

# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION



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## RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES 4 AUGUST 2008

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

**Commission Members Absent:** Dan Proto

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., roll call was taken. Kevin Turner made a motion to accept July’s minutes, seconded by Joe O’Brien. Clyde Takala wanted the July minutes amended to reflect that Rene seconded the motion, not him, with said amendment, the Commission voted and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Mark Buckley voiced his concerns regarding the 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 would like the sign removed and rewritten to state the field scheduling/permitting is by the Town of Barnstable through the Recreation Division under Mr. David Curley; which still has not been done. Mr. Curley stated that he spoke with Bruce Murphy and Bruce had contacted the vendor to change the sign; a decal has been ordered and it will be placed on the sign. David said that if the sign is not changed in ten days, he would change it himself. Mark Buckley expressed great concern over the Town of Barnstable losing control over the field. He handed the Recreation Commission a law passed April 1, 2004 about *An act regulating the use of Lowell Park in the Town of Barnstable*, and how it was changed in 2006 under the User Agreement for Lowell Park in Cotuit for the Town of Barnstable to take back control of scheduling, but a law has not been passed. Mr. Buckley then asked to put Elizabeth Lowell Park on September’s agenda and he will be in next month to discuss the issue of who has scheduling control over that public park. He also stated that the field is 97.7 % funded by the public. Mr. Curley assured the Recreation Commission that the Division is currently scheduling Lowell Park and the relationship with the Cotuit Athletic Association is strong. Joe O’Brien said to the Commission that they will ask the legal department about the law and get the correct information for next meeting.

**Old Business:** Rene King updated the Commission on Hathaway’s Campground. She told the Commission that she toured the camping facility in Falmouth. Their season is from May to October. There were few tenting sites, they were mainly RV’s or small pop-up campers; the site also provided cabins. Rene said that everyone had their vehicles parked at their camping site. She did say that they would have a lot of work to do to clear Hathaway’s Pond in order to make a campground. Kevin said that he went to the National Seashore and to Sweetwater Forest in Brewster. National Seashore has four different areas where they do the camping. They are completely sold out until early October. They have a two week window to camp. The pop up

trailer is the most popular. The National Seashore does provide family activities. Sweetwater is much smaller and does not provide activities or events for children. Kevin said that they have to decide how big and involved they want the Hathaway's Campground to be with families and children. David said he talked to Krisanne of Bourne Recreation and they charge \$18 per night and they are filled up. They are not getting day trips, but they are staying for the week's time. They have a two week window to camp. Rene asked if they pursue option 1 or 2, what the next logical step is. David said that financially it is bad in the Town of Barnstable. 2010/ 2011 will be very bad. Costs may need to be cut. If a campground will be able to cover all the costs, then it is a possibility. Joe said that anything they do at Hathaway's would be an improvement. They do not want to put the Town of Barnstable in a financial burden. Rene said visiting Falmouth made her rethink who they are trying to market Hathaway's Campground to. Kathy said that she believes that they need to pursue the campground. At the March meeting, Kathy did not believe there was a big number to oppose the campground. She also believes that the campground will allow them to use the revenue for other areas in the Recreation Division. Joe believes it is a win all the way around. Joe wants to ask Harold Tobey and Ann Canedy to come to the next meeting. Kathy suggested a public hearing. David said that the Recreation Commission should take Lynne Poyant's advice and get a cost analysis from a professional group. Andy asked where they could get the money for that. David said he would call Lindsey Counsel for CPC funds during the meeting. Last meeting Rene presented three options and asked the Commission to take them under review. Kevin made a motion to vote on Rene's options to show support for Hathaway's Campground. The Commission took a vote on the following options:

- 1) Proceed with the proposal as is.
- 2) Modify the plan with changes made by the Commission.
- 3) Vote to "no-go" and hold off on the plan.

The results were: Kathy Pina and Joe O'Brien – option 1, Rene King and Clyde Takala – option 2, Andy Gauthier and Kevin Turner – option 3. Andy said he voted for option 3 because he doesn't feel the timing is right, the financial outlook of the Town, the Town is building the new HYCC, the school budget, and he doesn't think that it is a viable project because of those things, but they need a bathhouse at the site. Rene said that they will need a small sub committee for this project; they need seed money to get started. Joe thinks that Ann Canedy is on the fence about the campground. Rene feels that there are holes in their proposal so they need a specialist for the campground. David came back and said that no, CPC funds were not available as the land was not purchased with open space funds. Rene said that if there were not any funds to assess the possibility of a campground she would change her vote. Kevin agrees. Kevin said that they contact Harold Tobey and tell him they would like to approach the Town Council for funds. David said that Harold always willing to put something forward to the Town Council, regardless of his position with the issue. David said that the Council would want to know what program they are going to follow. Joe said that they are looking for direction; the option that is most cost effective. Rene said that there were different grant options available for the creation of the campground. She said that they should defer the vote on the different options, go before the Town Council for the funds to do a professional assessment, and continue with the data found. Kevin suggested inviting Harold Tobey to meeting first. Joe made a motion to invite Ann Canedy and Harold Tobey to the next meeting to discuss going before the Town Council for funding for a professional study. Seconded by Kevin, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

**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. Kevin asked David about staffing at the beaches. He asked if by lessening the guidelines for the Gate Attendants if they would attract more staff. David said that they have more than enough gate staff.

**New Business:** Kathy Pina asked about the rule for absentees. She said that we only allow three absentees. Clyde said that they only allow three unexcused absences but they can call in every month and be fine. Rene said that they should readdress the issue when they have full projects going on. Kevin made a motion that they should ask the chair to make a follow up call after 3 consecutive excused absences starting September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to see if the Commission member is still interested in staying on the Commission. Seconded by Joe, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously. Andy Gauthier referred to the letter written by Dr. Timothy Herrick, requesting the Town of Barnstable to consider a smoking ban on town beaches, which was read into the minute's last meeting, said that as a Science Teacher he takes his class on field trips to the beach to collect litter and graph it and cigarette butts are the #1 litter collected. He suggested supporting Dr. Herrick's letter. David said that the Commission could make a recommendation to the Town Manager and Town Council. Andy made a motion to support Dr. Herrick's letter sent to Recreation Director David Curley, that the Town impose a no-smoking ban at all public beaches and the motion be sent to the Town Manager and all of the Town Council. Seconded by Kevin, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously. Kevin asked if anyone had responded to Dr. Herrick since the letter was sent in April. David said no, because he wanted the Commission to review this letter and the Board has not met for a few months. Kathy made a motion to send an acknowledgement letter to the correspondent and the promise to bring it forward at the next Commission meeting. Seconded by Kevin, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously. Clyde asked if the meeting day should be changed and everybody said no.

**Public Comment:** None.

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

David asked to invite E.J. Jaxtiner to the next Commission meeting. Kathy asked about the Skate Park. David said that they were doing well. Kathy asked about Ridgewood Park. David said that nothing was happening. She also asked if the Town was keeping the Osterville Bay fields. David said they were keeping them.

Next meeting will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Kevin made a motion adjourn, seconded by Rene, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously at 7:10pm.