

**Town of Barre  
Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2019**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Terry Smith, Rolland Tessier, Stacey Lynds, and Moriah Fraga. Also present were Kevin Spaulding, Rec Supervisor Dwight Coffrin, and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

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

Smith made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Tessier made a motion to approve the July 1, 2019 minutes as presented. Gray seconded and the Board approved 6-0.

**5. MTA Trail Accessibility** – MTA Vice President Kevin Spaulding coordinated with staff to hold an adaptive ride with Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports on July 16. The organization has been trying different trail systems around the state. Two handcycle athletes participated in the Barre Town ride, and considered the system one of the best. They requested that the trails not be made easier, but more accessible. Spaulding said MTA would work on a trail audit with VT Adaptive.

One gate on the trail network poses a barrier to access. Spaulding requested the town consider leaving open the secondary gate on Capitol Quarry Road, given that the primary gate that restricts vehicular access to the water treatment plant, off Violette St, is kept locked. Wang said she would look into it.

There was discussion about electric assist handcycles, needed to access steep-grade trails. Wang said one of three Town Forest easement holders, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), considered them to be inconsistent with the conservation easement, but another, Vermont Land Trust, does not. The town is the third. The deed states the easement holders "...may permit motorizes personal assistive mobility devices for use on the Protected Property by persons with a mobility disability..." Smith made a motion to approve electric assist handcycles in the Town Forest by persons with a mobility disability, provided VHCB approval. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Discussion ensued regarding a variety of mobility-assisted devices that are now available, and that the Board should have a policy to guide future permissions and denials. Spaulding offered to work with VT Adaptive for proposed language.

Spaulding requested designated handicapped parking, with the main issue being the ability to re-enter a vehicle if another parked too close to someone requiring a loading area. Smith made a motion to designate one handicapped parking space. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**6. Expand Town Forest Parking** – The Board discussed how often parking at 44 Brook St. overflows onto the street. The conclusion was that it is not currently often enough to cut trees in the woods to expand parking. Desire was indicated to leave untouched the truck and foundation at the back. By consensus the Board asked Wang to investigate how much parking could be expanded in the current open footprint, including cutting trees within the grassed area and moving the No Camping sign.

**7. Facility Requests –**

a) VT Creamery requested to change their previously approved use of the track to July 24. There were no conflicts so the manager's office allowed it. Smith made a motion to approve the use retroactively, seconded by Gray, and the use was approved 6-0.

b) CV Special Olympics requested to start their Saturday soccer practices Aug 10 instead of Aug 24, and that their field use fees be waived. Tessier made the motion to approve the use and waiver requests. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

c) Aldrich Library requested the softball field for the purpose of being able to turn off that field's lights for stargazing parties at the picnic shelter on July 28 and Aug 12, 10p-11p, and that their field use fees be waived. There was no conflict for July 28 so the town manager's office allowed it. Smith made a motion to approve the requests contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

d) Spaulding High School requested use of the soccer fields, baseball outfield, and town forest respectively for soccer, field hockey, and cross country per their fall sports schedule. Tessier made a motion to approve the request contingent on the resolution of any conflicts with BTMES. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

e) Barre Town Middle and Elementary School requested soccer and field hockey uses of soccer fields and softball field outfield, respectively. Gray made a motion to approve the request. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

f) Babe Ruth requested the baseball field on Sunday afternoons from Aug 24 to Oct 13. Smith made a motion to approve the request. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Farnham noted that the field hockey goals would need to be moved. Coffrin said last year the town Recreation crew moved them off, and Spaulding moved them back on, and expected the same arrangement this year.

g) The Men's Softball League requested the softball field for their tournament Sep 21-22. Tessier made a motion to approve the request. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

h) The Co-Ed Softball League requested the softball field for their tournament Oct 19-29. Gray made a motion to approve the request. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

i) Courtney's Allies requested use of the Millstone West Bike Path by the school for their second annual Walk to End Domestic Violence fundraiser. Gray made a motion to approve the request. Fraga seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**8. Rec Supervisor's Report** – Coffrin reported on the department's maintenance and project activities, including urinal repair, repainting structures, rebuilding the baseball mound, improving the South Barre fields, playground sprucing in advance of each ice cream social, tree and shrub trimming along bike path, improvements at Upper Graniteville Playground, and more. He noted that the contractor had begun installing bleacher railings at the rec area.

Farnham asked about vandalism and Coffrin said it was less now. With regards to the electric hand dryer idea that had been brought up at a previous meeting to combat paper towel clogs at the lower restroom, Wang recommended that, based on improved behavior, to not install them now. The lower restroom re-build is in the building plan in a couple of years and it could be done then. The Board indicated agreement by consensus.

Coffrin noted that a contractor often used by the town might be able to replace the tennis court lights, which need replacing and are set too high for many contractors. He provided a verbal quote for the baseball field lights, which should need replacing in 2-4 years at current usage.

Farnham asked that a couple of benches be made for the pickleball court. He also asked for quotes relating to improving the Little League field.

**9. Lower Graniteville Playground** – Wang shared information on several options for the embankment slide in the plan. She recommended a steel one currently in stock with one of the contractors used by the town, Robert Pettinelli and Associates, who could supply, modify as needed, and install for \$5,500. The town will need to cut and fill to attain the needed slope. She noted sufficient budget if the Selectboard designated unspent FY19-20 budget for the Lower Graniteville Playground project. Gray made a motion to purchase the slide and installation from Robert Pettinelli and Associates at a cost not to exceed \$5,500, contingent on the Selectboard approving the designation of sufficient cash reserves. Fraga seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**10. Fall Festival** – Smith updated the Board regarding the Fall Fest banners. Fraga asked about one with a replaceable date. After some discussion, Tessier made a motion for the town to purchase three banners, one with a replaceable date, for a total cost not to exceed \$350. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

The Board discussed many activities they would provide. With regards to the hay bale maze, Smith made a motion to authorize the purchase of up to \$500 for more hay if needed. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Smith made a motion to authorize the Board to spend up to \$300 for supplies for the Fall Fest activities. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**11. Disc Golf Agreement** – Farnham had asked for disc golf expenses to be on the agenda. Wang had shared the disc golf agreement that indicated that the disc golf signatories be responsible for costs. There was

discussion about ways the disc golf volunteers could collect donations. Farnham said he would follow up with Dave Rouleau, one of the core disc golf course volunteers. He asked Wang to find out if an "iron ranger" could be sited on rec property.

**12. Other Business** – Wang asked the Board about the ice cream socials. Farnham said attendance was 300 at Trow Hill, 250 at Lower Graniteville, 200 at Wilson Street, 150 at East Barre, and 100 at Upper Graniteville, which was rained out halfway through.

**13. Round the Table** – Tessier asked for an update on the dog park. Wang said Rouleau intended to do a push for new committee members after the ice cream socials. Smith said Fall Fest should need 5 volunteers more than the Rec Board members, and the group discussed where some might be found. Wang noted that volunteers will also be needed for the Lower Graniteville Playground community build, and Lynds suggested where to find more. Lynds asked for Board interest in co-hosting two Open Gym events with Head Start at Barre Town School this season. The Board indicated yes by consensus, and suggested early November and before winter break in February, 5-6:30pm. Farnham asked staff to consider a rotating schedule for the rec area crew. He also asked for a firm quote on water service to the town forest garage, as he has a donor lined up. He then shared the high usage of the new pickleball courts.

At 8:55pm on a motion by Smith, seconded by Gray, the Board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members  
D. C. Farnham  
Tessier Smith  
Mandy Lynds  
Amanda Gray  
Dave Rouleau  
D. Wang