

**Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 6, 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 and Tyler Morse (remotely). Also attending were town manager Carl Rogers, maintenance supervisor Dwight Coffrin, Burnie Allen, Wanda Miller, MTA representatives Kevin Spaulding, Kris Hunt, Nate Kie and Jay Hollingsworth, VT Senior Babe Ruth representative Greg Gero, by telephone, and Angela Valentinetti by telephone.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Dave Rouleau made a motion to approve the agenda, as written, with the addition of the maintenance report to be added between items 8 and 9. Carol Hebert seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Reorganization –

Hebert made a motion to re-elect Doug Farnham as chair for the Board and Dave Rouleau as vice-chair. Tyler Morse seconded the motion. There were no other nominations for the positions.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Hebert made a motion to set the Board's regular meeting schedule for the first Monday of the month starting at 6:00 pm. Morse seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Minutes –

On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Hebert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the May 2, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.

Guests –

Rogers explained Burnie Allen is interested in re-joining the board and was attending to get up to speed.

Wanda Miller informed the Board she wanted approval to place a wooden park bench in memory of Richard Knowlton along the Millstone Hill West bike path, hopefully near the Lower Graniteville picnic area. She explained why that area of the path was preferred. There was discussion about securing the bench to prevent theft. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Hebert, the board voted unanimously to proceed with details. Hebert, Miller and Dwight Coffrin will meet to plan out the location.

6. Facility Use Requests –

a. **Green Mountain Gravel** – Previously the Board received information about this request. The board approved the request verbally but not by a vote. Since then, the principals of GMG received preliminary approval from the Selectboard. This item is back on the agenda for official approval. Rouleau moved to approve GMG's dedicated use of the picnic shelter and to approve GMG's use of the Millstone Hill West bike path on Sunday, October 9. Morse seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

b. **Learn to Skate** – Rouleau made a motion to approve the Mercy family's dedicated use of the skatepark on June 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Hebert seconded the motion, and it was approved without dissent.

c. **Barre Community Baseball** – Rouleau moved that BCB's request to use the baseball field on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, for Babe

Ruth and American Legion baseball from June 10 and 27 be approved. His motion included the field use fee be waived. Hebert seconded the motion, and it was approved by a 4-0 vote.

d) CV Runners – The CV Runners request permission to use the 44 Brook Street parking area for the annual Barre Heritage Festival 5K trail run on July 30. Rouleau made a motion to approve the CV Runners use of the 44 Brook Street parking area and some town forest trails from 7:00 am to noon on July 30. Morse seconded the motion. The Board voted in favor of the motion.

e) VT Senior Babe Ruth – Greg Gero was on the phone for this agenda item. He explained there are teams across northern Vermont, but none in Barre this year. He said the Barre Town field would be a good central location for games. Gero amended his field use request form by deleting the June 14 and 16 dates. Rouleau made a motion to approve Vermont Senior Babe Ruth's use of the baseball field from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm on the dates listed on their field use request form with fees waived, with permission conditioned upon Senior Babe Ruth submitting a certificate of insurance. Hebert seconded the motion and the Board approved it by a 4-0 vote. Gero said he would like a name and phone number for someone to contact with last minute questions before a game. Rogers said the staff would send him that information.

f. Graduation Party – Five families with graduating SHS seniors wished to have a joint graduation party on June 18 in the Rec Area. The picnic shelter already was reserved so the families request dedicated use of the overflow parking area. The families are being charged a fee as if they were using the picnic shelter. The families request permission to consume alcohol. Rouleau made a motion to approve the Touchette, Chase, Wilcox, Benoit and Trottier families' request to have dedicated use of the overflow parking area for a joint graduation party on Saturday, June 18 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm with alcohol consumption permitted. Hebert seconded it. The Board voted 4-0 to approve the motion.

g) Barre Community Baseball – Farnham said BCB did not use the baseball field for tryouts on May 22 as requested, therefore there was no need to take action on this request.

h) Washington County Mental Health – WCMH has reserved the picnic shelter from 10:00 am to noon on Tuesday, July 5, 12, 19 and 26. WCMH requests approval of dedicated use of the soccer field and track those dates and time. Rouleau made a motion to approve the use as requested, with no fees charged, conditioned upon WCMH submitting a certificate of insurance. Morse seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Ice Cream Socials – Valentinetti expressed interest in helping offer the ice cream socials in 2022. Rouleau described the planning and coordinating work he did in the past, including acquiring product. Valentinetti said she'd assume that role. She said she'd prefer to keep the events, as much as possible, like they were prior to the pandemic. She said she would like to meet one-on-one with Rouleau to collect his information. Rouleau said he would respond via email to Valentinetti and include Stacey Lynds and Denise Goodnow.

Millstone Trails Association –

a) Virtual Race Series – Kris Hunt and Kevin Spaulding spoke to this matter. Hunt handed out information describing the race series, the various race courses, and a weekly schedule. Rouleau asked about the signs that last year could have been construed as advertising. Hunt said this year's course direction signs will not list or show the race series sponsor's name. Rouleau made a motion to approve MTA's 13-week virtual race series scheduled to begin June 26. Morse seconded the motion, and it was approved by a 4-0 vote.

b) Skills Area – MTA introduced the idea of clearing the shallow granite quarry, also referred to as the amphitheater, located along the VAST trail a short distance east of the 44 Brook Street parking area. It was noted someone has done some cutting in the shallow hole. A question was asked if the location is within

Green Mountain Powers' 100' wide right-of-way. More information is needed about the Town's authority to approve clearing the "amphitheater" and permitting other changes.

c) Pump Track – A handout describing a pump track and two proposed locations was passed out. MTA noted tree removal may be needed for Option 1 (near disc golf hole 18). Material may need to be brought in to construct the rollers, banked turns and other features. At Option 2 tree removal would not be needed but construction material would have to be brought in. It was noted possible tree removal and cutting (excavating) and filling (building features) will be concerns for the Vermont Land Trust.

The Board asked MTA if it considered other locations. The Board suggested the Town's land near the school's nature trail. MTA was not familiar with the location. Rogers said he'd provide an aerial photo of the area. Also, Rogers will request VLT Steward Caitlin Cusack's thoughts about the amphitheater and constructing a pump track in the town forest.

Spaulding asked what approval was needed to add new challenge features along existing trails. Examples of the features on #6 and Locomotion trails were given. He wondered if a short trail to these challenges would be considered a new trail requiring approval. Rogers suggested Cusack's input would be needed and perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) could be written to give limited approval to build more challenge features.

Spaulding raised a concern about glass left along trails after Rockfire. He was told 2021 was atypical and that the Selectboard addressed the matter with Pierre Couture (Rockfire) when he requested Rockfire's special event permit.

MTA asked about more parking and whether the clearing at the old dynamite shack or the log landing could be used. It was noted the 44 Brook Street lot is full on weekends. Farnham offered thoughts about adding more spaces at that parking lot. The condition will be monitored.

Farnham informed MTA the deer enclosure was fenced in and a sign will be erected. Near that spot Bee the Change might plant a pollinator flower bed. Farnham wondered if MTA could modify its nearby trail to have it pass by these two education opportunities.

Maintenance Report – Dwight Coffrin distributed a report before the meeting. Farnham said the fence contractor informed him the softball field dugout posts are not adequate to bear the weight of the roof. He also said caps should be put on the posts to prevent water from accumulating in the posts then freezing. Discussion about strengthening the dugout upright posts ensued.

Farnham said that for the July 16 baseball field workbee they will need the Bobcat, one-ton truck, 100' tape measure and plate compactor. He also asked about: 1) fixing the door latch in the ladies lower restroom; 2) replacing 3 burned out light bulbs in the men's room; and 3) changing the locks on the baseball field dugout storage room doors. Rouleau asked about replacing sandbags on the pickleball courts and placing a couple of benches at the pickleball courts.

Fall Festival – Discussion was postponed until the July meeting when Stacey Lynds and Amanda Gray could attend.

TALCAR – The Board thought the rally would have minimal use of space in the recreation area or school parking lot. The rally organizers could work around the other events. The Board gave TALCAR the green light to have a check-in point in the recreation area.

Pickleball Court Lines – Rouleau said the pickleball courts are busy on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights, and Sunday mornings. He proposed one pickleball court be painted on each of the two tennis courts. He said other public tennis court owners have done this. He said it would be understood tennis players would have first rights to use the tennis courts and signs to that effect could be posted. Farnham said rolled on paint would be better than the spray paint they used before. The Board will look into acquiring paint and organizing volunteers.

Baseball Field Modifications – Farnham said he secured a \$4,000 donation for the portable mound and it has been ordered. With shipping the full price is over \$4,000. Another donation from the softball leagues is needed to cover cost of other materials such as fencing, base stakes, double bases, pitcher’s rubber. Rogers and Farnham will get together to place the order for additional materials.

Town Forest Management Plan – Rogers advised the Board the Plan is due for an update in 2023. He said a committee, possibly with seven members, one of which would be from the Recreation Board, will be appointed by the Selectboard. He said the Plan is about 60 pages with a hundred or so pages of attachments. The Plan has 10 or 12 chapters. The longest chapter is about forestry. The county forester, maybe with assistance from another forester, will write that chapter. Possible issues of discussion would be: logging, allowing fires, camping, swimming, hunting and trapping.

Movie Night – The Board stated about 30 people attended despite the cool temperatures and wind. Because of the wind the screen was moved to the hedge behind the restroom. The sound system worked very well. Despite the cold the audience had a good experience. The Boy Scouts will come back to run a concession stand. More promotion is needed the next time. Lynds will try informing all childcare locations. July 9 was selected for the next movie night. It was suggested a shorter movie be selected. Rouleau said they will try to get a movie through the Aldrich Library to save on the licensing fee. Lynds and Rouleau will take the lead in organizing the next movie night.

July Meeting – Rouleau moved, and Hebert seconded, a motion to hold the July meeting on July 11. All were in favor.

Other Business – There was no other business.

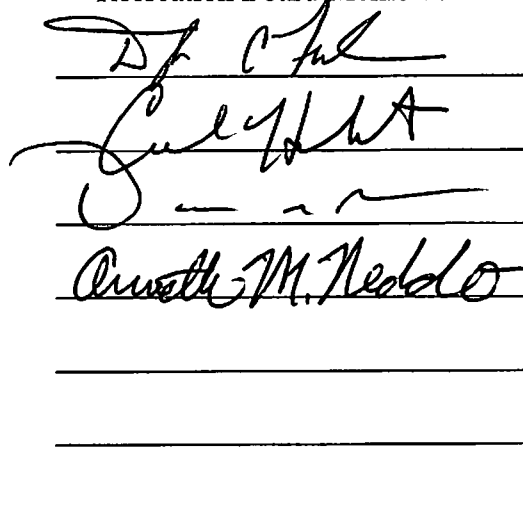
Round the Table – Hebert asked if bocce ball or shuffleboard had ever been tried or considered. Discussion followed with no decisions or plans.

Rouleau asked if the skatepark repair work by Dave Woods could be ordered.

Farnham said the Town received a \$5,000 donation for little league field improvements, if BCB will make plans for a work bee. He asked about posting signs at the softball field to inform everyone alcohol is not allowed in the dugouts or on the field. Rogers and Farnham will discuss the signs. He said some softball players are playing without a shirt. The other Board members thought the leagues should handle it.

At 9:00 on a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Morse, the Board voted to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members


The block contains four handwritten signatures on horizontal lines. The first signature is 'D. Farnham', the second is 'C. Lynds', the third is 'J. Hebert', and the fourth is 'A. Rouleau'. Below these are three more empty horizontal lines.