

Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2017

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farham, Terry Smith, Tracy Wright, Dave Rouleau, Mike Gilbar and Shaun Corbett. Also present were Steve Maas of MTA, Kelly Cleveland and Carl Rogers.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

On a motion by Dave Rouleau and seconded by Terry Smith the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented. (Shaun Corbett was not present for the vote.)

Smith made a motion to approve the January 9 meeting minutes as presented. Mike Gilbar seconded the motion and the board approved it without dissent. (Corbett arrived before this vote.) Smith moved and Gilbar seconded that the January 19 special meeting minutes be approved. Rouleau offered a correction, which was accepted. Rouleau said in regards to the skatepark paragraph, Ms. Mercy did not request a specific amount of money (\$5,000 was written in the minutes). The board approved the motion with the correction.

There were no guests for a non-agenda item at that time.

MTA –

Steven Maas, president of Millstone Trails Association was present. He gave the board a copy of a groomed trail map and reported on MTA's winter use trail grooming. He informed the board MTA received a \$1,700 VTMBBA trail grant. The trail maintenance committee is talking to a leading trail builder about use of the money. He gave the board a sign the trail committee asked be posted in the kiosk this spring. The sign is about not using wet trails.

Maas told the board about a youth ski program. A grant would provide 12 sets of gear. He said MTA can't run a program like that and asked if the town could. He said the town would need to line-up a coach, advertise the program, register participants, and get parents to help. MTA would have to apply for the grant, which would be only for one year. After that MTA and the town would have to supply the gear and run the program.

He asked about a Littlejohn Road parking area and if the current log landing could be opened up for town forest parking. Rouleau asked about the town property on Waterman Street. It possibly could be connected to the trails north of Littlejohn Road. Maas didn't dismiss the idea. He said MTA is willing to help with whatever option is selected.

Maas asked about placing a MTA lock, with the town's lock, on the Millstone Hill West bike path at the school parking lot. Being able to open the gate would facilitate trail grooming. There were no objections to making that work.

Receive Guests –

Kelly Cleveland arrived. She talked with the board about the summer tennis lesson program. After discussion the board advised it would like to sponsor tennis lessons on its own. Suggestions were made for publicizing the lessons. The target dates for the lessons are the last two weeks of June. Cleveland will give Rogers the lesson dates so an announcement can be included in the Town's April newsletter.

Rockfire and Softball –

The guests expected for these two agenda items did not attend. There was no discussion.

Banner Policy –

The board suggested the word supplies used in several sentences be replaced with provides. Corbett suggested in paragraph 6, “a” before 3 year period be replaced with “the”. There was discussion about paragraph 6 and the town replacing stolen or damaged banners. The board was in agreement the town should replace a banner whenever town maintenance damages it.

Gilbar made a motion, seconded by Rouleau, to approve the softball field banner policy and order form with the 3 changes discussed. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Programs –

Rouleau said he has the hot chocolate, cups and marshmallows donated by Hannaford. Roasting sticks are needed. Wright will bring hot water in an insulated water bucket.

Farnham and Rouleau said an average 10-15 players are showing up for Sunday afternoon pickleball. The players seem to like the 4 pm start time. Farnham turned in \$66 in donations. He asked for 6 more rolls of floor tape.

Wright reported that one person turned out to go snowshoeing with Denise Bergeron. Smith said Spaulding High School students will help with the hot chocolate at the 44 Brook Street parking area after the February 25 snowshoe walk.

Wright said the first beekeeping workshop is set up for March 22, 6:30 – 9:00 pm. The instructor will have the second workshop in late June at her place of business (in Williamstown).

Smith said she has had no follow up on the maple sugaring workshop.

Field Request –

Rouleau moved that the Vermont Voltage’s request to use the lower soccer field August 14-18 from 5-8 pm be approved. Corbett seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Spring Festival –

The board discussed the June 3 Spring into Summer Festival. Rouleau said the Kiwanis can’t do the touch-a-truck event. He asked if the town could orchestrate that activity. Instead of charging an admission fee, he suggested a donation jar. The board discussed this and generally thought the town could organize the touch-a-truck show. Smith asked about a media sponsor and allowing a radio station to broadcast from the festival. Rouleau will contact a local radio station.

Wright will contact the Boy Scouts about operating the food concession. There was discussion about the bounce house. It was noted the town needs to be sure the owner has insurance and has someone at the house to monitor activity. Wright said the face painter (Alexis Dexter) is reserved. Smith will ask Angelo Arnold if he’d have the wooden medals made. The board plans to offer the B Rex challenge (all 10 challenges) again. There was discussion about offering an obstacle course. The board was thinking a craft activity is needed. The SHS helpers are needed again. It was suggested BTMES be advised of the event and invited to sponsor and provide an activity like a color run.

Insurance –

The board talked about TULIP (tenant user liability insurance policy), a product offered by VLCT’s group self-insurance pool. Gilbar said he thought coverage for a single day event might cost \$70. Gilbar and staff will check to see if VLCT is using the same broker and what the price range is for common events. Rogers noted last year the softball leagues, especially the women’s league, pushed back on the requirement to provide insurance. Providing proof of insurance is a requirement to be pointed out at the scheduling meeting.

Calendars –

Rouleau said he has sold no more calendars. The VT Bike Shop will try selling through February. Starting March 1 calendars can be given away.

Smith asked if the board will conduct a photo contest and sell calendars again. Rouleau said, for him, no, he wouldn't try selling calendars, unless a distribution system was set up. He said the photo contest received a good reaction. Smith added, if the contest is held again, the instructions should request high resolution photographs. Also, she said the board needs a way of showing all of the photos and letting people vote for the favorites.

Other Business –

Rogers reminded the board they moved their April meeting to the second Monday.

Round the Table –

Smith asked about giving MTA money for grooming. The board thought the town should wait. She asked about the vacancy. Rogers said he knows of two applications and the deadline is coming up. She said the dog park newsletter article was good.

Wright talked about sponsoring a craft show/sale. She said she posted a question on Facebook and got 15 positive responses right away. The board asked for this topic on a future agenda.

Wright asked if the board should have a flyer of upcoming recreation events. She said she knows someone who would teach needle felting. A \$5 fee would cover basic supplies given to participants. She asked about holding a sports equipment swap. She asked about the dog park email from a proponent who expressed concerns about the East Barre site. The board asked to have the dog park issue on the May meeting agenda.

Rouleau asked about the skatepark improvement. He said the snowmobile club held its fundraiser on Saturday, but he did not yet know the amount raised. The very preliminary cost estimate for the new apparatus is \$20,000. He asked if Ms. Mercy and board should try proceeding to finish the improvement this year. The board thought yes.

He said the Kiwanis are interested in holding a bike safety course. The board will discuss this in May. The Kiwanis also are interested in a disc golf tournament, maybe on Barre Heritage weekend.

He presented the Barre Lions Club's request to use the disc golf course for the Lions' Community Challenge on Tuesday, June 13 from 5:00 pm to dark. The event includes a cook-out at the 44 Brook Street parking area after the Challenge. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Corbett, the board voted all in favor of approving the Lions disc golf challenge. Rouleau said he has contacted the Green Mountain Disc Golf Association about an event at the Quarries course, but GMDGA doesn't have any definite plans yet.

The board adjourned its meeting at 8:26 p.m..

Recreation Board Members

Dan Corbett

Donna

Corbett

James Smith

Paul
