

**Town of Barre  
Recreation Board  
September 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a hybrid (in person with a virtual option) public meeting. Attending Board members were Doug Farnham, David Rouleau, Stacey Lynds, Amanda Gray, Carol Hebert, and Tyler Morse. Absent was Moriah Fraga. Also in attendance were Town Engineer Joshua Martineau, Rec Supervisor Dwight Coffrin and Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Agenda** – Rouleau moved approve the agenda as presented. Gray seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

3. **Minutes** - Lynds motioned to approve the August 2 minutes as presented. Gray seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

5. **Rec Area Stormwater Project** – Town Engineer Martineau presented this item. The Rec Area falls under the new state 3-acre rule, where properties over that size must manage the stormwater coming off of at least 50% of the impervious surface of the property. Impervious surfaces in the Rec Area include the gravel road, courts, and infields of the ballfields. With the help of the Friends of the Winooski River, the St. Sylvester Church (which owns the cemetery next to the Rec Area), and a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the town will be able to construct a stormwater retention pond on land the church is donating. Martineau reviewed where the project would be and that it was designed for a 50-year storm. Overflow from larger storms would go into the overflow channel. Farnham asked if the amount of impervious area could be increased and if it would require a permit. Martineau said some increase is possible without a permit; it would need to be reviewed by the stormwater engineers to ensure the stormwater facility could handle the increase. Rouleau asked if parking could be added, for example along the tennis court. Martineau said it could be permeable parking surface, e.g. a honeycomb surface filled with topsoil.

6. **Facility requests** – a) The Barre Lions requested the Quarries Disc Golf Course in the Town Forest for their regular cause fundraiser tourney. Wang had recommended COVID restrictions similar to the ones Disc Golf VT used in 2020 and to waive the fee. Rouleau recommended the Board charge the usual \$50 per tourney fee because the tourney doesn't cost the Lions anything to run and it would help the course volunteers with upkeep. He also said their shotgun format, where teams start at different tees, would be COVID-safe. Morse made a motion to approve the use as presented, that they follow any state COVID guidelines for outdoor recreation, to strongly recommend masking, and not to waive the fee. Lynds seconded. The motion passed 4-1, with Gray voting no and Rouleau, as a course organizer, abstaining.

b) The Babe Ruth 13-15 year old team requested various Sundays and Wednesdays. Wang had informed them of conflicts with school sports. Morse motioned to approve the modified request and to waive fees. Lynds seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

c) The Babe Ruth 16-18 year old team requested various dates, especially Sundays, and continues to request more dates. Lynds motioned to approve all current and future non-conflicting requests for 2021 and to waive the fee. Morse seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

7. **Rec Supervisor report** –Coffrin reviewed the crew's work over the past month, including replacing a broken Trow Hill basketball backboard with one he had refurbished, replacing ten basketball nets, replacing pickleball nets, supporting the tennis light pole replacement work by contractors, reviewing tree removal and electrical work with contractors, field maintenance at the Rec Area and South Barre fields, painting over graffiti, bathroom cleaning, trash pickup, Mutt Mitt station servicing, equipment maintenance. He said DPW graded the rec road and the rec crew rolled it.

Farnham and Coffrin provided updates on the proposed project to skin the baseball field to allow softball to be played on the same field. 4" of grassed infield would be removed by a contractor and the Rec crew would bring in and mix clay and sand. Farnham said once he had two bids he would bring to Selectboard and the Rec

Board. Coffrin asked if it would be an opportunity to improve drainage of the baseball field. Farnham said that hadn't been discussed.

**8. Fall Festival** – By consensus, the Rec Board agreed to cancel the Fall Festival in light of the surge in COVID cases. Rouleau said he would work with Aldrich Library to post a storywalk at the Rec Area. Lynds and Gray said they would work together on some self-guided activity at the playgrounds.

**9. Softball Field banner program** – Farnham said this program was started a few years ago in an effort to bring some revenue to recreation programs. There was not much uptake. He recommended that, unless the Board had any marketing ideas, that the program be discontinued. The Board agreed it was an idea that had been worth trying, and could be again, but to discontinue for now. Wang advised that the Essex Equipment would be put up again for two more years because it was put up for the first time this year in recognition of their donation of a lift rental for the softball light upgrade project.

**10. Other business** – Wang said MTA and the Thunder Chickens suggested placing boulders by the quarry near 44 Brook St where a snowmobiler drove in the past winter, and asked for contacts to help with that. She mentioned a nice article about Barre area playgrounds that was in The World. She said the state had awarded \$5,000 of the town's \$25,000 rec fencing grant request.

**11. Round table** – Gray asked for an update on Farnham and Rouleau's status, and the Rec ordinances working group. Farnham and Rouleau said they were both willing to stay on if the ordinance working group with the Selectboard went well. Lynds suggested an outside movie night with a blow up screen. Wang said she would put the idea on the next agenda. Hebert thanked Rouleau and Farnham for their service. She asked for an update on the dog park gate latches; she'd seen a complaint on the dog park Facebook page. Farnham said he fixed two of the three. She asked why the survey wasn't on the agenda. Morse said he had advised Wang to postpone for a future meeting. Rouleau said he hoped to have an update by the next meeting from skatepark designer David Wood about a plan for replacing the aging wooden structures. He said feedback was good on the new pickleball nets. He asked for an update on the water spigot project in this year's budget. Wang said last she heard it would have to be bid out and was going to confirm the next day. Rouleau said the fencing along Brook St by the town forest parking lot had been partially removed and that he was proposing Thunder Chickens and MTA cover the cost of a split rail fence because they use of the garage for free. He asked for a winter port-o-let at the Rec Area on the next agenda. Farnham asked if Wang had heard anything about lights being on at the pickleball courts at 4am on Sunday. Wang had not and asked to be notified if it happens again. Farnham asked if Barre Town School teachers could park in the Wilson Industrial Park, if that could shorten the school drop off line enough to not use the rec road into the winter. Wang said winter traffic patterns were still to be determined.

At 7:35pm on a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Morse, the board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

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