

**Town of Barre  
Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2018**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, March 5, 2018 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, and Mike Gilbar. Absent board members were Brian Wilcock, Craig Locarno and Adi Dobrilovic. Also present were Spaulding High School student representative Whitney Renaud; Garrett Washburn from the Ch.O.I.C.E Academy; School Board member Rebecca Somaini and School Principal Brenda Buzzell from St. Monica-St. Michael's School; town manager Carl Rogers and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Terry Smith moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Mike Gilbar seconded the motion and the board approved it by a 4-0 vote.

Smith made a motion to approve the February 5, 2018 meeting minutes as written. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes of 2/5/18.

There were no guests for a matter not on the agenda.

**5. Field Requests –**

- a. Ch.O.I.C.E. 5K – Garrett Washburn asked the Board to approve the Ch.O.I.C.E. Academy's fundraiser 5K run/walk on the Millstone Hill West Bike Path on Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>. They would need the picnic shelter from 7:30am-12:00pm. Race time would be 9:00am. Washburn requested that the fee for the picnic shelter be waived. Race proceeds will go towards this year's student trip to New York City. Smith noted that May 13<sup>th</sup> was Mother's Day. There was discussion that they might be pulling from the same pool of runners as for the requested St. Monica-St. Michael's School 5K on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Washburn changed their request to Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>. Smith moved to approve Ch.O.I.C.E. Academy's 5K run/walk on the Millstone Hill West Bike Path on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and to waive the fee for the picnic shelter. Gilbar seconded the motion and the board approved it 4-0.
- b. Rockfire – The requestor Pierre Couture was not present at this point so the Chair decided to postpone the agenda item until later in the meeting.
- c. St. Monica-St. Michael's School 5K Fundraiser – Becky Somaini and Brenda Buzzell requested use of Town Forest trails on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>. They would set up at 7:30am at the 44 Brook St parking lot and be out by noon. Race time would be 9:30am. Somaini said they were still deciding on trails but would likely be similar to those used by the Spaulding High School Cross Country Team. They have not provided the town with their certificate of insurance but would. Dave Rouleau, who is one of the Quarries Disc Golf Course Organizers, said he would make a sign for the disc golf course to warn them, and yield use, of trails that day. Smith moved to approve St. Monica-St. Michael's School's use of the Town Forest for their 5K fundraiser on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, from 7:30am to noon, conditioned on the town receiving their certificate of insurance in time. Gilbar seconded the motion and the Board approved it 4-0.
- d. BTMES Grade 3 Field Day - BTMES 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have used the soccer field and picnic shelter for the last two years for games, activities, and a picnic lunch. Their preferred date is June 5, with a rain date of June 8. The times would be 9:30a-3:00pm. Smith asked whether there would be a conflict with Caws

4 Paws which is scheduled to have Dock Dogs set up on June 8. Rouleau said that it would not be, given that they would be in separate areas of the Rec area. Rouleau moved to approve use of the soccer field and picnic shelter by the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School's Grade 3 Field Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 3pm, and to waive the picnic shelter fees. Gilbar seconded the motion and the Board approved it 4-0.

- e. BTMES Baseball and Softball – The school's annual baseball and softball field use request was shared with the town manager via Google Calendar, which staff were not able to access by the meeting. The town manager recommended the Board approve their request because the school has priority on the fields. Rouleau moved to approve the BTMES Baseball and Softball 2018 field use requests. Smith seconded the motion and the Board approved it 4-0.

**6. Escape Room** – Smith shared that she met with the Times Argus since the last meeting to help them with this event, planned for the Lenny's Outlet storefront in Barre City. They are looking at the last weekend in April to tap the attention already downtown for the Thunder Road car show. Game times won't start until 11am but there will be something visible in the windows before then. If required by Lenny's they could go to the next weekend. Time slots for the one room would be filled by reservation. Overall recreation will be the theme. They are now working on puzzles and what to have in the room. They need enough clues so the game can be changed from slot to slot and clues not transmitted to subsequent groups.

The event will be a fundraiser for SWISH, so the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union), girls' basketball, and boys' basketball teams will all benefit. The fee will be \$20 per team of up to 4 people with a cash prize for the fastest team. The times will be Friday 4-8pm, Saturday 11-7pm, and Sunday 11-4pm.

Farnham asked if the organizers had considered an option for teams to buy a clue if they are stumped. Smith said they would consider it.

Smith said everything will be ready to go by March 18<sup>th</sup>. She asked the Rec Board for volunteer time and ideas, and discussed prize ideas and 'room filler' stuff. Renaud said she can get an advertising poster approved by school administration to be put up at Spaulding High School.

**7. Freezing Fun for Families (FFFF) Feedback** –Rogers said that he talked to Fire Chief Chris Violette because the Fire Department had a team that played. Violette said it went well, that they moved areas of play to limit field damage and were strict about no cleats. Farnham and Rouleau shared their observations that agreed that the organizers were responsible towards the fields, and that parking was a problem on Friday.

Farnham said that the pickleball players decided to allocate that day's pickleball donations to FFFF and that he heard FFFF had successfully raised \$10,000 per family, which was their goal. Rouleau said that the fundraiser dinner at the Elks club was not well advertised nor attended. Farnham estimated 65-70 people.

**8. Caws 4 Paws** – Rouleau said he was still working on how the Dock Dogs' 30,000 gallon pool would be filled. The Fire Chief said it would take 17 trips with their tankers from the quarries. Rogers said 30,000 gallons is about half of the total system's daily use. The equivalent of 40.1 units, at the water charge of \$6.70/unit, that volume would be valued at \$260. Compare to paying a minimum of 4 firefighters to operate two tankers for 4-5 hours at \$13/hr a total of \$234. Also, Chief Violette was not able to commit four appropriately qualified firefighters this far in advance. Rogers advised that the organizers work with a trucking company, which could be supplemented with the fire department. Rouleau said he would work towards a go, no-go on the Dock Dogs this week. A go means raising \$6,000 for them.

Rouleau said that JD Green is making progress on the event. Green is working on a showcase event every hour on the hour, such as Disc Dogs, that charges \$200 for a demo. Rouleau said he believed Barre Town Police K9 Huey would be at the event. Smith asked to coordinate the Disc Dog area with the Kid Zone as she had tentatively planned to use the softball field. Farnham recommended Disc Dogs use the baseball field as the bleachers would be good for viewing their performance(s).

## **9. Dog Park –**

a) **Mutt mitts:** Rouleau recommended adding another mutt mitt station at the Dog Park to be purchased with Dog Park donations, and supplies be paid for by the Dog Park Organizers, with an open question of who would stock it. Although a composting unit is planned, it could still be used in subsequent winters. Rogers said the type purchased by the Town from Intelligent Products is \$700-\$800 each. Farnham said he found ones that were less expensive. Rogers recommended buying the same ones that the town currently has for consistency. Rouleau said he was comfortable tabling the purchase until the next meeting so that he would know how much money they had available after the Calcutta. Farnham said that the waste has been a problem and will be worse as weather warms and to act sooner. Gilbar made a motion to approve the purchase of a Mutt Mitt Station out of the Dog Park donations. Smith seconded. Rogers asked whether the organizers would be ok with using the donations on this purchase. Rouleau said yes. The Board approved the motion 4-0.

b) **Donations:** Rouleau said 80 Calcutta tickets had been sold and that he estimated they would make \$2,500. Brent Tewksbury of Lafayette Highway Specialties has not answered Doug's question yet of whether to expect a third invoice for the fencing.

c) **Other:** Rouleau read a note from an appreciative resident who brought a friend with mobility issues to the Barre Town Dog Park who would not have been able to get to the Barre City dog park.

Farnham suggested the organizers post a location of the Dog Park on their Facebook page; there was a question on there asking where the Dog Park was. Rogers noted the 911 address is 70 Websterville Rd.

Farnham requested a meeting with the Organizers in May to review the responsibilities of the agreement regarding shoveling snow and mowing. Rouleau noted that 5 of the people who were in the original organizer group moved out of the area, but that he thinks more volunteers will be available in the spring because he has been meeting a lot of people, young and old, with dogs, as he's helped with the Dog Park and he's made the point that it's supposed to be self-sustaining. Smith asked for the Dog Park Organizers to be invited to the July Rec Board meeting.

Smith asked about solar lights for the fence posts or running power. Farnham said solar should be possible, and that power should not be run there. Smith agreed solar would be preferable.

**5b. Rockfire –** Chair Farnham decided to turn to this agenda item next. Pierre Couture was not present. Couture requested use of the Town Forest of Friday June 29 and Saturday June 30 for Rockfire.

Smith asked if the Rec Board could bar their use of lanterns, or require them to pick them up. Rogers said that the Selectboard can bar the lanterns.

Rogers said the June 29 request would be for the same route that was used during Fall Fire (except in reverse direction) for the Heritage Trail walk. This would be family-oriented, start the Lodge, proceed on the south side of Littlejohn Road, cross Littlejohn Road, and walk the old railroad bed to the area by the lodge. June 30 would be for the usual Rockfire activities and locations.

Smith asked if there would be any conflict with disc golf. Rouleau said no because Rockfire events are at night. Rogers noted that there might be a conflict at 44 Brook St, which Rockfire has requested in the past be reserved for performers to save them a longer walk from the lodge to their performance areas.

Farnham wanted Rockfire to be required to pick up their burned and unburned firewood to avoid implying to future users that fires are generally allowed in the Town Forest. Rogers added that the requirement should be anywhere they place firewood, because in the past the organizers have contended that their firewood isn't in the town forest. However, most users don't know if they are on town forest property or other property.

Rouleau motioned to recommend to the Selectboard Rockfire's request to use the Town Forest on June 29 and 30, 2018 be approved, that Rockfire be required to pick up luminaries and any firewood and burned wood that they put out for the event in any forested area, and to disallow sky lanterns because they land in the town forest and create an eyesore. Gilbar seconded the motion and the Board approved it 4-0.

**10. Lower Graniteville Playground Retrofit** – Rec Board member Brian Wilcock had volunteered to lead this effort, but indicated at the last meeting he attended that he would be moving out of town soon and so would no longer be eligible to serve on the Board. Smith expressed concern about taking on the effort with just 4 board members, and that she was not ready to have much discussion until after the spring festival (Kid Zone at Caws 4 Paws). The Board agreed to bring Wilcock’s equipment idea board to the Calcutta and the Egg Hunt to raise interest. Rouleau reminded the Board that a local resident is interested and has been emailing equipment ideas. She could be tapped to table. She works at a school and could ask her students for input.

**11. Other Business** – Rogers reviewed an email he received that day. A woman with a Florida email address asked if “a bench or something” could be put at “one of our beautiful parks” in memory of a friend of hers who lived in East Barre and died of brain cancer recently, for the benefit of her children. Rogers asked the Board for their input. Rouleau asked where her friend liked to hang out. Smith asked where would work for the deceased’s children. Other possibilities discussed were landscaping, granite steps, picnic table, bird bath, basketball hoop, dog water fountain, bench near tennis courts, grill at East Barre Playground or the Dog Park. Rogers said he would follow up with the requestor for more information on her friend and these ideas.

Wang read an email from Steve Maas, President of the Millstone Trails Association: “MTA was contacted by the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation about a conference they are organizing in April, called the National Outdoor Recreation Conference. It’s a pretty big conference that draws people from all over the country. One of the parts of the conference is field trips... They have selected Millstone as one of these. I am working with them to coordinate the field trip. They expect up to 50 people to attend the Millstone field workshop. So far we are looking at a tour at Rock of Ages as well as walking tours in the Forest, possibly also including a visit to the Granite Museum, and perhaps some interfacing with local businesses like VTBS and local food; details still in the works. I just wanted to give you a heads up about this event; let me know if you have any questions.”

Farnham asked if the Board should vote to approve the egg purchase as requested by the Barre City organizer of the Egg Hunt, Stephanie Quaranta. Rogers said he already authorized it.

**12. Round the Table** – Smith asked if Quaranta needed help stuffing eggs. Rogers said she hadn’t requested such. Rouleau said she usually buys them pre-filled and that he had secured a donation of small bars from Cabot Cheese and happy meal toys from McDonalds. He would be there to help with an age group. Rouleau added that special prizes were still needed for the special eggs. Smith said she would ask downtown stores for giveaways and Quaranta for a budget to spend. Gilbar asked about past conversations about Barre Town doing its own egg hunt. The other Board members said that the current Board is not in favor of a separate event.

Smith shared an update on behalf of the Spring into Summer sub-committee of herself, Gilbar, and Renaud. They decided to put up the Spring into Summer banner, not to have the basketball challenge (too difficult for children), and not to put effort into securing vendors given Caws 4 Paws activities. They also discussed Boy Scouts not selling food so as not to compete with Caws 4 Paws food vendors, but for them to provide an activity instead. Rogers suggested knot tying. Smith said she would ask the Fire Department to provide a kid’s version of their agility test. They plan to bring back the water and music walls on a smaller scale, and more crafts, per Fall Festival feedback. Smith said their goal was to keep everything in the softball field. They plan to have 10 floating volunteers, instead of stationing them. The sub-committee will meet again before the next Board meeting. The Board discussed a bounce house. Farnham said one should be put in the Kid Zone because there’s power there. Rouleau said that the combined event is a marketing opportunity for Real Bounce’s new pirate ship and that he would suggest it to the owner. Smith said as long as a bounce house was free she was open to having it there. Rogers asked if they had a target number of activities. Smith said not yet. In the past the B-Recs challenge required completing 10 activities to earn a medallion and they may reduce the number this time and offer 3-4 craft activities, but that would require tables. Rogers said that picnic tables from the shelter could be used. Farnham suggested that a tow trailer for a 4-wheeler could be made. Smith said

that facepainting had been booked at the regular price, and that she had been saving egg cartons to give to kids along with a sunflower seed, to challenge them to bring the plant to the Fall Festival.

Gilbar said he still needed to meet with Farnham about the capital improvement plan.

Rouleau said he would have stickers, banners, and scorecards to propose for purchase out of the Disc Golf budget at the next meeting and asked Rogers for the amount. Rogers said \$1,000. Rouleau said he and the course designer would like to host a learn-to-play, like the skatepark's learn-to-skate events, with the prize being a putter. He will get a quote on getting the town logo on that.

Rouleau and Smith shared an idea of a picture zone banner for children to measure their height that could be brought from event to event. Smith said she would get quotes. Farnham said corrugated plastic could be used. Rouleau and Smith noted that portability was important. Rogers asked where a banner would be fastened. Farnham suggested attached a dowel to the top and hanging it. Rouleau added a PVC frame could be put together and used. Renaud said she would brainstorm ideas of what images to use.

Farnham asked when the Rec budget would be presented to the Budget Committee. Rogers said he didn't know yet. Farnham asked when the Selectboard meeting was the next day. Rogers said 8pm.

Farnham said they were overwhelmed with the number of players at Pickleball. Beginners are coming and most are quickly improving. He asked about ghosting lines, or painting only pickleball court corners, on 2-4 of the tennis courts for play a couple of nights or days a week. Renaud said that she has played tennis on courts with pickleball lines in a different color and quickly got used to it. Montpelier tennis courts and Montpelier High School are done that way. Farnham's main question is whether the tennis court nets can be loosened enough to be strapped down to pickleball height. The other option is the basketball court at the East Barre EMS Station, although there would only be enough room there for one court and given demand two courts would be better. A portable net could be purchased and stored there. A net with removable poles is another option but would require more work. Smith asked if the school parking lot was an option. Rouleau said that ball bounce would not be the same. A question was asked about how much the tennis courts are used. Rogers said tennis players do use them in the summer. Smith said she supported the tennis courts be set up for pickleball a day or two a week. Rogers asked if it would be staffed. Rouleau said no. Rogers said the Rec crew could lower the nets morning of the day and raise them back up the morning of the next. Smith was in favor of making pickleball courts possible at both the tennis courts and the EMS Station basketball court. Rogers asked for Sunday attendance. Farnham said the highest was 26, and that the last three weeks they've had 20 players and had to extend to 3.5 hours.

Farnham said he might not be available on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, that he would find out this week and may change the April meeting to the 9<sup>th</sup>.

At 8:23 pm on a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Smith, the board voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members  
  
The image shows four handwritten signatures in blue ink on a set of horizontal lines. The signatures are: 1. A signature that appears to be 'D. Farnham'. 2. A signature that appears to be 'D. Rouleau'. 3. A signature that appears to be 'T. Smith'. 4. A signature that appears to be 'A. Renaud'. The signatures are written in a cursive style.