

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2020**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Rolland Tessier, Amanda Gray, and Moriah Fraga. Also present were Brenda Buzzel, Scott Dolan, Guy Norwood, and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Smith moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Gray seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved the vote.
3. Rouleau made a motion to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Gray seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
4. No guests were present for non-agenda items.
5. **Facility Requests** – a) Central Vermont Runners (CVR) requested the Millstone West bike path for May 16, 7a-11a. Rouleau motioned to approve conditioned on receipt of proof of insurance with the town as an additional insured. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
b) CVR also requested the town forest trails for July 25, 7a-11a. Smith motioned to approve conditioned on receipt of proof of insurance with the town as an additional insured. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
c) St. Monica-St. Michael School requested the town forest trails for June 4, 12p-7:30p. Principal Buzzel said they were trying a weekday evening because turnout hasn't been good on Saturdays. The race will start at 44 Brook St. Smith motioned to approve conditioned on receipt of proof of insurance naming the town as an additional insured. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
d) Barre Amateur Soccer Association requested the upper soccer field for Aug 17-21, 8a-4:30p. Scott Dolan is the new contact for BASA; Lisa MacIver is the new President. Smith motioned to approve conditioned on receipt of proof of insurance naming the town as an additional insured. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
e) Barre Town Middle School requested softball and baseball fields for Apr 8-May 31, M-F, times variable. Smith made a motion to approve conditioned on receipt of specific times and receipt of proof of insurance naming the town as an additional insured. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
f) Barre City Elementary and Middle School requested the baseball field like BTMES, Mar 15-May 29. There was discussion that the use as requested may conflict with BTMES, and that they might also have wanted the softball field, and if they did it might conflict with the adult softball leagues. Wang said BCEMS has always worked around the BTMES schedule. Farnham noted that the adult softball leagues usually start at 6pm, although they didn't last year. The adult requests are usually received in April. Schools have precedence. Farnham asked whether consideration could be given to long-standing users. The Board agreed to approve what would not conflict, have Wang ask BCEMS if that would work for them, and reconsider if it would not. Smith motioned to approve BCEMS use of the Little League field from 3:30-7:30pm, the baseball field when they did not conflict with BTMES use, and the softball league until 6pm, conditioned on receipt of specific times and receipt of proof of insurance naming the town as an additional insured. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
g) Disc Golf Vermont requested the Quarries Disc Golf Course for May 30, 7a-5:30p. Smith made a motion to approve conditioned on receipt of proof of insurance naming the town as an additional insured. Rouleau seconded. Farnham asked whether to charge user fees or have a suggested donation for tournament requests on this volunteer-maintained disc golf course, or having something like an 'iron ranger' placed. The Board agreed to consider these in the future, but not for this request. The motion passed 6-0.

Rouleau asked to re-order the agenda items as there was a guest for the disc golf item. The Board agreed by consensus.

8. Disc Golf funds – Rouleau, speaking as an Organizer for the Quarries Disc Golf Course, introduced Guy Norwood who had indicated willingness to be a third signer on the disc golf course operations and maintenance agreement. Rouleau asked for this agenda item to help with his expenses to maintain the course, such as fixing the chainsaw and gas for the weed whacker, just like the town budgets for a donation to Millstone Trails Association to help with trail maintenance. Wang said that the latest executed agreement with the disc golf course, currently expired, says “the Organizers are completely responsible for raising the money to purchase materials and services needed to maintain the Course. The Town shall not be expected to contribute to the cost.” Wang said the agreement does not include this restriction and, rather, implies that the town may budget funds. Wang noted the context that MTA raised the same amount of funds as the town to procure the conservation easement for the town forest. Wang also said staff recommends not changing the agreement to allow the town to budget funds because the disc golf course was originally pitched as being no cost to the town, like the dog park, whereas the MTA trails were not pitched that way. Farnham countered that the town now has a well-used dog park and disc golf course that did not cost the town anything to put in. Wang cautioned that making the change could set precedent for future groups to pitch a new resource to the town that would be at no cost to the town with the intention of turning it over for the town to maintain. Farnham said that this could be a lesson for future agreements not to be written this way. Borrowing language from the MTA agreement, Tessier made a motion to change paragraph 2 of the Quarries Disc Golf Course Operation and Maintenance Agreement to read “The Town of Barre will work and provide pertinent information to aid the use of the disc golf course, provided that the Town shall not be obligated to provide assistance beyond that allocated in its budget.” Smith seconded and the Board approved the motion 5-0, with Rouleau abstaining from the vote.

Wang asked if the Board wanted to request an amount to be put in the budget. Rouleau said that last year, he had just under \$500 in expenses, and in prior years the expenses were just for gas. The Board by consensus asked for \$1000 to be put in the recreation budget for maintaining the disc golf course.

6. Freezing Fun for Families fee waiver – Wang said she should have noted a fee waiver request for the Board’s motion last month, as the Rec Board has always waived the field use fees for this fundraiser tournament in the past. Rouleau made a motion to waive the facility use fee for Freezing Fun for Families’ March 2020 fundraiser tournament. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

7. Drinking Fountain – Last month Rouleau asked if this request from pickleball players for a drinking fountain at the lower restroom could be re-considered for the FY20-21 budget due to the change in plan for the lower restroom not to be re-built but only repaired. Wang provided some options and materials-only costs, saying that a labor estimate had not yet been provided by a contractor, and that double the material cost would be a reasonable guess to include labor cost. Smith made a motion to request that a wall-mounted ADA-compatible drinking fountain with a bottle filler be added to the FY20-21 budget. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

9. Teen Programs – Smith shared input she had received on programs for teens, and the Board discussed them. The schools had not yet responded to Board members’ requests for input. The Board said the web survey options were fine as drafted, and just to add the question whether people would be willing to help out. They asked for this item to be back on their next agenda.

10. Sledding party – Based on the forecast, the Board decided by consensus not to hold a sledding party the following weekend. Smith said she would try to get a hill groomed and would post on Facebook if she was able to.

11. Snowshoe party - Based on the forecast, the Board decided by consensus not to hold a snowshoe party this coming weekend. Rouleau said he would follow up with the volunteers about rescheduling for February 15 or 16.

12. Other Business – Wang asked the Board if they would like VT Rustic Moose to present her request to hold camps for kids in the town forest over three weeks as she has in the past, with no changes. They said no.

13. Round the Table: Smith shared what she had done for the next Spring into Summer Festival, and Gray, Smith and Tessier assigned themselves things to do. Rouleau noted that 26 people came to pickleball on Sunday February 2. He said new people are coming and it is getting congested and hard to teach them with the four nets available. Newcomers would be easier to accommodate on the outdoor courts which have more nets. Rouleau shared what he had done for the next Egg Hunt. The Board discussed some ideas about the Egg Hunt.

At 8:08 pm on a motion by Smith, seconded by Tessier, the board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

Signed by
Doug Farnham
David Rouleau
Terry Smith
Rolland Tessier
Moriah Fraga
Amanda Gray