

Town of Barre
Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2017

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Brian Wilcock, Mike Gilbar, Terry Smith and Craig Locarno. Also present were: Damion Craig, assistant town manager Elaine Wang, town manager Carl Rogers, and recreation maintenance supervisor Dwight Coffrin.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Rogers pointed out Central Vermont Special Olympics would not be represented at the meeting so item 7 could be moved up on the agenda to follow item number 4. Mike Gilbar moved to approve the agenda with that revision. Dave Rouleau seconded the motion which was approved by 6-0 vote.

There were no guests for a non-agenda item.

7. **Softball Field Lights** – Damion Craig, representing the Over 30 Men’s Softball League reported the two softball leagues’ raffle did not earn as much money as hoped. The treasurer has approximately \$2,300 to turn over to the town. With the Efficiency Vermont rebate he thinks the leagues are close to raising half the money needed for new lights. He also reported 7 teams registered for the co-ed tournament on September 16-17 so the leagues canceled it. To raise more money they propose holding a Calcutta with 100 tickets at \$100 each.

Farnham stated he doesn’t want the lights installed in the spring unless the installer has serious support tracks for the bucket truck.

Craig said he is working with Visible Light for technical advice (lighting study) and purchase of product. He suggested guards should be placed near the lights closes to the infield. The guards would help protect the lights from breaking if hit by a ball.

Farnham said on Sunday he talked with a Babe Ruth Baseball leader at the baseball field. Farnham asked about removing 20’ of infield grass and moving the back stop closer to home plate to make the baseball field a baseball/softball field. He said he is getting a cost estimate for moving the backstop.

Craig said Vermont ASA will not hold men’s and women’s Division C and D state tournaments at Newport any longer. He said there could be 40-60 teams per tournament.

More information is needed about cost of skinning part of the infield, how many base path set-ups are needed (different length required by different leagues).

6. **Maintenance Supervisor’s Report** – Dwight Coffrin reported:

- landscaping under the soccer field scoreboard will be done Tuesday or Wednesday
- the baseball infield restoration was completed and Babe Ruth Baseball was happy with the field condition
- fans were installed in the upper restrooms
- the door was destroyed from a break-in at the yellow building; crew bought and installed a new door
- the Lower Graniteville Playground fence was struck by a car causing much damage; repair estimate was requested
- trench for the softball field lights wiring was restored
- Upper Graniteville and Upper Websterville basketball courts were sealed and lined
- new employee, Rick Goodell, started work

- soccer goals were repaired (including welding) and painted with help from Bill Durbrow

5a. Central Vermont Special Olympics – Rouleau reported Mr. Pouliout said the Special Olympic athletes could be 8 to 45 years old. He said currently there are about 15 athletes. The board discussed which field C.V.S.O. could use for soccer on Saturday evenings from late July to mid-September. On a motion by Rouleau, seconded by Brian Wilcock, the board voted unanimously to waive any field use fees, per the youth leagues practice, for C.V.S.O.

Before Coffrin left the meeting Terry Smith asked him for supplies for the Fall Festival: a can of spray paint and stakes. Farnham asked about the softball field tarps because he intends to use them for the festival.

8. Dog Park – Rouleau gave some background information and stated this topic is on the Selectboard meeting agenda tomorrow night. He said the dog park leaders and he plan to ask if it is okay to start raising money and if the town will hold that money. Rogers asked when the group plans to start making the dog park. Farnham said this fall. Farnham said the fencing quote is \$13,000 if the company does everything and \$9,375 if volunteers set the 73 posts needed. He said the fence company is willing to lend its post hole digger to the volunteers. The price quotes include purchase of 900' of 4' high fence with a top and bottom wire. He said they are trying to install the fence this fall because in the spring the ground is too wet. Elaine Wang reported the public works department estimates supplies to create water service near the gate would cost \$525. Labor, equipment and gravel are not included.

9. Fall Festival – Smith distributed the event flyer and aerial photo showing location of various events. She said 4-6 volunteers are needed. Hay bales were discussed. Wang reported DPW has 100 to lend. The lowest price for purchasing is \$1.50 each. On a motion by Smith, seconded by Gilbar, the board voted all in favor of authorizing spending up to \$150 for hay bales.

Rouleau said he'd pick up traffic cones and barricades at public works. He was advised of the time the gate would be open and to make arrangements through the superintendent. Smith asked for public works' clicker (counter). There was discussion about hanging the fall festival banners. Smith said she'd do it. Smith, Farnham, Rouleau and Gilbar indicated they'd be there for the day. Wilcock and Craig Locarno said they could help during the morning. Farnham asked that public works' bales be delivered to the picnic shelter on the 22nd.

10. Skatepark - The board discussed the reference report. The consensus was the reports were positive. Rouleau made a motion to proceed with the construction contract with Parker Construction after the payment terms were re-worked. Gilbar seconded the motion. The board voted 6-0 in favor of the motion.

11. MTA Concerns – The board talked about MTA's request that it be consulted whenever a request to use the town forest was considered. The board expressed MTA could take responsibility for reading the agenda and meeting minutes. It was noted the board's meeting packet is emailed and MTA could be added to the distribution list without much difficulty. The board supported that option.

Regarding horses on the new Rauli's Run Trail the board's consensus was it was too soon to ban horses from the trail. The board suggested MTA be advised to contact nearby riders and ask them not to use that trail. Staff was asked to add a statement to the town website.

12. Other Business - There was no Other Business.

13. 'Round the Table – Locarno noted the meeting to talk about the Bond Fields. The meeting is on September 20 and he plans to attend. Farnham told the board last week he asked a disc golfer how often he uses the town forest course. The golfer said he played 120 rounds since January 1. Farnham said he'll miss

the October 2 meeting. He informed the board the police department is willing to enforce the rule for no camping, no overnight parking at the forest parking areas.

Rouleau presented thank yous the board received for the ice cream socials. There was discussion about the six socials, including next year possibly having a punch card and prize for attending all 6 socials. He stated the town forest sign at 44 Brook Street is installed in a temporary location. Kevin Spaulding of MTA and a Rock of Ages employee offered to see if Rock of Ages would supply a granite block for the base. He said he has written to the St. Sylvester's Cemetery board to request use of their property for sledding. He asked about starting pickleball in December, maybe Sundays December 10 and 17. He said the school custodial staff's Sunday shift ends at 3:00 pm so the school prefers activities finish at 3:00, but the board liked the late afternoon hours last winter. Discussion with the school is needed.

Smith mentioned that last meeting she inadvertently said a town school teacher is interested in leading the fairy house building activity at the Fall Festival. She meant to say the teacher would try to find someone from the school.

At 8:23, on a motion by Gilbar, seconded by Wilcock, the board voted without dissent to adjourn the meeting.

Recreation Board Members











