

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2019**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith (by phone), Rolland Tessier, Stacey Lynds, and Amanda Gray. Also present were Jerry Poitras, Rec Supervisor Dwight Coffrin, town manager Carl Rogers, and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Farnham requested that the organizational motions be added to the agenda as #2A. Rouleau made a motion to accept the agenda with that change. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

2A. Organizational Motions – Rouleau nominated Doug Farnham to the position of Chair. Smith seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 6-0. Tessier nominated David Rouleau to the position of Vice Chair. Gray seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 6-0. Rouleau made a motion to keep the same meeting day and time, first Monday of the month at 6pm. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

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

Rouleau asked for agenda item #7 to be moved up so that the guest for that item could be received sooner rather than later. The Board agreed by consensus.

7. Request for One-time Motorized Vehicle Use in Town Forest– Jerry Poitras was present to request permission to bring a side-by-side or ATV into the town forest one time this summer for the purpose of giving his mother and father of the family a last trip out to the No. 6 quarry, a place of significance for the family. This use is allowed under the town forest conservation easement. Staff consulted Vermont Land Trust and received advice on conditioning the use for minimal impact. Rouleau made a motion to approve one-time use of a motorized vehicle for the purpose presented, provided that it not exceed 5 feet in width; the use is on a weekday; it has not rained over the town forest within 24 hours; the vehicle enters the forest after 9am and exits by 3pm; they notify the Town Manager’s Office in advance of the day and time; they display the provided sign visibly on the vehicle while in the town forest; and they travel only the route marked on the map provided. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Wang said she would mail everything to Poitras.

5. Facility Requests –

a) Snap Fitness requested use of the Rec Area volleyball court for their second annual fundraiser on Saturday June 22, 9am to 4pm. Rouleau made a motion to approve the request conditioned on receipt of certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

b) The Vermont Creamery requested to change the date of their use of the track to July 26, 4:30pm to 8:30pm. Rouleau made a motion to approve the date change contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

c) The Barre Co-Ed Softball League requested use of the softball field for their tournament September 7-8, 9am to 6pm. Farnham asked whether BYSA would need the field then. Staff advised that they sometimes do and would need to use it later. Tessier made a motion to approve the request contingent on receipt of certificate of insurance. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

d) Special Olympics of Central Vermont requested used of the track and field on Mondays, July 29 to September 30, 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Rogers noted that this could conflict with Spaulding High School’s soccer practices if Special Olympics did need the soccer field. The Board decided by consensus to table the request pending receipt of more information.

e) Wang said no other facility use requests had been received by staff. *[Note: see 5f below.]*

Coffrin had not yet arrived so Farnham postponed agenda item #6.

8. Millstone Trails Association Donation – The Board reviewed MTA’s winter grooming expense report which included repairs and fuel. Rouleau expressed that the town should not be obligated to reimburse MTA for repairs due to negligent operation, but that he was comfortable with donating the total from the expense report given that it was less than the budgeted amount and they provide a valuable service. Rouleau made a motion to donate \$1,200 for MTA’s winter grooming efforts. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

9. Plan for Staining Garage – Rouleau updated the Board that he had picked up the stain ordered by the town. He said the Thunder Chickens and MTA were standing by for a stretch of good weather of a Wednesday or Thursday in June. He noted that minimal prep should be required. MTA is providing a ladder to reach the peaks of the roof. Town staff will look for rollers and brushes to lend. Rouleau said that if those were not available volunteers were willing to supply.

10. Water at Town Forest parking at 44 Brook St – Wang said that Rouleau had asked about providing a water spigot at the town forest garage. She advised that this was not an inexpensive project and would add ongoing expense and that staff recommended against it. Some ideas were discussed to reduce the cost. The Board directed Wang to get a quote for them to consider at a future meeting.

11. Softball Field Lighting Retrofit – Wang updated the Board that the league member and electrical supply company employee mentioned at their last meeting had provided a quote for materials that was similar in cost to other quotes. The person was willing to promote a fundraising sub-committee with the leagues. Along with this fundraising effort, and given that the leagues had indicated they would donate the labor and equipment rental required, Rogers was planning a FY2020-2021 budget proposal that would include the difference between the funds raised by December 2019 and the cost of materials. This would allow the whole project to be completed in the summer of 2020. Since two other capital costs would not be repeated that budget year, the increase to the overall budget due to the softball light rehab would be less significant. Finally, Wang said the town would apply for a Recreational Facilities grant for the maximum amount of \$25,000. Although the town would not be competitive because it has won 3 grants from the program in the last 5 years, it would not hurt to try.

12. Picnic Shelter Fee Waiver Policy – The Board discussed whether, and under what circumstances, to waive the usual picnic shelter fee of \$50 per group and an additional \$1 per person for groups over 50 people for uses that would do not serve food and therefore are unlikely to generate much trash. They discussed how waiver requests would be handled if there might be waste not from food. Rogers noted that an authorization for staff to waive the fee does not mean staff *must* waive the fee, and therefore staff could use judgement in such cases. Gray made a motion to authorize town staff to waive the fee for non-profits if there is no food involved in a picnic shelter reservation request. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

13. Dog Park Agreement – Wang had provided the Board with a revision to the agreement based on their discussion at their May meeting which would keep the same responsibilities as currently, with just updates and clarification. However, she noted that as of July 1 there would be no one left on the Dog Park Committee to sign it. If no committee members came forward then paragraph 15 would come into play, whereby the town would decide whether it wished to maintain the dog park. Rouleau said he thought there might be some volunteers out there. If committee members come forward, the Board will take up the agreement again.

14. Spring into Summer debrief. Smith reported that 305 visitors were counted. The Board discussed that the most popular activities seemed to be the big rigs, police agility test, firefighter challenge, bounce house, and face painting. The cotton candy volunteer made about 160 cones. It appeared that all of the stations saw steady visitors throughout the event. One piece of feedback was that more scattered seating would have been welcome, especially for grandparents who had brought grandchildren to the event. The Board felt more volunteers would have been better for some of the B-Recs challenge stations. One idea was to decide, in the fall, on the date of the spring fest, and let the high school know then, so that student volunteers could be recruited before school let out. To thank the Boy Scouts for providing concessions, Smith made a motion to

donate to them \$100 based on the town volunteer food 'tab,' plus the amount donated to the Boy Scouts at the cotton candy table. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

15. Reimbursement – To reaffirm a previous unwarned action by the Board, Rouleau made a motion reimburse Terry Smith up to \$200 for Spring into Summer Fest expenses. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

6. Rec Supervisor's Report – Coffrin reported on the department's maintenance, repair, cleaning, and project activities, especially the Rec Area, Wilson Street ball field, and town forest. He also provided an update on recovery efforts from the arson of the Rec Area upper restroom, men's side.

16. July meeting date – After some discussion the Board decided to keep the usual first Monday date.

16. Other Business – In response to a question by Farnham, Wang shared that bikes are not allowed at the skateboard park. There used to be signs saying so, but they disappeared during the feature work and need to be replaced.

15. Round the Table – Smith asked for core volunteers for the Fall Festival. Gray and Lynds volunteered. Lynds asked about a sidewalk at Trow Hill as had been reported in the paper. Wang responded that it was not off the table but that the pedestrian activity reported by the neighbor, who works from home, was not so high as to make it a priority. Rogers noted that a request for sidewalk or signage could be made to the town's Transportation Safety Advisory Committee.

Tessier asked whether the town forest Rauli's Run trail was always closed to horses, and if so, for it to be well marked. A resident had asked about it wanting to do the right thing. Wang will follow up.

Rouleau reported that 86 players from as far away as Quebec played in the tournament, and that the organizers did not provide food but announced where food could be bought locally.

5f. Learn to Skateboard Event Rouleau received an email from Linda Mercy asking to reserve the skateboard park for the annual Learn to Skateboard event on June 22. He made a motion to approve the reservation. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

15. Round the Table (cont'd) - Rouleau asked whether there were funds to place a bench along the bike path, such as from the Semprebon Fund. Rogers advised that fund is dedicated to connecting Barre Town and Barre City and so this use would not be eligible. Some ideas were shared as to how to obtain a bench.

Lynds asked why there are no port-o-lets at the playgrounds. Farnham noted that most users walk to the playgrounds, and that it provides another thing for users to vandalize. Rogers added that port-o-let services are not cheap.

Farnham asked for an update on the soccer bleacher work. Rogers indicated that the vendor was making the four railings in this year's budget.

At 8:15pm on a motion by Tessier, seconded by Gray, the Board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members
Terry Smith
Dh. Coffrin
Amanda Gray
Rouleau
Tessier