

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

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, August 3, 2020 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road and by videoconference. Board members present were Doug Farnham; by videoconference, Amanda Gray, and by teleconference, Rolland Tessier and Moriah Fraga. Absent were David Rouleau, Terry Smith and Stacey Lynds. Also present were assistant town manager Elaine Wang, and by teleconference, Recreation Supervisor Dwight Coffrin.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Tessier made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gray seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
3. Tessier made a motion to approve the July 6, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Gray seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.
5. **Facility Requests** – a) New Hope Beginners requested the volleyball court for August 22 in conjunction with their picnic shelter reservation that day from 11am to 8pm, but Wang said she had not received any more detail. The Board indicated they did not have enough information to consider the request. Since the request was for prior to the Board’s next meeting, Wang asked if they had concerns if the Manager’s Office did receive sufficient information to approve. Board members said that they did not exceed COVID-19 capacity limits.
6. **Rec Supervisor Report** – Coffrin reviewed July activities, including addressing some maintenance issues mentioned by Board members at the June meeting. Farnham asked about emergency vehicle access to the softball and baseball fields from the Rec Area road. Coffrin said the plan is to install the replacement posts far enough apart at the restroom walkway to allow emergency vehicles through. Coffrin noted maintenance of the South Barre field had resumed, although there was no little league or t-ball activity this year. Farnham reported seeing bicycles on the pickleball and tennis courts and asked for two “No Bicycles” signs be made and posted at the courts.
7. **Facility Use Fees** – The budget committee had asked the Rec Board to consider the field use fees. Wang provided data that the vast majority of the fees paid for field use were paid by the three adult softball leagues. Fees were waived for the rest because they were for youth sports or fundraisers. She also noted the leagues had contributed labor and cash donations to the softball field’s upkeep. The Board agreed by consensus they do not recommend changing fees during the pandemic. They asked for information on what other recreation areas charge so they could revisit at their October meeting.
8. **Ice Cream Event Debrief** – Relating to the July 21 Ice Cream “Walk-Up,” Farnham said thirty people came to the site at the school parking lot and Gray said not even thirty came to the Graniteville site on the bike path. Farnham said the volunteers at the school site distributed another 100 servings to the baseball and softball players present. Gray noted she had recommended the event be postponed to allow more time for publicity. The Board agreed by consensus not to hold any more ice cream events this season. As they would want to have any before school starts, and that is soon, there would not enough time for publicity. Also, Rouleau had indicated he would not be available, and Gray noted Rouleau’s significant role in organizing the ice cream events.
9. **Internship** – Board member Smith had provided information on possibilities with UVM and asked the Board’s agreement on pursuing a facility use survey as the current project. The Board agreed by consensus.
10. **Other Business** – Wang said she received the soil study that day with two options. She wanted the Town Engineer’s opinion before going further.
15. **Round the Table** – Farnham asked that the Quarries Disc Golf Organizers, VAST, and MTA be informed of the winter logging plans. He reported to the Board that the Barre Town Police Department (BTPD) in the past had a letter from the Rec Board approving their ability to issue trespass orders. Wang explained that the Police Department already had this authority by state statute, but a previous District Attorney had advised the BTPD to have a letter from the Rec Board, as belt-and-suspenders coverage, so to speak. The Board members expressed

their support for the BTPD and for providing this letter. Farnham instructed Wang to have the item on their September agenda. He said the pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts at the Rec Area are all in use after dark lately. Farnham said he will be marking out a proposed expansion of the 44 Brook St parking lot, which would require Vermont Land Trust approval. He noted the plan was to raise the old truck currently in the woods at the far end onto granite blocks. Other Board members asked questions about protecting it once it is more visible, and the safety of visitors who may want to climb it. Farnham also alerted the Board that a privacy fence was being installed by the neighbor to that parking lot given all the activity at night, and that the town was helping dig the holes for the posts.

Gray asked about the date of the next meeting, since the Labor Day holiday falls on the first Monday of the month. The Board affirmed the usual reschedule plan for such cases, the next Monday, September 14, would work.

At 6:47pm on a motion by Tessier, seconded by Gray, the board voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

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