

**Town of Barre  
Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2018**

The Town of Barre Recreation Board held a public meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Board members present were: Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Terry Smith, Mike Gilbar, Craig Locarno and Adi Dobrilovic. Also present were Spaulding High School student representative Whitney Renaud, Chris Cadorette representing Freezing Fun for Families, town manager Carl Rogers, and assistant town manager Elaine Wang.

Chairman Doug Farnham called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mike Gilbar moved that the agenda be approved as written. Terry Smith seconded the motion and the board approved it by a 5-0 vote. (Dobrilovic was not present for the vote).

Gilbar made a motion to approve the December 4, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Smith seconded the motion. The board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of 12/4/17. (Dobrilovic was not present for the vote).

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

**5. Field Requests –**

- a. Freezing Fun for Families (FFFF) Softball Tournament: Chris Cadorette, board member of FFFF requested use of the rec fields for FFFF March 2-4, 2018. Doug Farnham asked how many teams and how many fields. Cadorette said the cap on teams is 68, the same as last year, though he doesn't anticipate more than 60. As to fields they have used as many as 7 areas in the past; last year they used 4, and have played there enough that they are comfortable adjusting to protect the fields as requested. They do not anticipate any changes to the format of the tournament. The silent auction at the Elks Club will be held February 24<sup>th</sup>. They are considering beneficiary announcement events in the town halls of the ones selected. They have not yet selected this year's beneficiaries.

Cadorette also provided updates on the organization's other efforts to raise more money to help more families. They began the Konner Drury Grant to provide \$250 unrestricted fast cash option for families, for example to be used for travel or lodging when their children need to undergo treatment at a distant hospital. The golf tournament, started a couple of years ago, did not do well last year; weather was poor. Barre Country Club does all of the organization for that for a nominal fee. They now have an office in downtown Barre City. Last year they cut \$9,000 checks to each of 2 families. Their goal this year is \$10,000 each.

Dave Rouleau made a motion to approve the Freezing Fun for Families use of the main recreation area on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Craig Locarno seconded the motion and the board approved it 5-0 (Dobrilovic was not present for the vote).

- b. Caws 4 Paws Pet Expo: Dave Rouleau introduced the topic on behalf of JD Green. Green started Caws 4 Paws after losing his dog. He has held it at the BOR in Barre City the last 3 years and would like to relocate the event outside. He's requesting to use the rec facility and for Rec Board volunteers to help with layout, setup, and takedown.

Green supports the dog park, so he's proposed to pair the event with a Dog Park Grand Opening and have the proceeds benefit the Dog Park. Rouleau had not been able to discuss the idea with the

Dog Park Committee in person (weather canceled their scheduled meeting last Thursday) but by email they were interested.

Rouleau proposed that the event replace the Spring Festival due to the amount of work required. Discussion ensued regarding the demand for events for children, which the expo would not necessarily meet, and the Board's unwillingness to lose momentum on the Spring Festival by skipping a year. Smith proposed combining the Festival with the Expo, with a separate area with activities for children. Rouleau said he would discuss this possibility with Green on Thursday, along with: potentially co-naming the event; if they had a size and location in mind, so that the children's area could be a safe distance from dogs; who would clean up the dog waste; hours for their event; and where the humane society would hold their walk if they participate.

Smith requested, and Whitney Renaud agreed, to brainstorm animal-themed ideas for children's activities with Spaulding volunteers and bring to the next meeting.

**6. 6-Month Budget Report** – Rogers reviewed the revenues and expenditures. It was shared that revenues are on track, including field use free receivables. Rogers noted that although the fiscal year is half over, we are 2/3rds of the way through the recreation spending year, so that is to be taken into account when reviewing spending so far. There was discussion regarding the large amount of remaining program money. Rogers explained that the bulk of the money would be spent for spring activities. Smith estimated that it would still not be entirely spent. Farnham asked about the high level of spending in 'Other supplies.' Rogers reported that recreation spent a lot on fertilizer and baseball/softball infield mix, as well as paint for the building repainting. The remainder will be spent on the spring woodchip order. Rogers shared that Contracted Services was overbudget because of unanticipated work on the lower restroom building to make it suitable for painting, including remove the old payphone board and refitting the space with a bulletin board. Rogers noted that the rubbish removal account was odd and that he would look into whether they were charging the wrong rate or perhaps budgeted wrong. One accounting error was noted that would be adjusted.

**7. BASA** – Rogers explained that Barre Amateur Soccer Association (BASA) is for young people 14 years old and younger and that historically the Board has not charged for youth-only programs like Barre Community Baseball or BYSA.

Smith made the motion waive field use fees for BASA's the 2017 season. Gilbar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**8. Dog Park** – Rouleau asked if the Dog Park gates had been installed. On Friday he and Elaine Wang were told it would in the next couple of weeks. Janice King, Dog Park Committee member, said she thought she saw them working up there today and didn't like something about what they were doing. Rouleau said they would discuss on Thursday. The rules and regulations were shared with the Rec Board since the last meeting. Rouleau said that the Dog Park Committee was waiting until the Dog Park was open to post them, as well as the temporary leash signs. He asked that the Board provide feedback as to what should be on the permanent signs regarding keeping dogs on leash vs. un-leashing, and where they should be posted.

Farnham asked whether the hours, listed as 6a-9p on the rules and regs poster, should be based on daylight as it can be very dark in the area at night. Consensus was that the point of the facility is to give people a place to run their dogs outside of work hours, so daylight-only hours would not meet that need during the winter. This led to consensus that the solar lights are more of a priority than initially thought. Farnham recommended that the fence company be asked whether there is an option for fence pole caps that allows mounting of solar lights. It was discussed that lights may not be needed all around the entire fence perimeter; at least at the entrance and parking area. It was mentioned that having them be motion-sensored

would preserve batteries. Rouleau said he would share these thoughts with the Dog Park Committee in their rescheduled meeting.

**9. Sledding Party** – Rouleau said he was still planning on the Thunder Chickens making a steeper sledding mound. Smith said a three- to four-foot pile would be great, and one two-foot pile and one four-foot pile would be ideal. Smith estimated she would spend \$50 on mini and large marshmallows. Craig Locarno said he would bring a thermos filled with hot water. Rogers said the fire rings should still be by the fence from last year. Rouleau said he would bring marshmallow roasting sticks. Smith said she would bring wood, and the Granite City Grocery said they would come with their slingshot for snowballs. Smith said she had been considering other suitable activities. Rogers suggested igloo-building and Rouleau offered to lend his igloo block forms. Rouleau shared that David Ohls from the Vermont Bicycle Shop had been accidentally left off marketing material; that Ohls could not make the January party but would be at the February party. Renaud asked whether high school volunteers would be needed. Smith said they could help push and pull sleds. Renaud said they could come to the February party but that this Saturday was their Make a Wish fundraiser, including raffle, silent auction, and basketball games. Farnham asked whether they would want to raise money at the sledding party. Renaud said she would ask. Rogers asked when to meet to prepare for the party and Smith said 12:15 to start building the fires.

**10. Skatepark Agreement** – Rogers shared that he reviewed the new agreement and that Parker Construction did revise with acceptable payment terms, without changing anything else from the last version. That, instead of a \$6,000 deposit, the new payment plan is \$3,000 after some work is done, and the remaining \$3,000 distributed to the other three payments rather than creating a new installment.

Smith made a motion to approve the new proposal with Parker Construction. Rouleau seconded the motion and it was passed 6-0. The next step is for Rogers to bring the agreement to the Selectboard.

**11. Lower Graniteville Playground Retrofit** – Farnham noted that Brian Wilcock, the board member leading the effort, was not present, and so a more substantive discussion about different structures, plans, or feedback would need to be tabled. The Board did agree by consensus that the swings would need to be replaced at minimum. Wang shared budget quotes from a vendor for \$4,934 for one set with 2 bucket seats (for toddlers) and 4 belt seats (for older children), or \$5,422 for two sets separating the ages. Rogers noted that keeping them separate might make sense depending on the layout so a toddler area was safely separate from the older children area. There was further discussion about amount to include. Rogers recommended \$15,000 without a specific plan and the Board agreed by consensus.

**12. Summer Tennis Lessons** – Material provided to the Board explained that the regular tennis instructor was not available this summer. Renaud noted that First in Fitness had a tennis pro who had some Spaulding students. Of the options, the Board was most in favor of contacting First in Fitness to see if they would like to manage and offer the program this year. Wang noted that better recruiting of students might be needed. Board members said that the instructor could help with recruiting. If the tennis pro is not interested, that staff were to advertise for an instructor in the February Town Newsletter.

**13. FY18-19 Budget Requests** – This discussion was continued from last month's meeting. Rogers said that he and Dwight Coffrin, the Recreation Supervisor, visited all the rec areas with budgeting in mind. They are considering outsourcing common area mowing. Farnham clarified that this would be in lieu of hiring another person to keep up on the mowing. Rogers explained that this year would be for a trial area. If it worked out then the area could be expanded.

Farnham asked about the status of a current budget purchase, i.e. replacement cable and poles for delineating recreation areas. Rogers directed Wang to review coated cable options and then place the order(s).

With the bigger purchases having been discussed last month, discussion at this meeting focused on materials and upkeep-type expenses. Rogers confirmed that a couple of picnic tables were needed, including to replace one removed from the Quarry Hill Picnic Area. Rouleau asked about the missing Forest parking lot picnic table. Rogers said that it was being repaired by DPW. Farnham and Rogers agreed that the Town Forest parking areas were in good shape and would not need material. Rogers said he was including stain for the garage building at 44 Brook St used by the Millstone Trails Association (MTA) and the Thunder Chickens, and confirmed to Rouleau that the MTA and Thunder Chickens should plan on a staining work bee. Regarding disc golf course, Rouleau said that no money would be needed for replacement material around the goals. He said that he would get quotes for signage.

Rogers asked what the Board wanted to do regarding the softball field lights. After discussion, the Board agreed to use Program money for the Learn to Skate program to save skatepark funds, and to bank on the upcoming Thunder Chickens fundraiser to replenish the skatepark infrastructure budget, in order to preserve \$6,000 from the Infrastructure budget for field lights. Farnham inquired about notifying businesses of the softball field banner advertising program. Rogers suggested including a notice in the Assessor's Business Personal Property Tax mailing that will go out soon. Farnham agreed and Rogers directed Wang to work with Farnham to accomplish this.

Wang asked if the replacement for the broken Upper Graniteville spring rider was included in the budget plan. Rogers said he would confirm.

Rouleau asked about bringing water to the Dog Park. Wang provided a quote from the Town's utilities person that materials would cost \$525. Labor, equipment charges, and some fill was not included in that cost. Rogers said that this work could be done this fiscal year.

**14. Other Business** – There was no other business.

**15. 'Round the Table** – Farnham said that he contacted Mark Mast, representing the Bond family regarding the Bond Fields, a month ago, but had not hear back. Locarno said that Barre Community Baseball has a lot of new board members coming in and that they are very interested in the Bond Field with BYSA involved as a separate entity, and not having Barre Town take over that field. He said he might have something to discuss next month about field usage. Farnham reported that he asked Rogers and Coffrin to come up with a budget for South Barre to make it playable for youth, which would free up the youth field at the Bond fields. Locarno said that his goal is still to bring back the Little League field at the school, and would fundraise for that.

Dobrilovic apologized for being late.

Smith asked if it was time yet to allocate money to MTA for trail grooming. Farnham said not yet. Smith asked if the Montpelier pickleball players would continue to organize the open play. Farnham answered no. Smith requested that the Police Department come to the February sledding party and use a hand-held radar gun on the sledders. Smith introduced the idea of the EZ ICE rink. She also offered her driveway for Rec Board member parking during the sledding party to save spaces for sledders.

Gilbar said that Beth Poirier was another student who would come to the Rec Board meetings. He shared the capital improvement plan template he developed using the Town's rec equipment inventory. He said he would consult Farnham and then Wang to fill in the equipment ages.

Rouleau said that the next Travis Mercy Poker Run and silent auction fundraiser would be held February 17<sup>th</sup>, with lunch served at 12:30pm at the school. He relayed that the pickleball regulars from Montpelier are still interested in an outdoor court. He also said that Kevin Spaulding has been attempting to

get Rock of Ages to provide signposts for the Town Forests, and finally that MTA broke their sled early on in the season but are back grooming again.

At 8:40 pm on a motion by Smith, seconded by Gilbar, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Recreation Board Members

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