



# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

5 March 2012

**Commission Members Present:** Joe O'Brien – Chairman, Renee King, Kevin Turner, Steve Mele, and Richard Sawyer

**Commission Members Absent:** Clyde Takala – Vice Chairman and Kathy Pina

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM, roll call was taken. **Kevin Turner** made a motion to accept the February 6th minutes, seconded by **Richard Sawyer**, all in favor.

**Pubic Comment – Greg Larson, President Marstons Mills Village Association and Al Baker Vice President Marstons Mills Village Association, for Burgess Park.** **Greg Larson** stated they would like to improve the playground equipment at Burgess Park, would like to move the equipment at the elementary school that is not being used to Burgess Park, replace some of the equipment, and construct fence. **Joe O'Brien** asked if any quotes or cost analysis had been done. **Greg Larson** replied they have plenty of money. **Kevin Turner** asked if school had determined equipment surplus. **Greg** replied basically. **Joe O'Brien** suggested getting in writing that the equipment is surplus, a proposal for exactly what is to be done, and put this on April 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda to vote on. All agreed.

**Hyannis Harbor Hawks, Bill Merritt, Assistant General Manager and Vice President. Brad Phiffer** stated relationship with the town is fine. Listed teams using field, it is heavily used. Major issue is drainage has been and is a problem. Last year had seven or eight rain outs. Researching how this can be fixed. Raise, level it off, herring bone system it is very expensive, more money than we have right now. Possibly explore town funds for this. **Joe O'Brien** stated incumbent to looking into ideas, exploring revenue streams and other funding to improve the field, not just this field but even the old football field. Moving forward we will be looking at these issues and they will be going into our Master Plan for all the fields. **Kevin Turner** asked about relocating the Hawks. **Brad Phiffer** stated committed to staying in downtown Hyannis, has invested \$750,000 into the field over the last ten years. **Richard Sawyer** asked if any specific budget items have been asked for this field from the town. **Joe O'Brien** stated not as yet, that is why they had a group met down there and look at the issues. **Richard** asked if all the other people who use the field help with it or contribute. **Brad** stated the high school helps a lot, they have been great partners. Non profits don't help adult baseball pay \$50.00 a game. They all help to a degree but none help with capital projects. **Renee King** asked have you costed it out. **Brad Phiffer** stated for a new system and to pay retail about \$100,000 but with in kind donations can get it down to \$30,000. **Joe O'Brien** stated put some ideas and a plan together going forward and some budget items and what your commitment is and what we need to do going forward. **Joe** asked how the season looks. **Brad** stated they had the best regular season in the league last year, and on paper every team looks strong this year. **Joe O'Brien** asked if the economy has hurt the volunteer housing. **Bill Merritt** stated it's a strong program would not say the economy has hurt it,

but maybe in the sense that people won't take multiple players, I think getting people to open up their houses is more of an issue. It could be better but it could be a lot worse. **Joe** asked any other issues. **Brad Phiffer** stated trash removal in the off season. **Kevin Turner** asked what we charge the other users groups when Hawks are done. **Joe O'Brien** stated not sure. **Patti Machado** stated she will look into it. **Joe** asked any vandalism issues. **Brad** said they use to but since high school is occupied it has come way down. **Joe O'Brien** expressed the Recreation's thanks to the Hawks and Kettlers for doing great jobs with the fields; very helpful in letting others use the fields; we appreciate all that you do. **Kevin Turner** asked for rate scale and users for next meeting and also someone from the Hyannis Chamber of Commerce. **Joe** stated yes, put on our April agenda.

**Cotuit Kettlers, Paul Logan, President**, handout, see attached. We have been on a list for capital improvement project for six years to add a restroom. After seeing the last priority listing we have decided to go ahead with a fundraising campaign. **Kevin Turner** stated he thinks the town takes for granted what the Kettlers and the Hawks bring to the town in revenue. **Paul Logan** stated they are planning on doing other improvements over the next three years and want to let the town and recreation know what they are. Planning a basement for storage, replace and rebuild third base grandstands, resurface the entire outfield, new septic, replace the two dugouts, renovate the kitchen, new irrigation system in the outfield, as well as the pavilion area, this will cost about \$750,000. Starting on a fund raising campaign May 1<sup>st</sup>. Start building September 15<sup>th</sup>, if we receive a good bit of fundraising. Not asking for any town money, agree with **Brad** if prevailing rates are used, we couldn't do. **Paul** asked if Recreation sees any kind of roadblocks to doing this. **Joe O'Brien** stated no he does not. Discussion followed.

**Sail Cape Cod, Chuck Sabatt, John Kelly, and Matt Wake, Sturgis Marine**. Handed out summary and proposal of plan, see attached, and went over line by line. Also see minutes from January 9 for more details. **Chuck Sabatt** stated they feel the great resource of our waters should be made available to everyone. **Chuck** stated looking to formulate and negotiate a contract with the town also, looking for Recreation's endorsement. Went over three points listed on summary, see attached. **Chuck Sabatt** stated that recreation instructors will be allowed to take the US Sailing course along with the Sail Cape Cod instructors. **Kevin Turner** asked at no cost. **Chuck** stated no, so far we are not planning to pick up the cost for recreation. **Kevin Turner** asked wouldn't it be made available to anyone in the community. **John Kelly** stated limited to twelve participants to a class. Told **Patti** we will have slots open. **Patti Macahdo** asked cost. **Chuck Sabatt** stated \$345-\$350. **Kevin Turner** stated he does not see what the town is to gain by giving Sail Cape Cod access to this property yet. Are you offering to lease the property? **Chuck Sabatt** stated not planning or proposing to lease the beach, or the parking spots. The issue of lost revenue has been raised. Willing to negotiate with the town, have not gotten that far yet. **Kevin** stated we have not seen your financials what are you planning to charge, you could make a great deal of money with no gain for the town. **Chuck Sabatt** went back to summary. **Patti** is concerned with damage to boats. Control this with a checklist when launched and then same checklist when returned, any damage we repair. Second parking spaces, I will come back too, thirdly an emergency action plan; we will have this in place. At Kalmus we want to launch off the beach. **Kevin Turner** asked how much beach you are talking about. **Chuck** estimated 30 feet, don't really mark it off, and don't monopolize the beach front. In the parking lot we are estimating seven to eight spaces. We are not adverse to compensation to the town for the spots. **Chuck Sabatt** handed out projections for revenue and expenses and schedule of offered programs see attached. Not every child can pay, some will be on scholarship. We are a non profit organization. Object is not to make a profit it is to have funding to allow us to exist and to grow, any money earned goes back into the organization. **Kevin Turner** stated he sees the program making money off of the town and no benefits

to the residents. Our goal is to make sure we support the town of Barnstable. **Renee King** stated we are looking for a partnership that is beneficial especially in regard to our instructors. **Chuck** stated not adverse to discounts, don't think we have an issue with that. Discussion followed. **Chuck Sabatt** stated he assumes it is limited funding that allows Recreation to only have a six week program. **Patti Machado** stated not just funding but staffing. **Chuck** responded staffing means money. We can provide what you are not able to provide without competing with your program, we want to enhance it. **Steve Mele** stated there is real savings with Sail Cape Cod maintaining the boats, what does that cost us now. **Patti** stated we have limited resources; biggest concern is the wear and tear on the boats. All for the program just concerned about boats. **Joe O'Brien** stated need to feel comfortable that the boats will be replaced if needed. **Chuck Sabatt** stated this is a reasonable concern; negotiate it at the contract, maybe we will have to post a bond. **Renee King** stated if your instructional training is superior to what we all ready have in place, would like to see our instructors able to take advantage of that. **Chuck** stated can not commit the group to paying for your instructors but I am open to that idea. **Richard Sawyer** asked how this program is being marketed. **Chuck Sabatt** stated schools, traditional media, and brochures. **Joe O'Brien** stated we have a letter from Cape Abilities, endorsing Sail Cape Cod, see attached. **Chuck** stated they have gone to other community groups, we have made ourselves known. **Chuck Sabatt** stated asking Commission to endorse these concepts, we have to fine tune when negotiating with the town manager's office the details. Aerial photo of parking spots requested for use, was handed out; see attached. **Joe O'Brien** introduced Kim, Recreation sailing instructor, to speak and she has been at Sail Cape Cod meetings. **Kim** stated this is a great opportunity to expand our program. This would mainly be a racing program; we have talked about this in the past. Biggest complaint we hear is that our program is not long enough. It comes down to money and if that is something they can offer us, I think it would be a great opportunity for us. Discussion followed. **Renee King** made motion to continue moving forward with this partnership between Barnstable Recreation program and the Sail Cape Cod program to work in synergy to expand access to our great waters through the two combined programs we do really want some specific things to help address our concerns. **Richard Sawyer** seconded. Discussion followed. **Kevin Turner** stated our concerns need to be in the motion before it goes to the town manager's office. **Chuck Sabatt** stated adds the following to the motion, (attachment to Renee's motion). Provided that Sail Cape Cod first provides a discount for Barnstable residents; second, provided that the parties consider and negotiate compensation for the use of parking spaces, if deemed advisable; third, provided that Sail Cape Cop can provide a reasonable assurance as to any maintenance concerns voiced by the recreation department; fourth, provided that Sail Cape Cod pays for the sailing instructors. All in favor.

**Tom Lynch, Acting Town Manager, Lynne Poyant, Director of Community Services, Joe Izzo, HYCC General Manager-** **Joe O'Brien** stated thank you for coming, we are looking for better communication going forward, we want to believe we are working well for the town. No blame, it is normal for some confusion when there is reorganization, don't have one person to go to, responsibilities have been divided up. **Kevin Turner** stated he does not feel there has been transparency in the leadership. **Patti Machado** comes to our meetings and gives us a report but it is limited in scope, because she can't talk about the HYCC, we were never aware there would be a split. **Lynne Poyant** stated that is actually not true. **Tom Lynch** stated let me thank you for your kind invitation and service. We are willing to give you the staffing you need to get the communication you need. You may have noticed the Town Council has been holding workshops, I recommend that recreation come before them. **Joe O'Brien** stated it probably has been three or four years since we have been before them. **Tom Lynch** stated my office is always open. **Lynne** meets with us every Monday morning; it is a small senior management meeting. **Lynne Poyant** follows up with her directors. HYCC is an enterprise account, its revenues have to meet its

expenses, the thought was to bring someone in for HYCC who would be on the same level as **Patti Machado**. Set up a chain of command, handout given, see attached. When the HYCC was sold to the town it was sold as an enterprise account, they can have general funds put, but it is preferable that they are operating off of their fees. Whatever we have to do we will be in the black, if we have to furlough staff. The revenues have not meet expenses. We brought the marketing guru back to go over why we are not meeting the budget. Stated other rinks have someone out in the public selling the ice, we have told **Joe Izzo** to go see how these rinks are doing this. We are willing to have the extra staff at HYCC, if it is going to bring the revenue in. If having the kind of discussions we are having now, with **Lynne, Patti** and **Joe** here, we are willing to provide that. I have suggested to **Lynne** that when staffing, or any other decisions are being made to have **Patti** and **Joe** present. If there have been past instances where you felt you were left out I would like to correct that. **Richard Sawyer** asked what the role of the Commission is. **Tom** stated anything you can do to make suggestions about how we increase the revenues, increase the opportunities. **Tom Lynch** asked if anyone went to Hockey East, only **Patti** and **Lynne**. Tom stated it was terrific and HYCC looked great. **Lynne Poyant** stated when a commission helps to support what different people request; it helps the town manager to make a decision. **Joe O'Brien** stated we are advocates and sounding board for the residents. **Tom Lynch** stated you are going to take a tour of your facilities; I would like to hear what your priorities are, might take a year or two to get through, but if we have a plan I would be happy to advance a modest bond. **Tom** stated the iForum helps with communicating with the town, handout given, see attached. Recreation comes up constantly. Beaches was first to come to the iForum discussion. I thought we were doing a terrific job with our beaches, public told me something different. Trash pick up, bathrooms, more amenities and seaweed pick up. After tour you could use iForum and list ten things and have the public rate them for you. **Kevin Turner** stated that when it became just **Patti Machado** at our meetings it became frustrating not getting any information on HYCC, maybe that was our problem, not asking **Joe Izzo** to come more often, **Lynne Poyant** use to answer our questions. **Lynne Poyant** stated you never asked for me to come and I would have gladly been present. **Joe Izzo** came on in the height of the rink season; I told him if he sees any agenda item pertaining to HYCC I want you there. If you had ever called me, I would have gladly made that change. **Kevin Turner** stated it was my assumption that there would always be someone at the table who could answer the broader questions. **Richard Sawyer** stated aren't we suppose to be answering to the town manager, if we don't have all the answers how are we to do that. **Joe O'Brien** stated where the responsibilities are split between **Joe** and **Patti**, have them both regularly at the meeting. **Tom Lynch** suggested moving the Staff Report to after the public comment on the agenda. Discussion followed. **Tom Lynch** stated in regards to the Osterville Bay School and CPC funds willing to sign, but it has been a moving target on the transfer process. **Joe O'Brien** stated we have a subcommittee that has meet on the McManus property and going forward what is our vision, what do we want to see, that is a big issue. Discussion followed.

**Richard Sawyer – CPC Report** see attached.

**New Business – Zumbathon** on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2-4PM.

**Old Business- Joe O'Brien** stated we are meeting with Best Buddies in April, received a letter from an abutter, she owns property at the end of the lot, who has issues of concern leading up to the set up. Best Buddies has contacted this lady.

**Staff Report-Patti Machado**-handout given, see attached. **Patti** stated she has been meeting with the Disabilities Commission to put new mats down that can actually get wheelchairs into the water, at no cost

to us. **Richard Sawyer** asked how big the staff is. **Patti Machado** stated in the summer time about 40 people in the leisure program, 10-1 ratio. 100 lifeguards, 40 gaties, 12 supervisors, and 9 beach aids. Discussion followed. **Renee King** stated there are grants available that may cover the cost of lifeguard recertification. Patti stated she would look into grants. **Patti** stated she got permission to do a tour using a recreation vehicle. **Renee** asked can we set the date ahead tonight. **Patti** stated do it by piece meal. **Joe O'Brien** stated go village by village, may take three or four trips. **Patti** stated she would book the van for the next first Mondays of each month. **Renee King** suggested doing it on Saturdays. **Richard Sawyer** asked what kind of partner the Hurricanes are. **Joe Izzo** stated they are great partners, love having them they had a highly successful tournament. **Renee King** stated she liked the flags the Lobster Pot had, suggested have it for all events; have them incur the cost, great marketing. **Steve Mele** asked who played. **Joe Izzo** stated players come from all over. **Joe Izzo** stated April 7<sup>th</sup> putting on a skating production with a movie theme, suggest you all come, it is free. **Renee King** asked how the tutoring and computer lab are doing. **Joe Izzo** stated the tutoring is going very well Monday-Thursday, retired teachers. **Richard Sawyer** stated we are accumulating this information do we have a workshop so we can present this to the town manager. **Joe O'Brien** stated yes, when needed. **Richard** asked who would put it all together, staff. **Joe O'Brien** stated no, that would be us. **Joe O'Brien** stated let's put the tour on the agenda for April to plan for it. **Patti** stated the tours do not have to be a regular scheduled meeting but we do have to set them up and post them ahead of time, just like a regular meeting. The public can show up before the tour for any comments they may have. **Joe O'Brien** stated for April's agenda we have Best Buddies, Burgess Park and Marstons Mills Civic Association. **Patti Machado** stated she has a meeting with the Conservation Committee for Ropes Beach on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Richard Sawyer** made motion to adjourn; seconded by **Renee King**. Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted by **Michele Arigo**, Recreation Division.