

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2019**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Mike Gilbar, Rolland Tessier, and Stacey Lynds. Also present were Amanda Gray, James Carpenter, Abigail Geno, [Abigail Geno's mother], Jacqueline Jancaitis, Michael Squier, David Bullis, Craig Locarno, Tim Pouliot, town manager Carl Rogers, and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

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

Wang asked for the location of the Heritage Run request be corrected to the town forest, not the Millstone bike path. Smith made a motion to accept the agenda with that change. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Rouleau made a motion to approve the March 4, 2019 minutes as presented. Tessier seconded and the Board approved 6-0.

5. Facility Requests –

a) Geno requested use of the bike path, dog park, and picnic shelter for a fundraiser for the Human Society, a project she's doing as her community service learning project. She also requested that the picnic shelter fee be waived. The dog park would not have to be closed to the public for the event. She has a waiver for participants to sign. The Board recommended she promote the event as being for vaccinated dogs only. Rouleau made a motion to approve the request. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

b) BTMES had requested use of the track for a Relay for Life event on May 24 and the rain date May 31. Rouleau made a motion to approve the request. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

c) BTMES also had requested use of the rec fields for their annual Carnival on June 4. Smith made a motion to approve the request. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

d) VT Creamery had requested use of the track on Aug 9, 4:30pm-8:30pm related to their employee picnic. Gilbar made a motion to approve the request contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

e) Jancaitis presented the Central Vermont Runners and Rehab Gym's request for their annual Heritage Run in the town forest, July 27. The race will be the same as previous years, with the only change being the Saturday day rather than Sunday. They do not require any facilities to be closed to other uses, including disc golf. They put up their own signs and remove them immediately after the race is over. Tessier made a motion to approve the request. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

f) The Board considered the Barre Lions' request to use The Quarries Disc Golf course for their annual Disc Golf Challenge on Tue June 18, 6pm-8pm. Smith made a motion to approve the request contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

g) Rouleau shared Disc Golf Vermont's request to use The Quarries Disc Golf course for the Quarries Throw Down Tournament on Sat May 25, 8am-5pm. This tournament used to be run by Green Mountain Disc Golf. The course would be closed to the public. Rouleau said he would share that information with Millstone Trails Association. Gilbar made a motion to approve the request as presented. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

h) Rogers presented the Central Vermont Runners' request to use the Millstone Bike Path for their Spring Run 5K on Sat May 18, 7am to 11am. The new race director had a conflict and could not present the request in person. They will use the same course as in past years. They also need the picnic shelter for registration. They had already provided their certificate of insurance. They race proceeds are donated to the Rec department. Smith made a motion to approve the request as presented and to waive the fee for the picnic shelter. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

i) Locarno presented Barre Community Baseball and Softball's (BCBBSB) request for the Little League field for Minors Baseball May 1-July 15, 2019, and the South Barre field for T-Ball Baseball and Pony League Softball from May 1-June 30, 2019. Farnham asked if BCBBSB was okay with the ditch left by previous users who had not finished making a 'warning track.' Locarno indicated that they were.

Locarno provided some updates: they still planned to rebuild the pitching mound on the Little League field as soon as the snow was cleared and the ground dry enough; the grant to which they applied to rehab the field would be announced mid-May 7; and that Dartmouth donated \$80,000 worth of lights for the Bond Field from their soccer program which replaces their lights every 5 years. Smith made a motion to approve the request contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

6. Field scheduling – Wang provided a summary of the 16 field use requests received for the 2019 season. There were no conflicts among the Majors baseball field uses. Gilbar made a motion to approve the one new request, from Barre Town Athletics, as provided. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

There were also no conflicts among the softball field requests received. The Barre Men's League request had not yet been received but the schedule indicated in the last few months did not conflict with the received requests. Rouleau made a motion to approve the Men's Over 30 and Co-Ed Softball League requests as presented, contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Smith then made a motion to reserve the Men's Softball League use of the fields on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from early May to late August contingent on receipt of such a request and certificate of insurance. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Carpenter requested that the adult leagues manage their language, alcohol and tobacco use, and 'crowding' behavior, during the days when the school and adult league schedules overlap.

For soccer field requests, Wang indicated that all would need to use the lower soccer field due to restoration work required on the upper one. She also noted several conflicts, though manageable. Bullis said BASA could move back their start time to accommodate the Spaulding Ultimate Frisbee. Representatives from the women's league weren't in attendance. Wang said they sounded willing to coordinate. Smith made a motion to approve the soccer field use requests for the lower soccer field contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance and non-conflicting schedules. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Pouliot presented Central Vermont Special Olympics' request for any field Saturdays from 4pm, Aug 24 to Oct 12. Tessier made a motion to approve the request for a soccer field contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

7. Rec Area Ordinance – The Board discussed draft language provided by staff and reviewed by the town attorney to address concerns of the softball leagues about the strict prohibition of alcohol use, and to allow tobacco use inside a vehicle. Gilbar made a motion to advance the proposed ordinance, and to allow tobacco use inside a vehicle, to the Selectboard. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

8. Softball Field Lighting Project – Wang detailed that if the 2019-2020 rec budget is approved as presented by the town manager, that town will have \$11,260 in hand for this project. The lowest quote of two received so far was for \$130,000. The Board discussed with Squier ways to reduce the labor, equipment rental, and materials costs for the project. He agreed to discuss with his contacts.

9. Dog Park Agreement – Rouleau presented the changes he had drafted to the agreement and had emailed out that day. The Board discussed the changes, especially whether the dog park committee should continue to be responsible for downed trees, and mowing, inside the dog park. The Board directed Wang to incorporate their comments for review at their next meeting.

10. Youth Track – Wang stated that the Youth Track coach, Angela Lacroix, had decided not to lead the program anymore. Wang and Barre City Recreation Director Stephanie Quaranta, with whom the town partners on the program, had attempted to find another coach but had not found one yet. She asked how much longer the Board wanted them to try. They indicated by consensus not to hold the program this year.

11. VAST signs in the Town Forest – Rouleau presented information and photos of the signs that VAST had installed in the Town Forest to prohibit pedestrian use on one section of hill for safety reasons. A pedestrian bypass was also signed to prohibit snowmobile uses. Placement of signage requires Rec Board approval. Smith made a motion to approve the signage retroactively. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

12. Outdoor Pickleball Courts – Since the last meeting the town manager indicated that he was not in favor of making permanent and expensive changes to facilities we already have for sports whose popularity has gone up and down and up again. Rouleau presented an option for a less-intensive repair of the tennis courts and to line two of the four courts for pickleball but only have temporary nets, instead of permanent ones. VT Tennis quoted a cost of \$19,825. Wang reviewed the repair options for the courts that had been discussed prior to pickleball coming onto the scene:

Repair option	Lifespan of repair	Cost of repair
1. Hairline crack filling	1 year	\$14,403
2. Membrane crack repair	2-3 years	\$26,000
3. Crack filling and repaving	5-15 years	\$65,000-70,000
4. Reconstruction	30 years?	\$220,000-225,000

The town has ordered option 2 out of the FY 2017-18 budget; that work has been delayed until this summer. The plan has been to continue the annual \$26,000 expense until enough has been saved for option 3. If the FY2019-20 budget is approved as proposed by the town manager, the town would have \$78,000 in hand. The Board asked if the new pickleball option could be done this summer instead. Wang said she would discuss with the town manager.

13. Egg Hunt – Gilbar made a motion for up to \$30 to be spent on special prizes for the Egg Hunt. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Smith asked for those volunteering to arrive by 8:30am.

14. Spring into Summer Fest – Smith shared that she anticipated the Spaulding Honor Society would once again be able to provide 15 volunteers. Gilbar made a motion to authorize Smith to spend up to \$200 for supplies for Spring into Summer Fest. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Smith noted that her contact with the cotton candy machine had agreed to come, and recommended that the town would buy the supplies, the cotton candy would be sold for \$1, and the proceeds go to the Boy Scouts. The Board indicated their agreement by consensus. Tessier provided an update on all the vehicles he had or was still working on securing. Lynds shared that her musician contact was interested. The Board said they would entertain paying him and asked her to obtain a quote.

15. Open Gym – Lynds provided an update on plans for this event on Apr 30 in the school’s multipurpose room. It will be a test year and therefore open just to Barre Town residents this time. She asked the Board volunteers to arrive at 5pm. She stressed that it would not be a daycare; parents would be expected to stay. Rouleau noted that the school’s Laura Thygesen was enthusiastic about partnering as well on the event.

16. Other Business - Wang asked if the Rec Board had any objections to the vernal pool workshop date being changed to May 25. They reminded her that one of the disc golf tournaments was that day, but if she could find a date that works, a change was fine. Wang shared that Kelly Cleveland had also indicated she was not planning to hold the summer tennis lessons program anymore. Wang had contacted last year’s instructor who said she was interested.

15. Round the Table – Gilbar noted that he has noticed very little dog waste on the bike path. Smith shared that she had contacted Spaulding High School’s digital arts program about doing a Rec video series for social media. Farnham asked whether the Rec Area had an E911 address, and for that to be posted at the softball field and picnic shelter. He indicated that the 44 Brook St parking area had not been plowed out during the big snowstorm a few weeks ago. Town Forest users were excited about the snowfall and risked parking there and a few got stuck. Finally, he asked for the tennis court lights to be checked as they were on around 11pm one night when he was passing the area. Rouleau noted that dog park users are using those lights. Rouleau gave an update on the Dog Park Calcutta sales.

At 9:17pm on a motion by Smith, seconded by Lynds, the Board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

Debra C. Cook
John A. Brown
Allyson S. Jones
Amanda Gray
Terry Smith
Michael Cook
Kathleen Tessier