

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

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, July 6, 2020 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road and by videoconference. Board members present were Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, and Stacey Lynds; by videoconference, Amanda Gray, and by teleconference, Rolland Tessier. Absent were Doug Farnham and Moriah Fraga. Also present were Sheila Cleary, Gail Mulcahy, assistant town manager Elaine Wang, and by teleconference: Ian Gauthier and Recreation Supervisor Dwight Coffrin.

1. Vice Chair Rouleau called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
3. Tessier made a motion to approve the June 1, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Lynds seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.
5. **Facility Requests** – a) The Co-Ed Softball League requested to add Sunday September 27 to their prior approved September 26 tournament. Smith made a motion to approve. Lynds seconded and it was approved 5-0.
b) Barre Town Middle School requested both Rec Area soccer fields and field hockey in the softball outfield for practices and games, middle school boys and girls. Gray made a motion to approve contingent on compliance with executive orders. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
c) Spaulding High School requested boys and girls soccer and field hockey in the baseball field outfield for practices and games. Wang said staff were still working through potential conflicts. Gray made a motion to approve contingent on compliance with executive orders and no conflicts with Barre Town School Athletics. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
d) Ian Gauthier, Aldrich Library Children’s Librarian, presented their request to continue their Storywalks through September in the Town Forest. One iteration, using pages from *Where the Wild Things Are* had been approved by the Town Manager since the June meeting and had been well received by the public. Gray asked whether insurance would be required. Wang said she would find out and communicate to Gauthier. Smith made a motion to approve. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Gauthier asked if they could print the sponsor’s logo on the pages. Smith made a motion to approve. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
e & f) Men’s Over 30 Softball requested changes for their games to continue through August 19 and tournament to August 22-23. Tessier made a motion to approve. Gray seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
g) Mulcahy and Cleary presented their request to hold a yard sale fundraiser for the Dog Park in the auxiliary parking area across from the Dog Park. They said they would have all items on quilts spread out, not take clothing, advertise and sign to wear masks, and try to keep shopper parking in the auxiliary parking area. Any unsold items would need to be picked up by the donators, or Cleary and Mulcahy would bring to the Wilson Depot, pay the fee out of the Dog Park fund, and request a donation from the item’s donator to recoup the cost. Unlike in years past they would not sell food. They asked to have a sign at the road advertising the Dog Park Benefit Yard Sale. Smith made a motion to approve the request and Gray seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
h) The Barre Lions Club requested to reschedule their fundraiser disc golf tournament for their sight and hearing program to September 22. Smith made a motion to approve, contingent on certificate of insurance, and a compliant COVID-19 plan, and recommend participants be told donations are gratefully accepted,. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
6. **Rec Supervisor Report** – Coffrin reviewed the crew’s activities in June, including how they addressed or will address the findings from the town insurer’s safety audit of the six playgrounds. He asked about the plan to replace the wooden skatepark structures in poor condition. Rouleau said he would follow up with the park’s designers.
7. **COVID update** – Wang asked if the Board had any questions about the COVID-related changes to rec operations described in their packet. Rouleau asked about the 3-day waiting period between picnic shelter reservations. Wang explained it was to mitigate the risk to the public, and to the crew cleaning the restroom.

8. Dog Park expenses and rules – a) Reimbursement: A volunteer purchased supplies for a Dog Park cleanup. Smith made a motion to reimburse the volunteer \$22.02. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
b) Expenses: Rouleau explained, as a Dog Park Organizer, that he recently became aware of the Dog Park Agreement provision that all expenses had to be approved by the Rec Board. He thought the intent of the provision was structural changes rather than routine expenses, but it was not written that way. Wang concurred. He also noted there were some upcoming expenses related to the rainbow bridge fundraiser of which the Board had been made previously aware. Smith made a motion to approve expenses associated with the rainbow bridge fundraiser. Gray seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Gray made a motion to spend up to \$100 per expense for routine maintenance such as cleanups, mowing, and stain. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
c) Rules: Rouleau, Cleary and Mulcahy described issues and an official complaint associated with a user soliciting and using the dog park for five to nine dogs related to her doggy daycare. Issues included dog fights, the numbers discouraging others from using the park, and unwanted solicitation. They did research on other parks' rules. They requested a change to the rules to add no solicitation, and two dogs per person. Smith made a motion accordingly, and a strong recommendation for the Dog Park Organizers to add the rule of no commercial use. Tessier seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Rouleau said the committee would come up with commercial use language for the Board's consideration at a future meeting.

9. Disc Golf Course fee – The Board revisited their discussion about instituting a fee to use the disc golf course, which could be waived when requested, particularly for non-profits and fundraisers. Tessier asked about other courses. Rouleau said other private courses usually do; universities usually do not. Smith made a motion to institute a fee of \$50 per tournament day to be designated for disc golf course expenses, which could be waived if the Board so voted. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

10. Camp St bequest – Rouleau presented that the late Donald G. Allen left two vacant parcels of land to the town under the condition they be developed and maintained as a "neighborhood park," and the Selectboard asked the Rec Board to explore options. After some discussion of the nature of the lots, neighborhood demographics, options, and parking, the Board agreed by consensus to have a subcommittee visit the lots and discuss a plan to survey the community. Gray, Rouleau, and Smith volunteered.

11. Ice cream social plan – The Board discussed options for still providing events, or an event, involving ice cream. They agreed by consensus to hold at least one on July 21, drive-thru style, with servers at the school parking lot and at the Rock of Ages parking lot, pending their approval.

12. Internship – Smith and the Board discussed several ideas for what a Recreation intern could do. A few Board members and Wang indicated a survey to determine user, and perhaps non-user, demographics and interests would be very useful. Rouleau noted if it would be a paid internship that the position would have to be in the budget cycle. Smith welcomed more ideas and said she had found a contact at UVM to help the Board develop an internship. Wang said she would help Smith with the effort.

13. Future plans – Rouleau shared a list of ideas for improving the various facilities, some maintenance, some that would require budget planning. He and Wang noted a few that were already underway or addressed. Smith asked whether one item, a squeegee for the tennis and pickleball courts, could be acted on by the Board at this meeting, a \$70 or so purchase. Wang said it could be considered a pickleball program expense. Smith made a motion to approve purchase of a squeegee. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

14. Other Business – Wang did not have any other business for the Board's consideration.

15. 'Round the Table – Smith said she would not be at the August meeting. She asked for Board's opinion about the Fall Festival. The Board agreed by consensus not to hold it this year because of the pandemic. Rouleau asked Wang to talk to the Rec Area mower about not blowing grass and rocks onto the courts.

At 8:52pm on a motion by Tessier, seconded by Gray, the board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

voted on by Douglas Farnahm, Rolland Tessier, Amanda Gray, & Moriah Fraga