

/TOWN OF BARNSTABLE
BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION



DIVISION MANAGER

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**RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
8 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Commission Members Present: Clyde Takala – Chairman, Joe O’Brien – Vice Chairman, Rene King, Kevin Turner, Kathy Pina, Dan Proto

Commission Members Absent: Andy Gauthier

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., roll call was taken. Kevin Turner made a motion to accept August’s minutes, seconded by Dan Proto, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Clyde Takala read a letter into the minutes from a Chantal Hayes regarding her son’s attendance at the summer Leisure Program; she was pleased with the one-on-one leisure counselor Ryan who worked with her son for the summer. An acknowledgement letter went out to her and a copy of the letter was placed in Ryan Cremeans’ employee folder.

Councilor Ann Canedy, precinct 1, was invited to the Recreation Commission meeting to discuss the Hathaway’s Pond campground proposal and a possible future expenditure for the purpose of funding a financial cost study. Councilor Canedy discussed three reasons for not supporting the Recreation campground proposal or additional funds appropriated by the Town Council for a financial study:

1. Lack of Community Support. The 50 people who attended the March 31st Recreation Commission meeting were not in support of the project.
2. Fiscal Constraints. The Town of Barnstable has embarked on a number of large ticket items such as ball fields, harbor master office, Performing Arts Center, Youth Center, Arts Colony, and many costly infrastructure maintenance is being ignored such as roads, drainage systems, municipal buildings, town ramps, bulkheads, bridges and dredging. She feels that the Hathaway’s Pond campground proposal would require a substantial initial expenditure and she refers to the Preliminary Engineering Report (EEG) dated February 6, 2006.
3. Project Unsuitable for the Area. She believes that the project is wrong for the area and is concerned about traffic and ground water protection. Also, a number of future projects are anticipated in the area including a hospital annex, senior and affordable housing which would add to the traffic on Phinney’s Lane. The larger pond at Hathaway’s showed signs of pollutants. However, the attendees of the March meeting were in support of enhancing the existing trails and add an educational component to the area.

Councilor Ann Canedy further went on to say that she would be in support of the following:

- Spending money on lifeguard staff
- Ensure more compliance with littering regulations

- Replace the existing bathhouse with an environmentally compatible toilet system for the area

Lynne Poyant who was in attendance at the meeting told the Commission members that the Town does have bathhouse upgrades on the CIP, Capital Improvement Plan, but they are listed in order of priority. Councilor Canedy suggested looking into grant opportunities for the bathhouse. Kathy Pina said that the 50 in attendance at the March meeting was not a lot, she felt in her opinion, to discourage the Commission members from going forward with the project. She feels that Barnstable always opposes money making projects like Home Depot and BJ's; she feels that you need to spend money to make money. Councilor Canedy said that there were no favorable responses at all, not just the 50 from the March meeting. Lynne Poyant said without a formal report she cannot see Town Council putting up funds for a project; she also suggested looking into KOA grants. Kathy asked if the Commission could come up with the money would Councilor Canedy approve the project. Councilor Canedy said if a feasibility study was done she still may not approve the project.

Mark Buckley voiced his concerns regarding a past sign posted at the Cotuit Kettleer's field (Lowell Park) saying that permitting/scheduling of this field is through Bruce Murphy, Cotuit Athletic Association. Mr. Buckley asked that the sign be removed and rewritten to state the field scheduling/permitting is controlled by the Town of Barnstable through the Recreation Division under Mr. David Curley. Mr. Curley spoke with Bruce Murphy and a decal was ordered and placed on the sign. The sign states the field scheduling is under the control of Barnstable Recreation. Mark Buckley expressed great concern over the Town of Barnstable losing control over the field. Mr. Curley assured the Recreation Commission that the Division is currently scheduling Lowell Park and the relationship with the Cotuit Athletic Association is strong. Mr. Buckley presented the Commission members with a packet containing the User Agreement for Lowell Park in Cotuit. He requested that the Recreation Commission consider removing the Cotuit Athletic Association's ability to take scheduling requests as permitted in Section 2 of the User Agreement. Kevin Turner made a motion to remove the Cotuit Athletic Association language from Section 2 of the User Agreement for Lowell Park, seconded by Kathy Pina. Joe O'Brien asked David if he was able to exclude the Cotuit Athletic Association from scheduling and he said it wasn't possible; he does have to consult them on availability and maintenance scheduling. The Commission voted and it was opposed unanimously. Section 2 of the User Agreement was not changed.

Old Business: The beach survey results: Kevin Turner made a motion to table the survey for next meeting. Seconded by Joe O'Brien, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously. Clyde asked David if he had heard anything regarding "Butts on the Beach". David said that the next step is for the Commission to hold a public meeting. The Town Hall hearing room was suggested. Lynne Poyant was going to look into the availability of the room on October 6th, 2008, the Recreation Commission's next scheduled meeting; she did say that it needed to be videotaped.

Public Comment: Bruce Murphy of the Cotuit Athletic Association gave the Recreation Commission updates about the field and the program. The Recreation Commission thanked the Cotuit Athletic Association for their efforts with the Lowell Park Facility.

Director's Report: David Curley gave his director's report: See attached.

Next meeting will be held on October 6th, 2008 at the Selectmen's Conference Room at 5:30 pm with a public meeting from 7-9 pm. Kathy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rene, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Garfield, Principal Division Assistant, Recreation Division