to the Selectboard, effective immediately.



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