

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2020**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road and virtually. Board members present were Doug Farnham, and by videoconference, David Rouleau, Terry Smith, and Amanda Gray. Absent were Stacey Lynds, Rolland Tessier, and Moriah Fraga. Also present were Guy Norwood, Jeff Smith, and Kevin Spaulding by videoconference, assistant town manager Elaine Wang, town manager Carl Rogers, and by teleconference, Recreation Supervisor Dwight Coffrin.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Rouleau made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gray seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
3. Rouleau made a motion to approve the October 5, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. T. Smith seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Because the guests for the first three agenda items were not present, Chair Farnham adjusted the agenda.

8. the Quarries Disc Golf Organizers’ annual report – David Rouleau, as an organizer of the Quarries Disc Golf Course, reported their 2020 revenues and expenses and their plans for the next year. Rouleau noted that the two tournament organizers donated \$175 and the iron ranger collected \$411, for a total of \$586 in revenues. Rouleau thanked the town staff who constructed and helped install the iron ranger. Rouleau reviewed their expenses, including a new mower, materials for stations, and gas, which came to \$489.37. He and Norwood introduced plans to add granite pavers to the tees to reduce the holes that form there, and granite stairs at hole #11. Rouleau said they would seek approval from the Rec Board and the Vermont Land Trust before finalizing.

5. Town Forest Logging – Contracted forester Jeff Smith of Butternut Hollow Forestry reviewed the winter logging plans. J. Smith said the bidder he is recommending to the Selectboard wants to start late December 2020. He showed a map of skid trails he mapped out to minimize disruption to the Millstone Trail system. Some will cross MTA trails. J. Smith said some areas would need to be closed during logging, but with good communication those areas should not need to be closed the whole winter. Spaulding of MTA and Rouleau, as President of the local snowmobile club the Barre Town Thunder Chickens said they would coordinate on signage. T. Smith asked about conditions. J. Smith said the contract will detail under what conditions logging may occur. Rogers asked whether the public should expect weekend logging. J. Smith said not much unless conditions are so poor they need to log while they can. He said if that is needed, they would communicate a day or two in advance.

6. Electric Bicycles in the Town Forest – Spaulding said the pilot went great. He said the way the trails are such that you can’t go very fast even on an ebike. The announcement of the pilot was well-received and brought in a bit more ridership than usual. He said ebikes have not changed the overall look nor feel of the trail network. MTA is supportive of the Rec Board extending the pilot, adopting an ebike standard, or adopting the current policy as permanent. Spaulding said an ebike ridden responsibly won’t damage trails. He said they are working on adaptive loops in the network and Vermont Adaptive Sports were able to have three or four rides in the Barre Town Forest this year. Rouleau motioned to continue the ebike pilot in the town forest in 2021. T. Smith seconded. Spaulding said a year-to-year policy was best because technology changes. The Board voted 4-0 to approve.

7. MTA Annual Report – Spaulding presented their winter grooming plans, which included an easy loop in the Rec Area and storing the tire groomer at the Rec Area. When they have a final route, they will share.

9. Fee for Softball Light Project – Farnham and Wang explained that after the last Rec Board meeting the leagues met with them and were comfortable with a fee assessment across the leagues sufficient to reimburse the town to rental a lift for the project, since a donation was not confirmed. Since the meeting, donation of use and shipping of the lift was confirmed by Essex Equipment, but the electrician who had offered their services free of charge was now booked up due to the pandemic. Wang had a quote from Benoit Electric for \$4,400 to do the work

over the weekend when the lift would be donated. By the meeting, a couple of the league representatives indicated that amount was ok. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by T. Smith, the Board voted 4-0 to approve an assessment on the softball leagues up to the amount needed to complete the project in calendar year 2021, which would need to be paid prior to the leagues starting play in 2021.

10. Fencing – Farnham shared his assessment of all the fencing and gates in the rec areas, except along the bike path, around the skatepark and around the dog park. His recommendations were the gates were the top priority, the Little League field the lowest priority, and the fencing he rated 1-3 (with 1 being best) have clips added to the bottoms for an easy fix.

11. Budget Requests – The Board reviewed their list of recommended items for the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 budget. They provided direction for staff so they could finalize their recommendation at their December meeting.

12. Facility Requests – None.

13. Rec Supervisor Report – Coffrin reviewed October activities. He asked what the plan was for picking up pickleball for the season. Rouleau said he would collect the nets. Coffrin said the crew would take care of the sandbags. If they finish the season before pickleball does, Rouleau said they would get the sandbags into one of the buildings.

14 Intern – T. Smith noted that the UVM intern program requires a minimum pay of \$13 per hour and a work assignment of 12 weeks at 20 hours per week. The Board provided their input on survey questions. The intern project would be to finalize and perhaps test the survey.

15. Other Business – Wang asked when Farnham wanted to revisit the banner program. Farnham said in a year. Wang asked the Board for ideas on what to do with the old lights from the Rec Area. The Board brainstormed locations and agreed any remaining lights could either be given to the softball leagues if they could be sold as a fundraiser or donated to another town that could use them.

16. Round the Table – Farnham suggested a next step regarding expanding the 44 Brook St parking lot.

At 8:10pm on a motion by Rouleau, seconded by T. Smith, the board voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

approved by Doug Farnham

David Rouleau

Terry Smith

Amanda Gray

Rolland Tessier

