

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2020**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, April 6, 2020 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were Doug Farnham; and by videoconference, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Stacey Lynds, Amanda Gray, and Moriah Fraga. Absent was Rolland Tessier due to COVID-19 related work obligations. Also present were assistant town manager Elaine Wang, town manager Carl Rogers, and by teleconference: Roger Gillies, Abbey Fusco and Dan Kiniry.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Rouleau 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 March 2, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Lynds seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
4. No guests were present for non-agenda items.

5. Facility Requests – a) Green Mountain Community Fitness requested use of the outdoor pickleball courts for a tournament May 23-24. Wang advised the Board not approve the request given the projected COVID-19 infection peak forecasted in mid-April to early May, with a gradual rather than sharp drop-off of anticipated infection rates after the peak. The Board indicated pickleball tournaments would be welcome in the future. Rouleau made a motion to approve the request conditioned on insurance, compliance with executive orders, and that the facility be left in the same state it was found. Smith seconded. The vote was 0 to 6, so the Board denied the request.
b) There were no other requests.

6. Field Scheduling for Spring and Summer – The town received 6 league requests.
Soccer: The Northeast Kingdom Women Warrior Soccer Team requested Sunday evenings, June 21 to July 26, 5:45pm to 8pm. There were no conflicts. Farnham asked Wang to clarify which soccer field they wanted. Smith made a motion to approve the use, conditioned on receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured, that the use not conflicting with any executive orders, and clarification on whether they wanted the upper or lower field. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Baseball: Dan Kiniry presented two requests coordinated under the Babe Ruth banner, the Barre Black Sox and the Bombers. Rouleau made a motion to approve the uses, conditioned on receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured and that the uses not conflicting with any executive orders. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Softball: The three leagues from last year all submitted requests which did not conflict with each other. Smith made a motion to approve the Barre Men's Over 30 Softball League request conditioned on receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured and that the use not conflicting with any executive orders. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Rouleau made a motion to approve the Barre Co-Ed Softball League request conditioned on receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured and that the use not conflicting with any executive orders. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Smith made a motion to approve the Men's Softball League request conditioned on receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured and that the use not conflicting with any executive orders. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

The question of alcohol use was raised. Smith made a motion that the Barre Men's Over 30 Softball League be permitted to use alcohol in the Rec Area, except at the picnic shelter, noting that the Rec Area does not include the school parking lot. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Smith made the same motion for the Barre

Co-Ed Softball League. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Smith made the same motion for the Barre Men's Softball League. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

7. COVID-19 – By the Barre Town code of ordinances, the town manager has the authority to enact any regulations they deem necessary to protect life and preserve critical resources. Town manager Carl Rogers has enacted some so far. Between those and the Governor's Executive orders, most recreation activity has been curtailed:

Facilities – At least until the Governor's stay-home executive order has been lifted, the Rec Area gate and restrooms will remain locked; all playgrounds and the dog park are posted with usage warnings; and the tennis and pickleball courts will remain locked.

The reasons being: Where we can, restrict access to, and use of, facilities that are not being disinfected; not create a situation where our police officers would need to kick people out of facilities, especially if they were being used in a relatively safe manner; and tennis and pickleball cannot be played by oneself.

Events – the Egg Hunt has been postponed until further notice. Wang recommended Spring into Summer Fest and the fall kickball tournament be delayed and revisited at each Board meeting. Staff will monitor non-Rec Board events and be in touch with requestors to make sure they cancel consistent with executive orders.

Smith noted the first Saturday of June date was to make it soon after school let out and before volunteers and families were lost to summer vacation plans, so it would make more sense to cancel. The Board agreed by consensus. Also by consensus, the Board agreed to revisit the kickball tournament at each meeting.

Alternatives – The Board discussed activities they could provide and/or promote on Facebook while the Stay Home order was in effect. A few volunteered for specific activities.

8. Other Business – Wang asked Farnham and Gray to confirm they were interested in continuing to serve, as their terms are up this year. Both said yes.

9. 'Round the Table': Lynds noted the end of the town forest parking lot was quite muddy.

Rouleau reported a \$5,400 donation to the skatepark from the February fundraiser, and that he was asking the designers for a plan to replace the wooden structures. He reported not seeing as much dog waste in the town forest as before.

Farnham asked whether the town should consider removing basketball hoops. He saw two people playing together. Gray said she saw 4 teenagers playing basketball together at Trow Hill. After some discussion those present agreed it would be better to avoid taking down hoops for as long as possible, and for staff to educate the public on a regular basis about social distancing. The Board agreed to report any usage they see to staff. If it reaches problematic levels then staff would consider closing down rec facilities. Farnham also requested another trash receptacle be added to the end of the Rec Area road.

Gray said one of the Upper Graniteville basketball hoops needed adjusting.

At 7:02pm on a motion by Lynds, seconded by Gray, the board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

_Signed by Doug Farnham_____

_Voice vote to approve by Dave Rouleau, _

_Terry Smith, Stacey Lynds, Amanda Gray,

_Moriah Fraga_____