

**Town of Barre  
Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2020**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road and virtually. Board members present were Doug Farnham, David Rouleau, Terry Smith, and Stacey Lynds; and by teleconference, Moriah Fraga. Absent were Rolland Tessier and Amanda Gray. Also present were Corey Touchette, David Christiansen, and assistant town manager Elaine Wang; by videoconference, Roger Gillies; and by teleconference, Abby Fusco and Recreation Supervisor Dwight Coffrin.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Rouleau made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Smith seconded and the motion passed 5-0.
3. Wang requested to add to #8, Police Authorization: “The Chair reported the Police Chief would consult the Chair, or Vice Chair in the Chair’s absence, on the duration of trespass orders.” Rouleau noted Moriah Fraga had also been absent from the September meeting. Rouleau made a motion to approve the September 14, 2020 meeting minutes with those changes. Lynds seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.
5. **2020 Softball Season** – Farnham asked for input from the softball league representatives present how the season went once it started, and how COVID-19 affected what they did or didn’t do. Both Christiansen, of the Men’s League, and Fusco, of the Co-Ed League, expressed appreciation for the good care taken of the field, and discussed the efforts of Farnham and their own leadership to get their players to break old habits and follow the guidelines. After the first few weeks it seemed to go smoothly.

Farnham asked for the three league presidents to coordinate nights of play in March, ahead of the town’s April scheduling meeting.

6. **Fundraising for Softball Light Replacement Lift Rental** – Wang updated those present on the project to replace the softball lights. The town has contributed \$86,478 to the project, not counting the cost of inspecting all 22 light poles in the Rec Area. The Men’s League has raised and contributed another \$4,720, including tickets purchased by members of the Men’s Over 30 League. Funds have been spent on electrical upgrade, arms, lights, and the costs to replace two poles that did not meet inspection. The Men’s League recruited a master electrician willing to donate his time, preferably in November. Other volunteers are needed. The last piece is the boom lift. Essex Equipment is willing to donate use of one but could not commit yet due to high demand. They said availability might be easier during hunting season. If a donation cannot be secured, cost of renting one or two lifts would need to be raised. Fusco said she would discuss with the Co-Ed League. Gillies said he would put the word out to the Men’s League. Farnham asked to check in on fundraising in two weeks.

7. **Freezing Fun for Families Plan** – Touchette and those present discussed how to make the winter snow softball tournament COVID-safe. Farnham recommended Touchette ask ACCD for an exception for the tournament. Wang suggested providing them a plan that would otherwise meet their guidelines for organized sports. Touchette said his organization would work on a plan and come back to the Board in November.

8. **Little League Field Flagpole and Championship Marker** – Coffrin reported the flagpole and marker were leaning due to not being set deep enough originally. The crew removed them and he asked the Board to approve relocation of the marker to one of two spots he recommended. He suggested the flagpole not be replaced, as there is another flagpole in the rec area. Farnham said to ask the person who raised the funds for the field about the flagpole. Rouleau made a motion to reset the marker. Smith seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

9. **Rec Supervisor Report** – Coffrin reviewed September activities. Farnham asked a couple of maintenance items be addressed.

**10 Facility Requests** – a) The Aldrich Library requested to continue their Storywalks in the Town Forest through the end of October. Rouleau made that motion, Smith seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

**11. Camp St. lots bequest** – Rouleau and Farnham visited the lots. Rouleau said it was flat and wooded but open. As such he proposed it be kept as a wooded area, with no disc golf course or playground. He said he used to live in the neighborhood and found it too hilly for comfortable walking, and these lots would be a good option for an accessible path. Smith said to be sure noisy activities are not encouraged given the residential character of the neighborhood, and nothing after dark. Rouleau said the flat Camp St. side could be for parking and perhaps a bathroom or port-o-let. Access from the Lague Lane could be accomplished by brush hogging. Farnham said the next step would be to recommend the Selectboard accept the bequest, then meet with residents, and then plan to budget for improvements after fiscal year 2021-2022.

**12. Other Business** – Regarding winter pickleball, Wang reported the school was not allowing use of the gym for the foreseeable future. She reported the DPW Superintendent took the initiative of bringing a load of mulch to 44 Brook St., anticipating the Disc Golf Course Organizers would request it in the spring as usual. She listed budget requests from the Rec Board she'd compiled over the last year for the Board's reference at their November meeting.

**13. 'Round the Table** – Rouleau asked for a 'P' parking sign be placed at the auxiliary parking lot across from the Dog Park. The Rec Board agreed by consensus. He said David Wood was reviewing the wooden skatepark structures and would propose a plan to replace them with concrete. On Dog Park matters, he said he would follow up with the resident who had wanted to provide input on the park rules. He asked for areas in the Town Forest that used to be walkable near Violette St. be brush hogged. Wang asked him to provide a map. Smith and Lynds discussed ideas for more recreation activity signs. When Farnham asked, Rouleau said he would collect the outdoor pickleball nets when the season was over because he has the bags and metal pole box. Farnham noted there were cliff divers at Wells Lamson Quarry two weekends ago and that he called it in to the police department. He said he could not attend the November 2 meeting. Smith made a motion to hold the meeting on November 9. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0

At 7:55pm on a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Smith, the board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

\_\_voted on by Doug Farnham\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_David Rouleau\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_Terry Smith\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_Amanda Gray\_\_\_\_\_

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