

CITY OF BARRE PUBLIC BODY AGENDA

Parks and Recreation Committee

Wednesday, March 13, 2025; 6:30 PM

Location: Barre Social Club, 105 N Main St, #102, Barre

1. Call to order

- Called to order at 6:50PM

2. Adjustments to the agenda

3. Public Comment

- Amanda Garland
 - Provided some tips on a successful committee, including limiting meetings to one hour, having clear due-outs from meeting to meeting, etc. Don't write any grants on your own
 - There's a tree nursery - to create a bank of trees to be planted or give away (trees on Main Street cost about \$900 each)
 - Adam McCullough, VT Urban and Community Forester (802-522-5104)
 - Committed to Barre, and there's money there
 - Tree nursery is out by the reservoir in Orange (on Reservoir Road)
 - This is a protected area, but it's a good place for smaller public gatherings
 - Amanda and Adam inventorying nursery, will let us know what it is
 - Planted an orchard at Barre City Elementary School - drive past the school; almost 15 years old
 - Committees have been conglomerated
 - A bridge with Barre River Access Task Force
 - After forums, river access was identified as a priority
 - They are looking at safety and access
 - Got \$100K grant, creating Barre City Master Plan for these waterways; they will look at them and find priority areas for access. They could likely then bring to our committee to help bring projects to fruition.
 - Vermont River Conservancy (Amanda works for) is helping to figure out where buyouts are, and what should be done there
 - Cat mentioned FEMA lots on Hilltop, and planting willows
 - Community Gardens - at Elmwood, has heard of Ginger's idea for a rose gardens - likes, but suggests that it goes in the cemetery instead
 - Cat mentioned that she wants community gardens on FEMA buyouts, and Amanda said that IS allowed by FEMA grounds. Can only grow up, not down into the soil. Non-edible soils. Veterans Cemetery in Randolph has a cutting garden. Could reconsider FEMA buyout lots for rose garden.
 - Ellen: perhaps, maybe see if Pam could join our committee (as gardens point of contact?)

- Question: what do we not know in terms of recreation? Haley will run map by Amanda. There's a pocket park by Mathewson Park (memorial park)
 - Amanda has been scouting buyout spots, one near Vine Street, could expand playground.
 - That's an open space near Elmwood.
- Ellen Sivret, Friends of Mathewson Playground
 - Got state urban forestry grant for \$11,500 to plant four trees on asphalt playground (lost two major ash trees due to Emerald Ash Borer). Going to use as special method to plant it in an urban environment (modified Stockhold method). Will add tree guards and labels with tree names. Also going to sponsor workshop for street department and building and grounds about tree care in a city environment (Tom Baker is going to organize, Adam will give talk)
 - Going to have a project completion party at the end of the summer - going to combine with a tour of the trees, and do a Q&A for the public about trees in an urban party. Would like help with this event.
 - Would also like to do a Halloween party and a bike safety event (could we do a bike parade, or have bikes come to Halloween party, decorated).
 - Josh mentioned students for volunteer assistance for planting, etc.
 - Ellen will keep us posted with the date of the celebration

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

- Minutes approved

5. New agenda items

- Recruiting additional committee members
 - It could be helpful to have supporters, even if we don't get new members
 - Ask Pam Wilson? CAT will ask Pam of initial interest, then we will explore how to officially get people on committees.
 - We should include recruitment at all of our own events :)

6. Old agenda items

- Next steps on projects:
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Let's just support BT as much as we can
 - Haley and Cat cannot be there day-of; Josh can be there and will let them know
 - We would like to be involved next year, earlier; though let's see how it plays out first. We will reassess after this year's.
 - Rain gardens; Barre City Elementary is interested in helping out; doing a program on gardening. Josh will get them more information.
 - Rose garden; on Thursday, March 20, committee will take a walk over to Elmwood. Time TBD.
 - Parks and rec map and tour.
 - I will send Bingo card by 3/25. Look at cheese hunt.
 - Haley will check on the IT for updating website
 - Update on any other due-outs from February meeting

- Further discussion on previous agenda items:
 - Microgrant proposal - need to present to City Council
 - Use of the Auditorium and BOR
- Add for next time: committee mixer? Five minutes to talk about what you're doing. We will work on invite in April, and plan for May. Maybe invite city council members. (If a Tuesday, could potentially host at the club) - Tuesday, May 6?

7. Adjourn - 7:54pm.

Next meeting date/time/location: Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30PM; BSC. Wednesday, May 14 for next meeting (pencil in)