

Town of Barre Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes ^{9/11} August 7, 2023

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023, starting at 6:00pm. The meeting was held in Conference Room #3 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board Members present included: Chair Doug Farnham, Vice Chair David Rouleau, Annette Neddo, Carol Hebert (remote), and Amanda Gray. Recreation Board Member Stacey Lynds submitted a letter of resignation prior to the meeting. (Absent: Anastasia Douglas).

Also present at this meeting: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, Steve Maas representing Gravel, and two representatives of BYSA: Paul Hutchins and an unknown male.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:03pm
2. **Consider Approving Agenda:** David Rouleau made a motion to approve of the agenda as presented. Amanda Gray seconded the motion. Board approved 5-0.
3. **Consider Approving August 7th Meeting Minutes:** Carol Hebert made a motion to approve of the August 7th Meeting Minutes as presented. Annette Neddo seconded the motion. Board approved 5-0.
4. **Public Input (for non-agenda items):** No members of the public present to speak.
5. **Consider Facility Use Requests:**
 - a. **RockFire:** The RockFire Fire Walk Event was originally scheduled for June 24th and cancelled due to inclement weather. The event takes place on private land and within the Town Forest. RockFire comes before the Recreation Board to seek permission to use the Town Forest. The event was granted an amended Special Event Permit by a motion of the Selectboard at their meeting on August 22, 2023. The amended Permit was approved by the Selectboard under the following conditions:
 - i. The organizers will immediately notify the affected residents of the Littlejohn Road closure about the event and the road closure and provide them with something that will allow them to pass any Littlejohn closure.
 - ii. Sky lanterns are not permitted.
 - iii. All luminaries are to be removed within 48-hours.
 - iv. All ashes, charred wood and unused firewood shall be removed from the campfire areas within 72-hours.
 - v. The \$500 deposit is waived
 - vi. A certificate of insurance, listing the Town of Barre as an additional insured be provided prior to the event.
 - vii. A fireworks permit is obtained.
 - b. **RockFire (continued):** Pierre Couture, RockFire Organizer, was not present at the meeting to speak on behalf of his request to use the Town Forest. Pierre met with Recreation Director Crossley on August 29th and provided a map of the Town Forest trails used during the RockFire FireWalk Event. Board members were provided a copy of the map in their Agenda packets. On a motion By David Rouleau, seconded by Amanda Gray, the

Board voted to approve of RockFire's request under the same conditions granted at the May meeting, and in alignment with the conditions decreed by the Selectboard at their August 22, 2023 Meeting. Board approved 5-0.

- c. Spaulding High School: Athletic Director Derek Cipriano of Spaulding High School submitted requests for use of the Lower and Upper Soccer Field for use by the Boy's and Girl's Varsity Soccer, in addition to a request to use the "Field Hockey Field" (Baseball Outfield) for Varsity Field Hockey. Director Crossley informed the Board that there have been some changes to the requests based on schedule changes communicated by Derek. Director Crossley presented the Recreation Calendar on the Smartboard and within the virtual meeting room. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Carol Hebert, the Board approved of Spaulding High School's requests 5-0.
 - d. Green Mountain Gravel: Steve Maas, organizer of Green Mountain Gravel, was present remotely to speak on behalf of his event. This is the second year of Green Mountain Gravel. Steve clarified that this is an event ride and not a race. The event ride uses the following: TH 73 (Lowery Road), TH116 (Little John Road), TH 1 (Graniteville Road), TH 42 (Compo Street), TH 71 (Drury Hill Road), TH 80 (Brook Street), the Millstone Hill West Bike Path, and Millstone Trails within the Town Forest. Green Mountain Gravel is also requesting use of the Picnic Shelter from 5:30am – 5:30pm, alcohol permission, and the fee be waived. On a motion by Amanda Gray, seconded by David Rouleau, the Board voted to approve of Green Mountain Gravel's request to use the bike path, Town Forest, and Picnic Shelter with the fee waived on the condition that Green Mountain Gravel is raising funds for three local fundraisers including Rainbow Bridge, 5-0.
 - e. BYSA: BYSA Soccer is seeking permission to use the two soccer fields at the East Barre Park and Playground and the Lower Soccer Field at the Recreation Area, Director Crossley identified 5 conflicts with BYSA's requested dates to use the Lower Soccer Field. Chair Farnham suggested offering BYSA the Softball outfield if there are no conflicting times on those five dates. On a motion by David Rouleau, seconded by Annette Neddo, the Board voted to approve of BYSA's request 5-0.
6. **BYSA Turf Project Discussion**: Two representatives of BYSA were present at the meeting, one of which was Paul Hutchins. Paul reached out to Director Crossley to request an Agenda item. BYSA originally presented their Turf Project before the Recreation Board at their June 5, 2023 meeting. Chair Farnham has been attending Selectboard meetings to present potential future capital improvement projects to Recreation Facilities. BYSA Turf Project was added to the Ongoing Discussion of Capital Improvements at the June 5, 2023 Recreation Board meeting. Chair Farnham stated that in his recent presentation to the Selectboard to install permanent Pickleball Nets he was informed that the Selectboard does not want to spend ARPA funds until they have a better understanding of FEMA contributions and further flood recovery efforts needed across Town. Paul Hutchins stated this year's unusually wet Summer season has created a lot of issues with field availability. The Community needs an investment such as the Turf Project to keep youth sports active, despite the weather. BYSA envisions this as an investment in the Community

and are asking the Town to contribute \$15,000.00 towards that investment. BYSA is contributing \$75,000.00 – 80,000.00 towards the project. The current quote they have on their Turf estimate expires 12/31/23, after that it could increase. On a motion by Amanda Gray, seconded by David Rouleau, the Board voted to recommend to the Selectboard the contribution of \$15,000.00 towards the BYSA Turf Project.

7. Considerations for Fall Festival ~ Saturday, October 14, 2023:

- a. Extensive discussion ensued relating to volunteer commitments, timing of activities, outreach, and scope of the event. The Dog Park Committee asked to host a Howlathon Walk/Parade within the Fall Festival. The Board agreed to have the Howlathon from 3-4pm. 12-3pm of the event will focus on family activities that engage kids. Director Crossley will create a list of the committed big rigs prior to the event. Amanda Gray took further notes during discussion (see attachment below).

8. Consider Capital Improvements (Ongoing Discussion):

- a. Chair Farnham has been attending Selectboard meetings to present potential future capital improvement projects to Recreation Facilities. Those projects have included: permanent pickleball nets, bathroom facilities at 44 Brook Street Town Forest Parking lot, and converting the Recreation Area access road to a 4-season road.

9. Updates from the Recreation Director:

- a. Update on Baseball Field Lighting Project: The Sentry LED lights will be transported from Needham Electric to the Recreation storage. DMS is still holding on to crossarms. The eight 80' poles are currently in treatment and are expected to be completed in the coming weeks. Next stage will be permits and delivery of the poles.
- b. RFP for Little League Fence: The RFP to replace and add new little league fencing was given to the Town Manager in August. RFP will be going out to five fencing companies when it goes out. Director Crossley will check in with the Town Manager.
- c. Infield Projects at Little League Field and Wilson Street Fields: Director Crossley reached out to Bellavance Land works for an estimate to rototill and grade the Little League infield at the Recreation Area and the two T-ball Fields at Wilson Street (South Barre Playground behind the Hannaford). With RFP for fencing going out, Director Crossley is committing to rehabilitating the Little League Field to become playable again next year. Barre Community Baseball requested use of the field this year, however, did not use the field.
- d. East Barre Pollinator Plot: Director Crossley indicated a wet Spring and Summer made it difficult to rototill and seed the plot. The plot was still quite saturated when he was able to rototill. The ground remained too saturated for seeds through the Spring into August. Director Crossley will work the spots he rototilled prior to the end of Fall to get a jump start on next Spring.
- e. Lower Restroom Door Replacement: The Recreation Crew painted and installed two new doors at the Lower Restroom Facility of the Recreation Area. An additional coat of paint is still needed and will be applied as weather allows.

10. 'Round the Table:

- a. Amanda Gray – Nothing more to add.
- b. Annette Neddo – Will investigate if we can add our Fall Festival Flyer to the Barre Town Elementary School Newsletter.

- c. David Rouleau – Let's get on Front Porch Forum and other means of outreach to gather vendors and volunteers for Fall Festival.
- d. Carol Hebert – Asked David for update on Town Forest snowmobile bridge. David stated they planned to reroute the trail as the club does not have the funds to replace the bridge on their own. Asked which movie is showing after Fall Festival. Consensus Beetlejuice, in light of recent filming in Vermont for Beetlejuice 2.
- e. Doug Farnham – Expressed a potential need for reservations at our Picnic Shelters located at playgrounds. Currently we only reserve the shelter at the Recreation Area, however, there have been parties recently at playgrounds that have limited the public accessibility to the playground.

11. **Adjourn:** On a motion by Carol Hebert, seconded by David Rouleau, the Board voted in favor of adjournment 5-0.






