

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
April 4, 2022 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, Moriah Fraga, Carol Hebert, and Tyler Morse. None were absent. Also in attendance were Chris Bean, Shawn Sicard, Chris Locarno, David Christiansen, Scott Dolan, Josh Dickinson, James Clark, Chris Dayton, Heather Slayton, Penny Martin, Robert Nelson, and staff liaison Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang.

1. Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. **Agenda** – Gray motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Hebert seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

3. **Minutes** - Rouleau motioned to approve the March 7 minutes as presented. Morse seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

4. **Guests** – There were no guests for a matter not on the agenda.

5. **Consent agenda** – Farnham requested a) and e) be removed from the consent agenda. As there were no objections to b) the BTMES baseball and softball season request, c) the BTMES 8th grade track, softball field and basketball request for June 15-16, 8am-2:30pm field days, and d), Central Vermont Runners Millstone West bike path request for May 21, 7a-11a, with fees waived, the items were adopted.

a) Regarding the Barre Lions Club request for the disc golf course on June 7, 4:30pm to dark, Farnham reminded everyone of the neighbor's concerns from the last meeting and asked how the town may alert neighbors about the event. Wang said she could post to the Websterville Neighborhood Facebook group, Front Porch Forum, and Lawson's Store with their permission. Farnham asked if the old Websterville Fire District still had a group. Wang said she didn't believe so but could provide the information to a former Prudential Committee member and ask them to distribute. Rouleau motioned to approved the request, to suggest a donation of \$50, and require compliant insurance. Gray seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

e) Farnham invited Washington County Mental Health representatives Heather Slayton and Penny Martin to introduce the cause they were raising money for with their color run and field activities request. They said they were looking to bring students on a trip to Washington DC, and purchase a chicken coop to teach skills. Gray asked about safety of the color used. Martin said it was biodegradable and corn starch-based. Rouleau motioned to approve the request and waive the fee conditioned on compliant insurance. Hebert seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

6. **Barre Amateur Soccer Association Camp request** – Rouleau motioned to approve the nonprofit youth-organization's request and waive the fee conditioned on compliant insurance.

7. **Field scheduling requests** – a) Soccer: Rouleau motioned to approve the Northeast Kingdom Warriors soccer request conditioned on compliant insurance. Gray seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

b) Softball: Gray made a motion to approve the CoEd League's request as presented during the meeting, with the understanding that some coordination with field hockey and youth soccer would be needed and conditioned on compliant insurance. Rouleau seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Gray made a motion to approve the Men's Over 30 League request with the change in tournament date to August 20-21 and conditioned on compliant insurance. Rouleau seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Gray motioned to approve the Men's League request as presented, conditioned on receiving a completed form and compliant insurance. Morse seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

c) Baseball: Wang said she had not received any of the expected baseball requests. Barre Community Baseball and Softball President Chris Locarno said they were still working on their schedule. Farnham said the Board could act on their expected South Barre fields request since they are usually the only requestor. Gray motioned to approve BCBS's use of the South Barre fields conditioned on receipt of compliant insurance and a completed form. Rouleau seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Locarno said he needed to send in requests for Babe Ruth also and asked about conflicts. Wang said the town was expecting two other requests, one from American Legion Post 10 and another from Capital Blue Jays,

an adult team. Locarno said the American Legion team was now under BCBS and they would take care of the Legion's needs at Barre Town. Capital Blue Jays representative James Clark said they were looking for Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays and to use Barre Town as their home field, because Spaulding is charging too much. Farnham said they can't have August 14. Locarno said BCBS would make do with June 27-August 6, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 6pm-9pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. Gray motioned for Babe Ruth and American Legion, as coordinated by Barre Community Baseball and Softball, to have the baseball field on those days, dates, and times, conditioned on receipt of compliant insurance and a completed form. Hebert seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

The Board will expect a facility request form from the Capital Blue Jays.

8. Converting baseball field – Farnham said he had been working for years on different ideas for making the baseball field also usable for softball. Each time an idea was not well received, he would revise accordingly. The latest proposal was for less dirt, a portable mound, safer marking pins for the various bases that would not be a trip hazard, and a portable outfield fence. Farnham said he presented this to the Barre Community Baseball and Softball board; some were supportive and some were not. Locarno spoke up and said he had been very opposed during the board meeting, without realizing how much effort had been made to revise the proposal. He said personally he still had some concerns, but his board was supportive, and he was at this meeting to convey his board's support. Gray asked what his personal concerns were. Locarno he wasn't there to present his personal concerns. Farnham offered they were about drinking by adult softball players. The comment was made that that mostly became an issue if a fight broke out, and when it has, usually it's been between members of the same team, which made that a league management issue. Clark said the Capital Blue Jays were concerned about slipping on the mound. Farnham said he didn't think there would be an issue; there is a similar portable mound in Hyde Park Clark could visit, though that one was lesser quality. Clark repeated his team's concern. By consensus, the Rec Board agreed to ask the Selectboard for input on the proposal.

9. Deer Enclosure – At the last meeting, a guest had expressed concern of an animal getting trapped inside the fence. The Rec Board reviewed the fence details provided by Washington County Forester Robert Nelson and agreed the risk was small. They heard about the site selection visit. Nelson explained the site he recommended was a big enough opening for regrowth of more tree species. The smaller patch cut visited would have just regenerated beech and sugar maple. Rouleau made a motion for the Assistant Town Manager to sign the approval pending Vermont Land Trust approval of the installation. Morse seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Nelson said they planned to install May or early June and would email the town before doing so.

10. Pickleball Nets License – Rouleau said he and Wang worked on a license for Green Mountain modeled after the Trow Hill Playground memorial bench license. The language and procedure for that license was advised by the town attorney. Rouleau said he reviewed the license with Green Mountain Community Fitness's Executive Director Nick Petterssen who was fine with it. Morse motioned to grant a revocable license to Green Mountain Community Fitness to place two sturdy, temporary pickleball nets at the Rec Area pickleball courts. Hebert seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

11. Signage – The Rec Board reviewed content of two advisory signs proposed by Wang to address the concerns of the neighbor to the Town Forest 44 Brook Street parking lot. After some discussion Rouleau said he would work on a different version for the Rec Board to consider at a future meeting.

12. Egg Hunt 2022 – The group discussed final plans. Wang said the bunny suit was dry cleaned and in the town's storage room. Morse said he would bring a table for ANR. Gray brought the special eggs and prizes. Wang asked the Rec Board if they wanted to accept the peanut butter egg donation from Lake Champlain Chocolates give the allergy concern. The Rec Board agreed by consensus to accept the donation, keep them separate, and have a dedicated volunteer handing them out while communicating about the peanut allergen.

13. Egg Hunt ad in the World – Hebert made a motion to run an ad in the World for the week of April 13 at the quoted price of \$105.21. Lynds seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

14. Movie Night – The Rec Board discussed possible movies suitable for 8 to 15 year olds from recreation department show license provider Common Sense Media library. They then discussed movie screen options.

They viewed the details of one on an online shopping site. Rouleau made a motion to purchase the 20 foot screen made by XHYCPY for \$161.49. Morse seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Gray said she had not heard back yet from the Boy Scouts about offering concessions. Farnham said he would provide the power cord.

15. Other activities – Lynds asked whether they could paint on some of the activities former Board member Terry Smith had chalked onto the bike path. Wang said the Rec Board could approve that. Lynds said had someone who could do it and would bring designs to the June meeting for the Rec Board to consider.

16. Other business –Wang had no other business.

17. Round table – Fraga said she would be stepping down after next month’s meeting. Hebert asked about the aging signs on the bike path. Wang said they needed to be taken down. Hebert said she would do it. Farnham asked whether the fence posts at 44 Brook St would be removed by the town. Wang said they would be. Farnham updated everyone about Bee the Change’s interest in a pollinator planting site near the dynamite shack in the town forest and they would come to the May meeting. He said two tennis nets were up, and three pickleball nets.

At 8:47pm on a motion by Hebert, seconded by Morse, the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members











