

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
November 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

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

1. Acting Chair Rouleau called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Agenda** – Hebert moved approve the agenda as presented. Lynds seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

3. **Minutes** - Lynds motioned to approve the October 4 minutes as presented. Hebert seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5. **Facility request** – a) The Board took back up BYSA Lacrosse’s request for spring use of a Rec Area field. Wang had found no conflicting use requests for the past several years or anticipa from:judy.bruneau "will attend"ted next year. With that, Hebert made the motion to approve the use request for the lower soccer field in the spring, conditioned on the Rec Supervisor’s judgment of field condition and any COVID precautions, to waive the fees, and with the expectation that Wang would inform them that they would need to provide their own nets and ask whether they expect the fields be lined for them. Lynds seconded and the motion passed 5-0. b) Jacqueline Jancaitis, Central Vermont Runners, requested for February 12 the Millstone Trails and parking lot for a snowshoe race, a warming fire, and electricity from the garage to power their registration laptop to avoid bringing a generator or running a car. She suggested the grassed area to the left of the entrance for the fire, noted if ground conditions were muddy the race would be canceled, and said they would provide water to racers, with refreshments dependent on the pandemic. She said all CVR race proceeds are donated to youth running groups and they were looking for a beneficiary from this event. Lynds suggested Kids on the Run at BTMES. Jancaitis asked how to mark the course. Rouleau recommended cones and ‘event in progress’ signs. Jancaitis said most of their events attract 30-40 people but she wasn’t sure how many would come to this. The virtual snowshoe race they held last winter was popular. Hebert motioned to approve the request and allow use of the garage electrical outlet at no charge, conditioned on receipt of a certificate of insurance, cones and signage for the course, and to contact the fire chief on the fire location. Lynds seconded. The motion passed 5-0. c) Peter Kopsco, President of Millstone Trails Association, requested 44 Brook St for their year-end gathering, with one or two small event tents and a grill set up in front of the garage doors. Hebert motioned to approve. Lynds seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

6. **Electric bicycles in the town forest** – The Rec Board began allowing Class 1 ebikes on town forest trails in 2020 to make them more accessible to adaptive athletes and anyone with mobility challenges, and reviews the policy annually. Kopsco said they have seen a handful of ebikes in the town forest and have not heard any complaints. Rouleau read aloud an email from MTA Vice President Kevin Spaulding that was also supportive. Wang said the town’s co-easement holder Vermont Housing and Conservation Board was also supportive. Lynds motioned to continue the ebike policy for another year. Hebert seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

7. **Dog Park Committee update** – For their annual report, Rouleau shared the current balance in the Dog Park account is \$2,387.35, reviewed the mostly maintenance expenses, fundraising activities, donations received, and two user issues that have been resolved. He noted the warped kiosk display doors would be replaced this spring.

8. **Rec Supervisor report** – Coffrin said Rec crew member Chad Chaloux left the town to take a full-time job. He said most field sports were done, except Spaulding women’s field hockey. He then reviewed the crew’s work over the past month, including replacing skatepark gazebo roof shingles, storing soccer goals for the season, touching up baseball dugout trim boards, scraping old tape adhesive from the lower restroom doors, field and bike path maintenance, playground grounds maintenance, purchasing split rail fence material for the 44 Brook St, and recovering from vandalism. He also reviewed contracted work, including having a large fallen tree removed from the South Barre bike path, repairing the upper soccer field scoreboard, and restoring a Websterville Playground basketball backboard. He said antifreeze would be added to sinks and toilets and water

to the rec area would be shut off this week. Rouleau asked Wang to the water shutoff date. Coffrin said the Rec Crew did excellent work and he heard only compliments from users. Rouleau asked this praise for the crew included in the meeting minutes. Lynds asked why the fence at the skatepark has caution tape. Coffrin said it had been vandalized and was waiting on the fence company to repair it. Lynds asked about game cameras. Wang said availability had been an issue, and now she needed to do more research to find a model that would overwrite itself so that it would not have to be emptied frequently.

9. Budget requests – Wang had provided a review of the town budget process and a list of recreation budget items that had come up during the year. Rouleau asked for a water fountain for bottle water be added to the draft proposed budget list. Wang said there was a water bottle filler grant opportunity she would apply for. He then asked about a survey method for providing input on the budget items versus discussing during the meeting. The Board agreed. Hebert asked whether skinning the baseball field should be included. Wang said Rec Board Chair Doug Farnham, who had been exploring the idea, was attempting to have this project donated. She recommended the Rec Board decide whether they supported the idea at the next meeting where Farnham would be present. If they did, then the Selectboard should also weigh in. If there was a budget impact, there was still time for it to make it into the budget process.

10. Egg Hunt 2022 – Gray discussed how to offer the Egg Hunt in 2022. She said she did not mind how the Board did it as long as it was successful, which 2021 was not. She reviewed some ideas of alternatives. Rouleau reviewed notes provided by Wang that the Egg Hunt had been a joint offering of Barre City and Barre Town since 1992, and for many years Barre Town just contributed funds and the only town person who volunteered was the Barre Town manager. In the last 5-6 years more of the Barre Town Rec Board has volunteered. Board members discussed the location. Wang noted that Barre City Rec Director Stephanie Quaranta had tried it in a different location one year and got a lot of very negative feedback, and the challenge of using Barre Town School is its inaccessibility to walking and transit. Lynds suggested enhancing the current format rather than holding a separate event. After some brainstorming on possible enhancements, present Board members all agreed with this suggestion, citing the importance of tradition and not wanting to confuse town residents should future Rec Boards not want to hold their own event. They did not make a decision so the two missing Board members could also weigh in.

11. Movie night – Lynds researched possibilities for holding outdoor movie nights next summer. She said video projectors are \$90-\$120, connect wirelessly, with 100-inch screens included that could be attached to fencing. A foldable 120” screen was \$30. Rouleau said such costs could be sponsored. Hebert asked about audio. Rouleau said he would ask how the Rotary handled audio, and, at Wang’s request, how they handled movie showing licensing. Lynds suggested targeting the movies to the underserved middle-school age group.

12. Other business – Wang asked Rouleau about progress on his and Tyler Morse’s Rec Ordinance Working Group-related work on standards for the Recreation Department. Rouleau said they hadn’t set a date yet and he would try to for next week. Wang asked Rouleau if he had had time to mark the proposed trail; he said he would try to this week.

13. Round table – Rouleau said he heard back from David Wood, that he would visit the skatepark with Coffrin and provide planning suggestions.

At 7:40pm on a motion by Lynds, seconded by Gray, the board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

