

# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION



DIVISION MANAGER

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES 7 JULY 2008

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

**Commission Members Absent:** Kathy Pina and Dan Proto

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., roll call was taken. Joe O’Brien made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 31, 2008 meeting, seconded by Clyde Takala, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously. Note: There were no meetings in May or June due to lack of quorum hence the March/April minutes being approved in July.

**Public Comment:** Mark Buckley presented pictures to the Commission indicating the condition of the field. Mr. 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. Mr. Curley stated that he spoke with Bruce Murphy today and Bruce will contact the vendor to change the sign. If this does not happen within a reasonable time, the Recreation Commission will change the sign. **Rene King** suggested writing a letter giving the Association a time frame to have the sign changed. **David Curley** stated that this will allow the Commission to have documentation and asked that the letter be sent. **Rene** asked for balance in the letter – thanking them for maintaining the field as well as giving them a deadline to change the sign. **Clyde** asked that a copy of the letter be sent to Martha Johnson, President of the Cotuit Athletic Association.

**Old Business:** **Rene King** updated the Commission on Hathaway’s Campground. She presented three options and asked the Commission to take them under review and vote at next month’s meeting:

- 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.

There were concerns raised by the residents at the March Meeting. Rene listed five of these concerns that need to be removed or addressed:

- 1) Parking - the proposal lacked where cars would park
- 2) “Profile” of a typical camper

- 3) Impact on the environment with increased volume
- 4) Impact on having campers in lieu of Barnstable Residents
- 5) Funding - return on investment

If the Commission proceeds with the proposal, a three-phased approach of restructuring to support public camping, the five items listed above would have to be minimally addressed.

If the Commission votes to modify the plan, the residents liked the element of combining recreation and academics i.e. an extension of recreation and the K-12 academic system. The residents are more willing to accept this approach. If using this approach, there are grant options available to help with the funding. One item that **Rene** found is an organization, Agnes M. Lindsay Trust (see attached), that has within its proposal education, recreation and camping. Through research, **Rene** found a service called "Outwitting the Outdoors" which consists of teaching children survival techniques.

If the Commission votes "No-go", **Rene** found a camp resort and cabin facility in Falmouth that supports 35 rentals, 30 tents on 55 acres. (See attached). This would be competition for Hathaway's.

**Kevin Turner** asked if anyone knows the stats for the National Seashore this year. **Joe O'Brien** feels there is a need to know this information. **Kevin** will research this and get back to the Commission at next month's meeting. **Rene** will gather data information from the Falmouth Campground and report back at August's meeting. She would like each member to address their feelings on this project and focus on where they can make the most impact. **Joe O'Brien** is not discouraged by the remarks made at last month's meeting. These comments are expected when a new project is being introduced.

**Clyde Takala** presented for record four letters (see attached):

- 1) **Mass Audubon** thanking the Town of Barnstable for their efforts to protect Piping Plovers nesting on Dowses Beach.
- 2) **Cape Cod Conservation** thanking Barnstable Recreation for their help in making River Day a success.
- 3) **Timothy Herrick, M.D.** requesting the Town of Barnstable considers a smoking ban on town beaches.
- 4) **Marilyn Fuller** giving her thoughts on the camping proposal at Hathaway's Pond.

**New Business:** Election of Officers

**Kevin** is concerned that the Chair did not attend enough meetings to be an active member of the Board. With the new building coming into play, he feels this is an issue that needs to be looked at from a group standpoint. Kevin would like to discuss the Board member's roles. What is the role of the Chair opposed to a board member? The role of the officers should be explained. **David** sees challenges in the future and this Board being a major voice of the new HYCC. Kevin would like to see more communication amongst the Board. He would like to see more direction and leadership from the commission. **Joe O'Brien** is confident that any matter that needs to be addressed when the Chair is unable to be present can and would be handled by the Vice-Chair. **Rene** discussed having the monthly required meeting and schedule other meetings in between if needed. **Joe** feels with upcoming projects, the Board will need to meet more than once a month and plan on getting the community involved. Joe asked that today's vote be put off until all members

are in attendance. **Kevin** said the Agenda stated Election of Officers. Everyone received a copy and knew that the election was taking place. If you did not attend, then you knew you would not be taking part of the process. Kevin wants to be an active group, not reactive. No matter who is Chair, Kevin wants directive and wants the Commission to set the agenda not the Recreation Division. E-mailing each other with ideas and suggestions for agendas is a possibility. Members need a job to do - find out where they are needed and where they will have the biggest impact. Items that are voted on (Boundless Playground, Best Buddies, etc.) should be attended and reported on at future meetings. Commissioners could become liaisons in different areas that fall under the Recreation Division. **Elections were held and results are:**

Clyde Takala - Chair (unanimously)

Joe O'Brien - Vice Chair (unanimously)

All future elections will be held as scheduled in the month of July.

**David Curley** presented the Director's Report for June, 2008 (see attached).

**Joe O'Brien** said in light of the discussions that took place this evening, any agenda items that members would like presented will go through the Chair. **Clyde** explained the process being, if he thinks something should **not** go on the agenda, he will contact each member asking them whether they would like to see it on the Agenda. Otherwise, anything presented to him will be posted to the Agenda.

Results of the survey were presented to the Board. Comments from the Board will be heard next month and will be put on the agenda under Old Business.

**Joe** asked each member to call the office prior to each meeting and let Sam know if they will or will not be attending.

Next meeting will be held on August 4, 2008.

Motion for meeting to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.