



# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

6 February 2012

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

**Commission Members Absent:** Clyde Takala – Vice Chairman,

The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM, roll call was taken. **Renee King** made a motion to accept the January 9th minutes, seconded by **Richard Sawyer**, all in favor.

**Pubic Comment – Jenny Angle- Sturgis-** Volunteer/participant of the Zumbathon. As part of the clean up team noticed there were no recycle bins for the plastic bottles. Thinks it is very important for the HYCC to be part of environmental recycling. Would like to help in any way to introduce a way to recycle in the center. **Renee King** volunteered to help work with the Sturgis School and stated she loves their motto to “leave a place better than you find it”. **Steve Mele** stated that at this time we have no recycling at the center. **Patti Machado** said yes, we do. Understands that the bags are no longer being made, and the bags must be recyclable also, not a 100% clear on it and **Joe Izzo** is who would have the answer. **Richard Sawyer** asked how involved would **Jenny** like to be. **Jenny Angle** said she would like to be actively involved. **Richard Sawyer** said Nauset has bins. **Patti Machado** said **Scott Wiinikainen** does the recycling at the HYCC. The Board thanked **Jenny** for coming in.

**Meg Loughran and Aaron Webb, Centerville Civic Association-****Meg Loughran** stated annual meeting issues behind us. Focus is on getting the playground rehabilitated. **Aaron Webb** has taken this on and will get everyone up to speed on where we are. We are looking long term for some type of commitment from the Recreation Board and we know the big problem is money. We are prepared to be responsible for the upkeep. Need to resolve who owns the playground “stuff”, the town owns the land. **Aaron Webb** stated been before the board with plans drawn up and different ideas, looking to revise and shrink down the money part. Have about \$10,000 raised and have not been able to tap into any grants that may be available yet. Possibly going before the CPC not sure if we are eligible. **Richard Sawyer** stated legal requires that it be acquired or transferred to Recreation to qualify for CPC, a law is pending for changing this requirement a little bit. **Aaron** replied no one really knows who owns what. **Richard** asked if there was anywhere else a playground could be put. **Meg Loughran** said there really is not a lot of open space in Centerville. **Aaron Webb** stated not against another location, experts have said it is an accident waiting to happen. **Joe O'Brien** commented we are working with Barnstable Little League, their project will be in three phases, and one phase has a playground proposed. **Aaron** stated what is the town's stance on playgrounds all ready deemed unsafe. **Patti Machado** stated most are unsafe, problem is the people who built Centerville playground were suppose to do sustainability for it and they did not. Town was straightforward in stating they have no money to maintain. **Joe** stated if we do not build new or do

rejuvenation, the playground would have to probably be destroyed. **Meg** asked about playground Little League is considering. **Steve Mele** responded he believes it is about 2,500 square feet at the Bay Lane field. **Meg Loughran** stated we would be competing for same funds. **Richard Sawyer** said no, would be a partnership. Discussion followed. **Richard Sawyer** stated if you come before the CPC have matching funds and a way to maintain. **Kathy Pina** believes land is under the Recreation. **Patti Machado** stated we need documentation to prove who it belongs to. **Aaron Webb** stated that the principal of the school was replacing the playground. **Steve Mele** stated put playground in because they believed one across the street was being taken down, if not, that would be great. **Meg** asked if they go ahead what the Board would require. **Joe O'Brien** responded investigation as to where land is and who under; if not Recreation, get it transferred to us. **Patti Machado** stated the ball field would have to be included, and believes CPC is ready to fund Recreation. Discussion followed. **Meg Loughran** stated their dream is to get the Best Buddy parking lot. **Joe O'Brien** stated get the ball rolling and come back before the Board in April.

**Travis Andrade-DA-Sturgis West** Started this September. 200-300 students on a waitlist for years. Started 12 new Junior Varsity teams this year. 14-16 teams next year. Fall was tough with soccer; **John Gleason** has been wonderful and very supportive of us. Ran into difficulties with Barnstable Youth Soccer using McBarron field, tried offering solutions, they were not interested. Volleyball a problem with available courts, **Mark Boardley** great, but we have all ready outstripped HYCC ability to support us. Space is at a premium. Come spring, lacrosse is the big new thing. Going to use Lombard field for baseball and softball. 4 teams next year will need more. We need other viable options. Town has been very supportive and helpful, have not really run into a problem where a solution was not found. We are looking to work with people for the benefit of all. There are fields for younger children not a lot for older children. We supply man hours to help get different fields ready for use. **Kevin Turner** asked about varsity teams. **Travis** stated waiting for the state to decide what they are going to do with Sturgis; no school has done what they are doing. **Richard Sawyer** asked if working with other towns. **Travis Andrade** replied starting to. **Richard** stated only 18% of students from Barnstable. **Renee King** recommended contacting Mashpee. Discussion followed. **Joe O'Brien** stated it is an ongoing concern for fields for the different sports.

**Barnstable Little League-Rich Abraham, President and Stone Johnson, Vice President**-September 27, 2011 elected into office. Learning the in and outs and how it is run. Due to registration numbers being down have gone from 12 to 10 teams. Held lottery, and put on respected teams. Minor league still getting numbers hopefully 8-10 teams. Roughly 6 teams for farm league. Main goal is to grow with younger players. Trying to bring life back to baseball, other sports invading into spring programs. Promoting through our website and flyers. Using clinics also. We have work ahead of us. **Joe O'Brien** stated where you see Centerville project going. **Rich** stated parking lot needs upgrade, infields and outfields need work, and the fence. We are looking for help. Reaching out to the community. **Kathy Pina** asked what happened since the last time this was visited and now, everything was under control then. **Rich Abraham** stated he can not explain it, taking over a new board there is a communication breakdown. **Renee King** stated you want to start with a clean sheet. **Rich** stated yes. **Kevin Turner** stated there were a couple of contentious meetings and the Recreation Board went out on limb, because we were informed Little League had about \$70,000 to \$80,000 and needed about a \$120,000 to finish the project off. Discussion followed. **Rich Abraham** stated they have done research as to why they are losing registrations; other communities are seeing lost registrations also. **Patti Machado** stated we need to work together, YMCA, Recreation and Little League drawing from same group of 5-6 year olds. **Renee King** stated pool of students not in a growth mode, fewer kids and economy impacting it. Make sure at the early age all kids have access. **Patti**

**Machado** stated children are being turned away. **Steve Mele** stated not true anyone who wants to play, plays. **Steve** stated just getting one phase done, like one field. No time frame was ever given. **Richard Sawyer** asked what would be needed to host tournaments. **Joe O'Brien** stated there has been work on this in the past, it is a vision. Barnstable Recreation has a responsibility to work with Barnstable Little League as they lost a field to the building of HYCC. **Richard** asked how many fields would be needed to host. **Rich Abraham** stated two, but three would be better. **Richard Sawyer** stated Recreation and CPC wants to do everything possible to help Little League succeed. **Richard** asked what promises were made to Barnstable Little League. **Steve Mele** stated he believes \$25,000 was the amount stated because they lost the field to HYCC. **Renee King** stated lets pull the volunteerism in to help with Little League. **Richard Sawyer** stated Little League has volunteers in place, they are looking for more fields and one was taken away from them. **Joe O'Brien** stated doesn't remember whether a promise was made in a dollar amount but remembers something being stated that Recreation would help look for appropriate funding. We need to stay in touch; we have a subcommittee in place, me, **Kevin Turner** and possibly **Steve Mele**. **Renee King** asked if everything in place for this season. **Rich Abraham** said yes. **Joe O'Brien** stated lets stay in contact once a month and work together.

**Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Rope Beach – Rich Bodin, President of Cotuit Civic Association and Tom Burgess, Secretary, Cotuit Civic Association.** **Rich** stated that back in 1992 the grass was cleaned up with the help of Conservation and Recreation. And a fence was put up to mark where Ropes Beach is. It was done again in 2002 and nothing since then. The grass is coming back, encroaching on the beach. **Tom Burgess** passed out a handout, see attached, not a big swimming beach, but a busy beach. Fence is rotten. Beach grass has crept in from where the dinghies are. According to **Rob Gatewood** the permitting is all there to remove the grass. We have about 175 dinghies in the height of the season. **Kevin Turner** asked if it could be sprayed. **Tom Burgess** stated not sure. **Patti Machado** stated there is a paint that goes down to the root. **Jessica Rapp Grasseti** said that in the past Recreation would request the permit from Conservation, then turned over to Structure and Grounds for removable. The phragmites are causing a safety issue when you can't see the fence. Requesting you ask for a permit. **Richard Sawyer** asked specifically what are you asking for. **Tom Burgess** stated to control this growth, ideally to be able to remove any flora from swimming. **Renee King** motioned to ask for a permit from Conservation to start the work to be done at Ropes Beach. **Kevin Turner** seconded all in favor.

**Richard Sawyer – CPC Report** see attached. Went over workshops. Recreation is a priority for the Town Council. Requested that a subcommittee be started between CPC and Recreation concerning the McManus property. **Joe O'Brien** stated Recreation Little League subcommittee could work with CPC subcommittee. **Renee King** stated early spring do a review of all the playing fields, a field trip. **Joe** asked **Richard** to set up an appropriate time with **Lindsay** for the two subcommittees to get together, Recreation subcommittee **Joe O'Brien, Kevin Turner** and **Steve Mele**. **Richard Sawyer** asked why the Bay School had been taken off of the CPC agenda. **Patti Machado** stated because the building has not been transferred to Recreation, it is being worked on. **Richard** stated field survey was done five years ago. **Renee King** stated in early spring do the field trip to check out the fields. Commission thought it to be a good idea.

**New Business Kevin Turner** stated that he wonders who is running the Recreation Department. The website shows **Lynne Poyant**, but not **Patti Machado** and states "The Recreation Commission advises and otherwise assists the Town Manager in the establishment of rules and regulations concerning the use of all playground and athletic fields and the municipal ice rink", is all the necessary information getting to **Joe O'Brien**. Wants explained why **Patti's** name is not listed and why no one from the rinks is at meetings.

**Kathy Pina** stated we get reports from **Patti Machado** but **Joe Izzo** only has been at one and a half meetings and feels things are going on that we need to know about. A letter needs to go to the Town Manager. **Kevin Turner** stated things are going on with **Patti's** position that we know nothing about, not saying we have any authority over this. **Kathy Pina** made motion to have a letter sent to Acting Town Manager Tom Lynch requesting information on the guidelines for the Recreation Commission and to be at our next meeting. **Kevin Turner** seconded, all in favor. Discussion followed. **Joe O'Brien** stated he would contact **Lynne Poyant** and request that **Joe Izzo** be at the March meeting.

**Old Business- Kathy Pina** stated finally received plaque for Nat Nickerson, and it looks very nice. **Renee King** stated Zumbathon great success 50 participants last year over 100 participants this time. Thanked all the amazing volunteers from across the Cape, 10 instructors made it possible.

**Staff Report-Patti Machado**-handout given, see attached. **Richard Sawyer** asked if people are brought in for Risk Management training. **Patti** stated the person who oversees it for the town is coming in and that she has background in it for beaches. Shepley has donated \$1,500 for kids to go to Leisure Program this summer, just waiting for town to accept, we have all ready sent a thank you letter. Sail Cape Cod asked to come back before the Board, told only when they have a substantial plan set up for their program. One of our sailing instructors is on their board. They are working on their program. **Richard Sawyer** stated Sail Cape Cod did come before the CPC Board. **Patti Machado** stated the state of Massachusetts recognizes Red Cross, YMCA and Boys Scouts of America as lifeguard training programs. YMCA seems to want to take over, and financially won't kill us. **Richard Sawyer** asked if YMCA is as good as Red Cross program. **Patti Machado** replied she would have to evaluate more. Discussion followed. **Patti Machado** stated we will never lower our safety standards. Our outdoor facilities are hurting. **Joe O'Brien** stated fields have been any ongoing problem. **Patti Machado** stated the town is looking at the fee structure for the buildings and fields for long term. **Richard Sawyer** asked who he would see to find out how much ice time is being utilized and what is available. **Patti** replied **Joe Izzo**. **Patti Machado** handed out flyer for Internet Safety Class for Parents, being run by Barnstable Police, see attached. **Kevin Turner** pointed out date error on flyer. **Patti** replied she would verify what the correct date is. **Patti Machado** stated she would like to see Internet Safety as a program through Recreation. **Kathy Pina** stated she would like to commend Patti on her expertise and awareness of everything Recreation, your knowledge is unbelievable. Town of Barnstable is very lucky to have you. All Board members were in agreement with **Kathy Pina**.

**Kevin Turner** made motion to adjourn; seconded by **Renee King**. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

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