

**Town of Barre  
Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2020**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, June 1, 2020 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road and by videoconference. Board members present were Doug Farnham; and by videoconference, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Amanda Gray, Rolland Tessier and Moriah Fraga. Absent was Stacey Lynds. Also present were assistant town manager Elaine Wang, town manager Carl Rogers, and by teleconference: Shawn Stabell and Recreation Supervisor Dwight Coffrin.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Rouleau made a motion to add to the proposed agenda 6c, facility request for the 16-18 year old Barre Community Baseball and Softball baseball team. Gray seconded and the agenda was adopted with that change.
3. Smith made a motion to approve the April 6, 2020 meeting minutes with the word “aluminum” struck from the signs item. Gray seconded the motion and it was approved 6-0.
4. **Organizational Motions** – Smith made a motion for Farnham to be the chair, for Rouleau to be the vice chair, and for the meetings to continue to be held on the first Monday of each month starting at 6pm, unless that Monday was a holiday, in which case it would be held the following Monday. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
6. **Facility Requests** – a) The Co-Ed Softball League requested to change their October 3 reservation of the softball field for a women’s tournament to September 26, the same date as the scheduled Rec Board Fall Festival. After some discussion about parking concerns, Rouleau made a motion to approve, conditioned on receipt of certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured, consistency with executive orders regarding COVID-19, and that they park in the school parking lot and lower gravel lot not beyond the Dog Park. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.  
b) The Men’s Over 30 Softball League requested to change the reservation for their tournament from August 8-9 to 15-16. Rouleau made a motion to approve the request conditioned on compliant insurance and consistency with executive orders regarding COVID-19. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.  
c) The American Legion canceled the entire season. Their 16-18 year old team reorganized under Barre Community Baseball and Softball. Their schedule is pending coordination with the other teams, with dates of play July 15 at the earliest and August 3 at the latest. Smith made a motion to approve the request conditioned on compliant insurance, consistency with executive orders regarding COVID-19, and to waive their fees. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
7. **Softball and COVID** – At the request of two softball leagues, the Board discussed conditions for softball activity. Farnham said he talked to the outdoor recreation contact at ACCD who confirmed games were not allowed at this time except on a case-by-case basis, and declined to define “sporting events.” Rogers noted he had approved a youth modified practice request, would consider others, and recommended Men’s Over 30 review and mimic others’ modifications. The Board agreed by consensus that they did not need to take action.
8. **Supervisor’s Report** – Coffrin’s report had been emailed to the Rec Board. He asked whether the Board intended to open the Rec Area bathrooms. They responded that it would depend on state guidances. Gray asked what field damage had been done by Freezing Fun for Families that the crew had had to repair. Coffrin said from running bases and snowplowing, but FFFF had done a very good job cleaning up after themselves otherwise. He reported that the second tennis net was up. Wang asked if the port-o-let doors were getting propped open by users. Rouleau and Coffrin said yes. Rouleau asked why the orange fence was still up at Lower Graniteville. Wang said the grass had not asked established yet at the end of last season and was still doing so now. Now it’s serving as an additional deterrent under COVID-19 restrictions. Farnham asked when the non-functioning tennis court lights would be replaced. Coffrin said the contractor’s earliest availability was the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June. Farnham asked for the tennis and pickleball court walkway edges be cleaned, so that he and Rouleau could paint it.

**9. Dog Park Kiosk Display Items** – Wang reported the Dog Park Committee had several business cards of Dog Park supporters they would like to display, which as advertising is subject to Rec Board approval by ordinance. She recommended the Board consider a blanket approval for these limited purposes. After some discussion, Rouleau made a motion to approve and Smith seconded. After more discussion, Rouleau withdrew his motion and Smith her second. Smith made a motion to approve the Dog Park Organizers to display standard-sized business cards of businesses that support the Dog Park or dog-related businesses in the Dog Park kiosk, provided they are periodically refreshed. Tessier seconded. Smith, Gray, Tessier, Fraga and Farnham voted in favor by roll call. Rouleau abstained given his conflict of interest as a Dog Park Organizer.

**10. eBike policy** – The Rec Board previously considered allowing Class 1 ebikes in the Town Forest. Wang provided a draft policy. Tessier asked whether ebikes would include solar bikes, which are wider than a standard ebike. Farnham said he wasn't concerned about people bringing solar bikes into the Town Forest since they are expensive and could be damaged. Gray asked whether electric bikes included gas-powered bikes. Rouleau said those would be disallowed by the conservation easement. Wang noted she had attempted to find out whether pedestrians would much more likely to encounter a bicycle going 20 miles per hour, the maximum speed of a Class 1 ebike, and did not have an answer yet. Tessier said the Board could always revisit the policy if problems arose. Tessier made a motion to adopt the policy as presented. Rouleau seconded. Rogers recommended the word "any" be changed to "certain" so the purpose statement would read "The Board seeks to allow use of certain classes of ebike that will have minimal impact on the safety of town forest users and the conditions of the trails." Tessier and Rouleau modified their motion and second accordingly. By roll call, Smith, Fraga, Rouleau, Tessier and Farnham voted in favor. Gray abstained stating she did not have enough information to make an informed vote.

**11. Donations station** – The Board had previously discussed allowing the Quarries Disc Golf Course Organizers to place an Iron Ranger-type donation station in the Town Forest to help support course maintenance. Rouleau updated the Board that the town Public Works Shop was fabricating it, and the Organizers would source a pole. Wang noted co-easement holder Vermont Land Trust still needed to approve the exact placement but was amenable to the concept. Smith made a motion to approve the Quarries Disc Golf Course Organizers to place a donation station in the Town Forest at the approximate location presented pending approval by the Vermont Land Trust, for the purpose of maintaining the Quarries Disc Golf Course, unless a donation was marked for the Millstone Trails Association, with responsibility for collecting donations residing with the Disc Golf Course Organizers. Wang pointed out that, without necessarily having concerns about current Organizers, this would mean the town could not know that all donations were being spent on the intended purpose. Rouleau noted that anyone who would prefer to donate through the town could do so. Farnham called the question and the motion passed 6-0.

**12. Disc Golf VT** – Wang said staff recently learned Disc Golf VT is a for-profit company, and as such, it seemed unfair for them to use the Quarries Disc Golf Course for a profit-making tournament without contributing to the cost of maintaining it. She asked if the Board wanted to consider requesting a donation for the tournament that took place May 30-31. Farnham said he was not comfortable going back to an event approved without a fee, but he would want require a fee in the future. Rouleau reported on his discussion with Chris Young, owner of Disc Golf VT. Young's practice is to include any course fees charged in his tournament registration fees. Young had said he doesn't make money from tournaments but from hosting summer camps and product sales. After some other discussion, Farnham asked the Board to think about what fee to attach to the Disc Golf Course for tournaments and for the item to be on their next agenda.

**13. Egg Hunt** – Regarding a purchase made before the pandemic required the 2020 Egg Hunt be canceled, Rouleau made a motion to approve spending \$562.50 for Egg Hunt expenses. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**14. Other Business** – Wang asked if the Board still wanted to consider a scope of work for a recreation intern for the year 2021. Smith said yes, with one idea being who is using the facilities and when.

**Round the Table:** Rouleau noted the new handicapped parking spots at the Town Forest were not where they had been discussed previously with MTA. Wang said she would check in with MTA and have them moved.

Smith said she signed up for a five-session town forest planning webinar series and would report out on them. She described a contest idea using the unused prizes from the Egg Hunt. Farnham suggested waiting until the playgrounds are opened. Smith asked if the remainder of the East Barre bike path could be brush hogged to create another option for walkers. Rogers said he was not against it, but some considerations included a path that would not inconvenience haying, yet avoid too-wet ground; who would mark, and who would brush hog. Smith asked about skirting the woods. Rogers said that would not be good for a bike path because of the grade, but would work for walking while not cutting off land for other uses. Smith offered to walk it with someone in the town to evaluate brush hogging work. Smith and Farnham asked for the plan for ice cream socials to be on the next agenda.

Fraga said she would miss the next meeting. Farnham noted not all picnic tables were cabled together. He also reported on more out-of-state plates and possible divers in the town forest.

At 7:56pm on a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Smith, the board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

\_\_\_ approved by Terry Smith, Stacey \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Lynds, David Rouleau, Amanda \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Gray and Rolland Tessier \_\_\_

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