

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a virtual public meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021. Board members in attendance were Doug Farnham, David Rouleau, Terry Smith, Amanda Gray, Stacey Lynds, and Moriah Fraga. Also in attendance were Corey Touchette, Chris Cadorette and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Gray made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
3. **Minutes** - Smith made a motion to approve the minutes showing Fraga had been in attendance. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
5. **Facility Requests** – a) Corey Touchette presented Freezing Fun for Families (FFFF)’s request and plan to hold their annual snow softball event at the Rec Area on March 5 through 7, modified from their usual tournament format to be COVID-safe. They had consulted past participants and referred to the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development’s (ACCD) November 3, 2020 rules for adult sports league activities. The plan is for up to 16 teams playing the same team best two out of three on the same day, mandatory masks, no concessions, no fans, and using only four fields. Wang advised that under the current ACCD rules, the event could not be held, reading from 9.1 of their current memo: “Participation by any Vermont-based team in games, meets or competitions, both within and outside of Vermont remains prohibited.” She further advised that the rules could change, or the group could request a waiver from ACCD. Smith made a motion to approve the use request conditioned on compliance with ACCD and executive orders. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Rouleau made a motion to condition approval on receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the town as an additional insured and to waive the field use fees. Smith seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
b) David Rouleau reviewed Disc Golf VT’s request for a tournament at the Quarries Disc Golf Course that would use the same pandemic precautions as last year. Smith made a motion to approve the request conditioned on ACCD rules and Certificate of Insurance. Rouleau seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Rouleau noted the organizer was aware of the \$50/day event fee and was prepared to pay it.
6. **Camp St lots park survey** – Wang had provided the Board with paper and electronic versions of the draft survey, developed based on their input at the January meeting and Smith and Lynds’s review. The Board was satisfied with the content. Smith made a motion to approve the survey. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Wang said the town attorney advised the estate’s attorney wanted to wrap up the estate by the end of February or early March, so for the Selectboard to take action in time, the Recreation Board would ideally hold a special meeting in February to review the survey results and decide on their recommendation to the Selectboard whether to accept the lots for a neighborhood park. The Board agreed by consensus to meet on February 15 at 6pm.
7. **Internship** – Smith said that, due to insufficient communication from UVM, we missed the deadline for a class to develop the recreation facility use survey this year. Administering that survey was to be the focus of the internship. Other barriers to having an intern this summer were not having a supervisor identified and the manager not intending to include intern wages in his budget. Lynds said she would try to find a contact at Johnson State University for an intern from there. Short of that, the Board agreed by consensus to pass on the internship for now.
8. **Fencing and FY21-22 Budget** – Farnham said he, Selectboard member Justin Bolduc, and the owner of AH Fence Company visited the rec facility fences to come up with a new quote. He said AH Fence’s solution to the softball field fence lean problem was to provide deeper poles and a mushroom-style concrete footing. Farnham said the intention with the Little League field fencing was ‘if we build it, they will play,’ but not to install it until the drainage was fixed. Smith made a motion to include \$86,605 in the FY2021-2022 budget request to replace the recreation facility fences presented. Lynds seconded. Gray asked whether it would be more prudent to request the priority, softball, only, this year. Smith said prioritization was good in case the Budget Committee felt the full amount too high, but that she wanted the full amount in to show the town’s value for its recreation facilities. The vote was 5 in favor, 0 against, and Rouleau abstaining as he had to be absent for a work matter for part of this conversation.

9. **Port-o-let** – Wang said the 7-8 times she visited the port-o-let it had not shown much if any use, but that it also hadn't snowed much until recently, and MTA just started grooming in the last week or so. Although she had recommended against placing the port-o-let, she said it would be silly to take it away now when it might be used more, and recommended revisiting in March. Rouleau made a motion to keep the port-o-let another month. Gray seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

10. **COVID-19-safe events** – The Board discussed ideas for alternatives to the Egg Hunt and ice cream socials. Gray said she would work on an Egg Hunt alternative.

11. **Other Business** – Wang reported that Accura Printing donated design and production of a 5'x10' banner for Essex Equipment in recognition of their lift rental donation for the softball light project. She asked whether the Board wanted Tracy Wright to present her VT Rustic Moose camp request. Farnham said yes because of mask concerns from the camp last year. Wang asked Rouleau about this year's skatepark fundraiser. Rouleau said there would not be one. She asked the Board whether they reviewed the information she provided in their packet regarding hosting the statewide Legion baseball tournament. The Board agreed they were not interested this year, as the host is required to run the tournament, including finding the volunteers, and it would be too much.

12. **'Round the Table** – Fraga said she will miss the March 1st meeting. Lynds asked about the possibility of an outdoor skating rink. Farnham shared that it takes a lot of volunteer hours and facilitation to keep one going. Smith asked for a public reminder about walking single file on the VAST trail in the town forest.

At 7:27pm on a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Smith, the board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

Approved by Doug Farnham

David Rouleau

Terry Smith

Stacey Lynds

Amanda Gray

Moriah Fraga
