

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2019**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Dough Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Mike Gilbar, and Rolland Tessier. Absent were Adi Dobrilovic and Stacey Lynds. Also present were Peter Kopsco and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

There were no changes to the agenda. Tessier made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Gilbar made a motion to approve the December 2 minutes as presented. Tessier seconded and the Board approved 5-0.

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

5. Field Requests – Barre City School Baseball requested use of the baseball field from 5pm to 6:30pm every weekday from May 1 through June 7 that BTMES does not have a game. This schedule was coordinated with BTMES's schedule. Rouleau made a motion to approve the request as presented provided they do not conflict with BTMES schedule, and to waive the fee. Smith seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

6. Millstone Trails Association – The new MTA President, Peter Kopsco, introduced himself. He brought up the conflict between walkers and a hunter in the town forest over the winter, stated that MTA was supportive of hunting in the town forest and wanted to help avoid future conflicts if the Board had suggestions. The group discussed how to reduce the likelihood of similar conflicts in the future, including venues to remind the public that both uses are allowed, and that serious conflicts should be reported to the police.

7. Memorial Bench – Wang shared the proposal from a resident to donate and place a granite bench memorialized to Shelley Elaine Henry at the Trow Hill Playground. Standard practice is that the town accepts responsibility for replacing or repairing donated items. The replacement value of the proposed bench is \$3,417.96. The Rec Board directed Wang to investigate an option whereby the town would not accept responsibility but allow for the bench to be placed.

8. Rec Area guidelines working group – The working group met on December 20. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Men's, Men's Over 30, and Co-Ed Leagues. They agreed that there shouldn't be any drinking in the field or dugouts. They expressed concern that alcohol consumption is prohibited anywhere in the Rec Area. The Board discussed options to address this concern. By consensus they agreed to leave the ordinance the way it is for this season and to revisit with the leagues after the season.

9. Sledding Party – The Rec Board briefly discussed the weather and their availability and decided not to hold a sledding party on Saturday January 12 or Sunday January 13.

10. Invasive plant removal in the Town Forest and other requests – Wang shared that the Vermont Land Trust recently advised that the two biggest patches of invasive plants in the town forest should be initially treated by a contractor, because they are extensive enough that volunteers might get burned out. Wang was not able to get a firm quote from a contractor in time for the meeting. She estimated a contractor might charge \$5000, based on a man-hour estimate from VLT and the per-hour rate of one contractor. Gilbar made a motion to include up to \$5,000 in the recreation FY19-20 budget request to treat the two largest polygons of invasives shown on the map provided by VLT. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Smith noted that, realistically, an intern program could not be developed in time for the coming fiscal year.

11. **'Round the Table** – Wang shared a quote of \$11,620 to convert two of the tennis courts to six - the maximum recommended number - pickleball courts. The Board discussed ways to raise money for that outside of the town budget. Gilbar noted that he and Farnham met about the capital plan and that he should have a draft ready by the next Board meeting. He questioned the location of a 'no hunting' poster. Rouleau led a discussion about dog poop and leash laws, and the opportunity presented by a recent incident to educate dog owners about them. The Board discussed education venues. Rouleau and Farnham shared that there's now a fourth net provided by Sunday indoor pickleball and that they had 26 players on Jan 6 and 37 players on Dec 30. Farnham brought up the 2019 ice cream socials. There was some discussion about logistics. The Board agreed by consensus to start them on the second Tuesday in July, as in years past, and in the same order as last year except with Lower Graniteville Playground last. The Board then discussed Dock Dogs and Caws 4 Paws Pet Expo. Farnham and Rouleau said the Rec Board would not arrange for either this year. Rouleau said he did not think JD Green was planning on organizing the Pet Expo in 2019 either.

At 7:46pm on a motion by Smith, seconded by Tessier, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members





