

**Town of Barre  
Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
October 7, 2019**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Rolland Tessier, Amanda Gray, and Moriah Fraga. Also present were town manager Carl Rogers, assistant town manager Elaine Wang, and recreation supervisor Dwight Coffrin.

Chair Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Smith moved that the agenda be approved as written. Rouleau seconded the motion and the board approved it by a 5-0 vote. Tessier was not present for the vote.

Rouleau made a motion to approve the September 9, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Smith seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 to approve. Tessier was not present for the vote.

There were no guests for a matter not on the agenda.

**5. Facility Requests –**

**a) Capital Soccer** – On a motion by Smith, seconded by Rouleau, the Board voted 6-0 to approve their use the upper soccer field for their Summer Soccer Camp June 22 to 26, 2020. Conditions were: subject to Rec Supervisor judgment of field conditions, and receipt of certificate of insurance per specifications.

**b) BYSA Soccer** – On a motion by Smith, seconded by Rouleau, the Board voted 6-0 to approve BYSA's request to use the lower soccer field on October 19, from 9am to 2pm. Tessier was not present for the vote. As requested, Coffrin said he would move the goals to that field for them.

**6. Superintendent's Report** –Coffrin presented his report. He stated that everything that was asked to be done last month will be done, except maybe the Little League Field work. Coffrin asked Wang to make signs "Please Flush When Done" for the four bathrooms at the recreation area. Farnham has observed cars parked in the fire lane along the lower soccer field and asked for one more "No Parking" sign between the last sign and the gate. Regarding the tennis/pickleball courts, it was agreed to give the contractor a deadline so that the work would be done before spring, when the ground would be soft. Regarding finishing the Lower Graniteville Playground hill slide, Coffrin said they would overlay the new hill with thick burlap and then mulch.

**7. After hours contact** - The group discussed how to handle after-hours calls for service. Farnham stated he receives such calls, which he should not as he is a volunteer. The last time it happened he could not reach any of the three staff who would have been expected to respond. He estimated that half of those who call him do not know to call Coffrin and the other half do know but call Farnham first anyway. Staff advised that anyone who calls a Board member should be informed to call Coffrin. Wang said she would add a contact number to the facility use reservation form. The group discussed other options for solving the problem. Wang asked how often Farnham gets called. He said one to two calls a month.

**8. Budget** – Wang had provided a list of items mentioned previously by the Board as possibilities for their FY20-21 budget request, and other items recommended or not recommended by staff, along with budget estimates for most items. The Board discussed each one and agreed on their interest in: water service at the 44 Brook St Town Forest garage; seasonal ADA port-o-let rental at Trow Hill and Lower Graniteville playgrounds; replacing fence of the Little League Field; replacing light bulbs at the baseball field, ADA improvements for the Rec Area picnic shelter (budget estimate needed), lights at the Rec Area softball field, and a permanent fix to the leaning fence problem at the Rec Area softball field (budget estimate needed). They asked for the remaining costs so they would prioritize the list at their November meeting.

**9. Herbicide Treatment for Invasive Plants in the Town Forest** – Vermont Land Trust (VLT) recently recommended the town consider spot herbicide treatment of invasive plants in town forest stands to be logged, as the town would like to this winter per the forest management plan. One member asked what made a plant invasive. Wang said, if it was not native and took over to the extent of causing ecological, economic, or human-health harm. The Board asked about the kill rate, how wide the effect would be, how long the herbicide would be active, how the herbicide would be applied, and how long after treatment would it be considered safe for a person to come into contact. Wang said she didn't know the kill rate but would find out, that the effect would be targeted because invasives that require herbicides crowd out other plants. Tessier noted that it would not be active more than a season. Wang said that it would be applied via backpack sprayer, and she didn't know the window that it would be harmful but that she would find out. Gray said she understood the reason for doing it but didn't like the idea because of effects on health and water supply. Rouleau made a motion to approve herbicide treatment of invasive plants in the town forest ahead of logging based on the recommendation of VLT and the town's forester. Smith seconded. The vote was 4 to 2 in favor, with Gray and Tessier voting no.

**10. Fall Festival** – Smith shared that overall the festival was a success. There was a record 477 participants. The Board discussed things they would change in the future. Of particular concern was that the growing popularity means they are no longer able to adequately staff it with just volunteers from the Board. The group discussed organizations and businesses they could approach for volunteers in the future.

**11. Donation** – The Board considered this unwarned action they took at their September meeting. On a motion by Smith, seconded by Tessier, the Board unanimously decided to reimburse Farnham \$119.25 for purchasing diaper bag items for the Spaulding High School Football's Tatum's Totes drive in recognition and gratitude of Spaulding High School Football's hard work at the Lowe Graniteville Playground community build.

**12. Vermont Conference on Recreation** – The Board considered this unwarned action they took at their September meeting. Fraga made a motion to approve registration and one-night lodging fees for a total cost of \$379 for Terry Smith to attend the two-day Vermont Conference on Recreation at Lake Morey Resort.

**13. Other Business** – Wang asked if the Rauli's Run trail in the Town Forest had "no horses" signs installed. Rouleau advised they had been last month.

**14. Round Table** – Gray said she would ask Lynds if she could help her with the Open Gym events, and asked for thank you cards to be signed and sent to the entities that provided activities at Fall Fest. Smith said she would ask the Boy Scouts for an invoice for what they supplied volunteers. Tessier requested the Boy Scouts be a little more controlled around the little kids at the festivals. Rouleau said he sees the new granite benches on the bike path being used regularly; that he had found a likely third signed on disc golf course agreement; and that he would like 2 more benches at pickleball court.

Smith made a motion for the next Spring into Summer Festival to be held the first Saturday in June (6<sup>th</sup>). Tessier seconded and the Board voted 6-0 in favor. Smith made a motion for the next Fall Fest to be held the last Saturday in September (26<sup>th</sup>), Tessier seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0.

Farnham asked for the status on the light pole near the dog light in this year's budget. Wang said she was still getting quotes from vendors. Farnham said he would miss next meeting; since Vice-Chair Rouleau was unaviable the Monday after they did not request to change the usual date.

At 8:13 pm on a motion by Smith, seconded by Rouleau, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

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