

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2022**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, August 1, 2022, starting at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Carol Hebert, Annette Neddo, Amanda Gray (remotely). Also attending were town manager Carl Rogers, maintenance supervisor Dwight Coffrin and guests: Alan Kessler, Dustin Tabor, Rosaire Bisson and Sheila Cleary.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm (because of technical difficulties at 6:00).

Rogers asked to add item 5i to the agenda. David Rouleau moved to approve the agenda as written and with addition of 5i, Barre Men's Soccer field use request. Annette Neddo seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of the motion.

Rouleau made a motion to approve the July 11 meeting minutes. Carol Hebert seconded the motion, which the Board approved by a 5-0 vote.

There were no guests for non-agenda items.

Facility Use Requests –

- a) **Dog Park Committee** – Alan Kessler was present to talk about the Committee's request to use the picnic shelter and Millstone Hill West bike path for an event called Howl-a-Thon on October 1. Kessler said the event is a fund-raiser for the dog park. He said they plan to have a dog trainer and, hopefully, some vendors at the event. Hebert moved, seconded by Neddo, to approve the Dog Park Committee's use of the picnic shelter and Millstone Hill West bike path on Sunday, October 1 from noon to 3:00 pm. All voted in favor. Kessler asked about removing a dead tree in the dog park. He was referred to the dog park agreement which states dead trees in the dog park are the Committee's responsibility.
- b) **Dog Park Committee Yard Sale** – Sheila Cleary was present for this request to use the auxiliary parking area on Saturday, August 20 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm for a yard sale. The event is a fund-raiser for the dog park. Farnham mentioned a concern about the softball tournament needing to use the auxiliary parking area. Other sites suggested were the grassy area between the southern edge of the auxiliary parking area and the ditch line; the parking spaces next to the skatepark; and the grassy area between the dog park fence and the track. After discussion, Hebert made a motion to approve the Dog Park Committee's use of the grassy area between the dog park fence and track for a yard sale on Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Neddo seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- c) **Christ Community Alliance Church** – Dustin Tabor and Rosaire Bisson were present to give additional information about the Church's plans and request. The Church is now merged with the East Barre Christian Church. The CCAC requests permission to use the East Barre Park shelter and playing field on Sunday, September 25, from 3:00 pm to dusk. Tabor and Bisson said they would not be conducting a church service. They plan to offer food (pizza), have a few games such as cornhole and ladder golf, and background music. They said 40 people is a reasonable assumption for attendance. Rouleau made a motion, seconded by Hebert, to approve the Church's request with the

condition a certificate of insurance be submitted to the Town offices. The Board approved the motion on a 5-0 vote.

- d) **BYSA Soccer** – BYSA Soccer requested approval to use the upper soccer field on Thursday, August 11, 2022, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm to hold tryouts. Rouleau made a motion to approve the request as presented. Neddo seconded the motion, and the Board approved it unanimously.
- e) **VT Senior Babe Ruth** – Rouleau moved to retro-actively approve VT Senior Babe Ruth's request to use the baseball field on July 26 (for an additional game). Hebert seconded the motion and the Board approved it without dissent.
- f) **Pickleball Tournament** – Rouleau explained the tournament would be co-hosted by Barre Town Recreation and Green Mountain Community Fitness (GMCF). Nick Petterson would be the tournament director. He is not compensated for serving as director. Proceeds will be used to buy more of the sturdy pickleball nets used at GMCF during the winter and at the Town pickleball courts during the warmer months. Hebert made a motion to approve a pickleball tournament on the tennis and pickleball courts on August 10th and 11th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Amanda Gray seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Rouleau said players will sign a waiver.
- g) **Barre Community Baseball** – Farnham said he tried to reach BCB's Jordan Bergeron for more details about the Tuesday and Wednesday evening practices. He didn't talk to Bergeron. It was noted SHS field hockey will be using the baseball outfield from mid-August to late October. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings the field hockey team might be playing a game or practicing. There shouldn't be any conflicts on Sunday afternoons, but the field hockey goals will have to be removed. Rouleau made a motion to approve Barre Community Baseball's request to use the baseball field for games on Sundays at 2:00 pm and for practice on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, working around SHS field hockey's use of the field, from mid-August to mid-October. Neddo seconded the motion, and it was approved by a 5-0 vote.
- h) **Spaulding High School** – The SHS athletic director submitted game schedules and some practice information by email. The field hockey team wishes to use the baseball outfield for practices and games. Practice begins on August 18. Time not stated. When school opens August 29, practice will be 4:00 – 5:30 pm. The game schedule with both Saturday (10:00 am start) and weeknight (4:00 start) dates was submitted. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Neddo, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SHS field hockey team's use of the baseball outfield.

The boys and girls soccer teams request use of the upper soccer field for practices and games. The game schedules were given. Practice begins August 18. Practice times were not provided. Game schedules for both teams include Saturday morning (10:00) and weeknight (4:00) games. Rouleau moved to approve SHS boys and girls soccer teams' use of the upper soccer field per the athletic director's submittal. Hebert seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 to approve it.

The cross-country team will train in the town forest, usually from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. No home meet is scheduled at this time. No action was required. Rogers was asked to ask the cross-country coach to mark the course with lime instead of paint.
- i) **Barre Men's Soccer** – Rouleau made a motion, seconded by Hebert, to approve Barre Men's Soccer's use of the upper soccer field for a playoff game on August 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. It was voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Maintenance Report – Dwight Coffrin reviewed his written report of maintenance activities during July. Farnham asked that the crew drag the infields using the homemade drag upside down. Coffrin said he'd try it. Farnham noted the softball field has no speedi-dri and the new water service at 44 Brook Street is not turned on.

Baseball Field Update – Farnham reported after re-evaluation the slide areas at second and third bases need to be enlarged. The new portable fence was installed at 300' from home plate but the fence was 8' short. He called the company, and it is looking into providing another section. There was discussion about removing and re-setting the portable pitchers mound and fence as needed. The Board talked about the state softball tournament to be played on the softball field and baseball field August 13 and 14. Farnham said there could be up to 20 teams in a double elimination tournament. He said more garden hose is needed to serve the baseball field. The VT softball association will pay the Town \$750 for hosting the tournament.

MTA – Rogers reported Caitlin Cusack of VLT said VLT approval is not needed for the mountain bike trail challenge features MTA would like to add. He suggested the Board have a policy or an understanding with MTA about what is a trail off-shoot to use a challenge feature and what is a new trail with challenge features on it. Rogers will contact MTA to ask when they want to build some features.

Cusack informed Rogers that VLT would not prohibit signs or logos of businesses sponsoring events in the town forest. Farnham said a Town policy about the signs and logos should include how far in advance and after the event the signs could be posted. The Board decided it would work on this policy over the winter. Clarification of MTA's skills park is needed. Rogers will ask MTA.

Fall Event – The following ideas were mentioned: scavenger hunt, safari ride (walk), pumpkin glow (walk), cider and doughnuts social, and pie social. The Board discussed these ideas and began talking about an event on Sunday, October 23 at the picnic shelter. The event would be a dessert social with the Recreation Board having cider, doughnuts and apples available. A pumpkin carving and judging contest might be included. The Board asked to have this topic on its September meeting agenda.

Movie Night – Farnham said he has the movie. Anticipated start time is 8:30-8:45 pm. Use of Stacey Lynd's computer would be ideal, otherwise testing of computers with the projector and sound system needs to be done ahead of time. Farnham suggested setting up the screen just below the restroom building with the audience sitting on the bank below the track.

Community Forest Management Plan Committee – On a motion by Gray, seconded by Hebert, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Dave Rouleau to the Community Forest Management Plan Committee.

Other Business – Farnham said the next meeting will be on September 12.

'Round the Table – Rouleau said that as part of its Community Day Vermont Creamery will help with work at the dog park. He reported he heard nothing from the citizen who volunteered to work on ice cream socials this year. Neddo offered to be more involved with the ice cream socials. The Board asked that this topic be placed on the January meeting agenda to start planning early.

Neddo asked if there will be food at the movie night. Farnham said at the second movie night the Board gave away chocolate eggs and chips and they will have something again.

Hebert said a resident told her a tree on the Trow Hill Playground fence is being strangled by a vine. She said she was asked if someone who is mobility impaired could ride a 4x4 in the town forest. Rogers

informed the Board the conservation easement bars ATVs from the forest, except if a trail through the forest connects a legitimate ATV trail network.

Farnham asked about the smaller cable used along the rec area road. He said it is hard to see.

At 8:30 pm, on a motion by Hebert, seconded by Neddo, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members






