

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION



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RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES 7 JUNE 2010

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

Commission Members Absent: Dan Proto

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm, roll call was taken. Kevin Turner made a motion to accept May’s minutes, seconded by Andy Gauthier, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

Public Comment **Mr. Brooke Fishback** wanted to thank the Recreation for creating a better recreational environment for everyone in the Town of Barnstable.

Tony Lacina informed the Recreation Commission that he was at the meeting to gain support for a new track and field they are planning to construct at Barnstable High School. The track that has been there since 1985 has been nothing but one problem after another. The project started at \$1.3 million and they have pared it down to \$893,000. The funding for the project will not cost the taxpayers anything. The funds are coming from the sale of the Grade 5 building, which is Pope John Paul right now. The benefit is right now all fields are overused; grass can’t keep up. With artificial turf the field will be used all year long; night and day with all the lights. The new field will help keep more sports at the school. Barnstable will be one of only two districts with a field like this; Sandwich being the other school, which is being constructed. This field will benefit the whole Town. He asked the support of the Recreation Commission before he goes before the Town Council. **Lisa Jones** asked if there will be any female sports allowed to play at the field. **Tony Lacina** informed Lisa that football, lacrosse and field hockey will be utilizing this field; boys and girls. **Lisa** said that the girls were never allowed to play on the field so not to mess up the boys’ field. **Tony** said that it will be a field that will have long life for both boys and girls sports. **Kevin Turner** said that he had a lengthy conversation with Pat Murphy, School Committee Chair that Title IX will not be an issue for access for any female athlete. **Kathy Pina** asked if there were any designs available to show the Commission. **Clyde** informed the Commission that Tony wanted to do a power point presentation but it wasn’t available. **Kevin Turner** made a motion to approve the new track and field proposal and send a letter of support to the Town Manager’s office; seconded by **Joe O’Brien**, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

Centerville Ball Fields Project **Steve Mele**, Barnstable Little League Board of Director’s, along with Mike LeBlanc, the President of Little League and the Past President Rich Petze were in attendance to give a presentation on a proposal to upgrade the Centerville Ball Fields. **Steve** said they were

there to talk through the proposal and they were all volunteers working for the children. They are trying to build a better Barnstable for the children. He said they never thought it was a done deal. He knows it is a process and that is why they are back. They want feedback. They are trying to do the best they can with the limited resources they have. He said they took the advice from Lisa Jones to look at any other fields in town. He said he looked at Hyannis West, Barnstable Middle School, Horace Mann, Lombard, and the College and there is no other suitable site for what they are trying to do. He asked Mr. Turner to comment on the process Little League has done and gone through to look at other fields. **Kevin Turner** said they were looking at potential fields in the last 3-4 months and Pat Murphy asked him to be a liaison between the Recreation and Little league. He said he spent a great deal of time looking at the different locations. Barnstable Intermediate School was the hope but there was no guarantee from Steve Francis that Barnstable Little League could utilize the field for the length of time they need. **Steve** said that is why they are looking to upgrade the Bay Lane fields. He said that Little League has permits to use those fields all ready. He said they were hoping to create a third field there with a playground and with a concession stand. They have been using the field space now with no incident. He said he listened closely to what Ms. Jones had to say at the last meeting. There are no other fields in town to utilize, there will be no lights, and there will be no PA system. The age group that will be using the field is 6-12 years of age and the league will be run April to July. **Steve** said there will be no league during the summer; it is a specific time frame. Parking and traffic is the biggest hurdle. He said he sat at the field to watch the traffic during the morning and afternoon times during school drop-off and pick-up. The traffic moves; it isn't the best plan, but it works. He said Ms. Jones counted the parking spots at the school and said there were 65. He said that she was absolutely correct. He said that they were about 55 spots at the field and tennis courts that can be created for additional parking. He said they are not looking to move the entire program over to the Bay Lane fields. They are trying to alleviate stress from the other fields at the other locations. He said that there will be 6 teams for 6 & 7 year olds, 6 teams for 8 & 9 year olds, and 6 teams for minor leagues. He said Saturday is the day that makes parking an issue. He said there will be 24 cars per game; 48 cars for 2 games. He said they can stagger the times of the games to alleviate the number of cars at the site. He said he saw 15 cars parked on the street. They don't want cars to park there. There are no signs there to say "No Parking". He said they are willing to take suggestions. There is plenty of parking across the street. He doesn't know if there are restrictions for putting up signs, he said they could be advised about that. Trash and port-o-johns will be taken care of it. They want to be good neighbors. The concession stand will not be commercial. It is going to cost \$100,000 to improve the fields. They have some money in the bank, but the concession stand helps them pay for things. They don't make money, they are a non-profit. We are in partnership with the Town. The positives are one being the Centerville Civic Association in total support of the Bay Lane project. The principal of the school is in support, there are 250 signatures on a petition to support the project. There will be no cost to the Town. The small field is not a safe field. The Town will have to spend money to fix it. They are looking to add the playground so children and parents don't have to cross the street. Thank you for your time. We are trying to work together and we are hoping you will vote in support of the upgrades at Centerville Ball Fields.

Clyde Takala said that the Recreation Division has received letters complaining of the issues that Steve addressed. **Joe O'Brien** said he was thinking a lot about the project and traffic is such a big issue. He was wondering if it was possible to have a Little League Representative to direct traffic; someone who is visible to parents and children. **Joe** suggested speed bumps on the road to slow traffic down. He said he is a safety professional and that is some things they do for different job sites. **Rene King** added that the representative would be visible but could also address the little problems and the cleanliness of the field. **Steve Mele** agreed that they don't want parking at the side of the road. Concerning the speed bumps, he didn't know the process that goes into that. He suggested cones be placed to show "no parking". He

agreed that a representative would be beneficial and thought cones would be a better solution to speed bumps. **Joe** said that speed bumps work to slow cars down. Even if parking spots are available in the back of the school, people get lazy, they don't want to walk. They need to discourage parking from the side of the street. **Steve** said that when Horace Mann was redone, they had an issue with parking and a police officer addressed that issue. **Kathy Pina** said at one of the meetings they discussed a seasonal sign to show designated parking. She asked how many innings per game. **Steve** said there were time limits on the games. **Steve** also said that signs would be great. He wasn't sure if signs could be implemented and if they couldn't be he didn't want that to hinder the progress of the project.

Lisa Jones said Bay Lane is one of 62 roads deemed as a scenic road and what can be done to a scenic road is specified. There cannot be any speed bumps. Signage is another problem. Cutting down of any trees has to be approved by the planning board. It is designed to keep roads like Bay Lane historic and to keep a rural appeal. This elaborate baseball field is against the road. She said her use of misrepresentation in her letter to her neighbors due to the fact she has the minutes from the September 14, 2009 minutes and the original proposal from the Little League and they said 75% of the program will be at the Bay Lane fields. She said Kathy Pina asked in the September 2009 meeting if Rich Petze had a plan B, which he said would not be a problem to come up with a different plan. David Curley had asked Rich if two fields would fit better than three. She also brought up that Rich Petze was looking into land on Osterville West-Barnstable Road and they had a second plan that was ready to go. She said that now there wasn't another school. She wants to know why there are no other schools. Why? Other fields are available and much safer regarding parking. They are not walking across a major road. They are walking across fields. She asked if anyone has talked to Cape Cod Commission because there is a stream going behind her back yard that is 200 feet from their proposed batting cage; that is a problem. She said the fields were there 20 years ago and they were used for softball, Kettleers, and soccer. In the last three years Little League has started using Bay Lane fields and they aren't complaining about the current use. She said Barnstable High School fields are horrible. Accidents and injuries are high because the fields are poor.

Bruce Williams said he wasn't familiar with the diagrams and asked if they could be explained. **Steve Mele** said that Coastal Engineering made up the diagram to delineate where the abutter's properties are, the school, and the stream Ms. Jones is talking about. The 6 & 7 year old field needs to be upgraded and not as big as a Little League regulation field. He said there is plenty of room for a playground, a concession stand, and to create a third field. They moved the site of the concession stand for better flow of the fields. **Steve** said that he wasn't sure of the next steps. **Marilyn Asiaf** asked how close the playground was to the field because she thinks the field is too close to the playground; balls can come too close to a child's head. **Steve** said that he didn't create the field or the playground; they are only looking to renovate what is there. **Andy Gauthier** said that with the new proposal for the snack bar coming closer to the road, there is an existing fence around the ball field, will that stay the same. **Steve** said it will stay the same. There will be no access to the snack bar from the road.

Diane Brooke said she has lived on Bay Lane for 30 years. The traffic is getting worse and worse. Traffic from the Little League games is horrendous. Kids dart out from parked cars. They park on the street now. It is a nightmare now. She asked if there will be no lights now or no lights until you get it up and running. **Steve Mele** said no lights period. He said Little League is permitted to use the fields but they are free to the public to use them. The school uses them and Cotuit Kettleer's uses them. Anyone can use them when they are not permitted out. **Diane Brooke** asked if Osterville Elementary School can be used now that it is closed. **Steve** said he thought a private entity just bought that. **Kathy Pina** said there is less parking at Osterville Elementary and Osterville Bay is the same thing. **Kathy** asked if there were two entrances to Bay Lane. **Steve** said yes. **Kevin Turner** asked if 6 teams will stay at the Village's. **Steve**

said yes and he isn't sure where the 75% of the program number came from and maybe Ritch didn't communicate it quite right. At MME the schedule is 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm, and 5pm. **Steve** thinks that if they could alleviate some of that crunch to the Bay Lane fields it would help the program; the minor league doesn't practice because there is no time. **Kevin Turner** said that there is a two hour time limit so the latest a game would start would be 5 or 5:15 if a game is running late. **Steve** said the latest is 5pm. **Kevin** said all games end by 7pm. **Kathy** asked for the time frame of the games to be clarified. **Steve** said that they end each game by the two hour time frame regardless of inning.

William Rug said he is fairly new to the area, having moved from Falmouth. He and his wife were in Florida and hadn't heard anything about the renovations to the Bay Lane Fields until getting back from Florida. He thinks that with the upgrades to the fields there will be more problems. The property values will go down as the fields get busier and busier. He wants to table the discussion until he can do some extra research and find an alternate solution for these fields in another location. Please reconsider this. **Kathy Pina** said that Falmouth is lucky to have that new complex and Recreation has been looking for a long time for more field space. She also said that age has nothing to do with the fields and all parents and children should have the chance to explore all activities. We have done our homework and we have been looking. **William Rug** asked if there were other communities / towns that have a similar impact. **Kevin Turner** said that there is a little league field in Harwich on Oak Street that is by far busier than Bay Lane. **Kathy Pina** said that this is the plan. **Kevin Turner** said there will be no lights, no PA system, and no program that runs longer than April to July; there will be no fall ball. **Rene King** said that safety is a priority and the Recreation Commission Members are volunteers for the betterment of the youth in our community. This is a proposal that doesn't put a burden on the taxpayers. Little League is funding this project and there is a process on getting some return on the snack stand. She wants to make sure that everyone is listening and everyone has a chance to speak. **William Rug** said that most residents just heard about this project and he would like to have the opportunity for discussion to talk about it. He says Bay Lane will be significantly impacted by this project and the residents right now are trying to feel comfortable with the project because most of the retired persons on this road will be changed. It has to be a give and take on this project and everyone should feel like winners and right now everyone feels like they are losers; they haven't had time to process it, to think about it, and to say or due diligence. **Clyde** said the issue is not over, we can vote on it or table it to next meeting, but whatever the Recreation Commission decides, we forward a letter to John Klimm and the Town Council; they have the final decision on this project. All we do is make a recommendation from what we hear. **William Rug** said most of our kids played ball and most of the parents coached, we just want what is best for everyone, thank you. **Kathy Pina** asked David if they can look into the logistics of the signs and what would be the problem with placing a sign for limited parking on the side of the road if they have signs up for the tennis courts and the school. **David** said that he would have to contact the Building Department and investigate that tomorrow.

Steve Luceani, Treasurer of the Centerville Civic Association, and the association took a vote and unanimously passed in favor of the playground. He read into the minutes a letter from the President of the Centerville Civic Association, Meg Loughran; see attached. **Steve** also commented that adults can be made responsible for their own actions; that would solve the problem.

Rich Petze, past president of Barnstable Little League, would like to address the comment from William Rug about feeling like a loser because Little League wants to provide a good, safe, healthy environment for children to play baseball. **Rich** said that comment made him want to cry. He said that he was proud to be the president of Little League for 7 years and the program has grown from 200 to 800 children. The community needs to step up and provide these children with the facilities they need. There are ways around safety issues, Barnstable Little League safety plan has to be sent in every year. It has to be sent in every year in order for the league to get their insurance policy. 35 or 40 percent of games will be

played at Bay Lane; he believes he was miss-quoted. Regarding the concession stand, there should be a safety gate to let emergency vehicles in and out of the facility, which is why there is 25-30 feet in between those fields to get to the new playground. Any baseball field there is a risk of getting hit by a baseball. It is time to step up and have a home for these kids to play. There is more of a problem for parking and safety concern during school hours than during the games being played on the fields. Little League will do their part, please approve these upgrades so these kids can play some baseball, thank you for your time.

Brooke Fishback, spoke earlier and submitted a letter into the minutes in favor of the Bay Lane Project; see attached. **William Rug** said he would like to address winner/loser comment. He wants it right for everyone. None of the Civic Association members live on Bay Lane and yet they voted for it. **Kathy Pina** said that they are only adding one more field to the existing two fields. The existing traffic will only be increased by one field. The Kettleers parking in Cotuit is every where. No property values have gone down. **Katy** invited everyone to the Recreation Commission meetings every first Monday of the month. She said the Commission deals with every aspect of the community, not just Little League; there are a lot of things happening. This project helps Recreation. **William Rug** said only three abutters were notified. **Rene King** asked David if there is a process that can be undertaken to address the speed bumps on a scenic road. **Joe O'Brien** said he did some work for a state senator and there is a process to go through; signage and speed bumps are not out of the question.

Nick Atsalis thinks that the residents of Bay Lane are holding Barnstable Little League responsible for how others use Bay Lane. He spends a lot of time on Bay Lane and the cars that do the worse driving tend to pass the School on Bay Lane. It would behoove members of the community to take a look on how they travel on that road and to slow down. What about the other people who use that road and use it as a cut through, most of the people going to the school and the ball field come from Bumps River and leaving the same way. What is the impact they will have on the rest of the road heading south? He doesn't think that people are speeding to and from the ball field. He thinks that it is great for people to have ideas and comments about projects, but how is the manner behind these comments. To use the statement it's a commercial endeavor because Little League wants to run a concession stand, well they are a non-profit, a 501-C. Which non-profit isn't concerned about revenue? Without revenues, non-profits will not survive. The community has an opportunity to do something and we all should be more responsible; I am in favor of the project.

Diane Brooke suggested that as a gesture of good faith, Little League start controlling the parking now, there is parking spots available at the school now and nobody uses them. **Steve Mele** said they have one more week. They will address that issue to the parents who they can control to not park there. He said they will stay on it. **Diane** doesn't feel that that is a good idea. There are school signs at each end of the fields, can those signs be made to flash when the Little League is playing. **Joe** said they can look into that option. He did say that there are speed bumps that are less invasive as the ones years ago. Speed bumps do get people to slow down. He is surprised that there aren't speed bumps there now. **Clyde Takala** said speeding is not a ball field issue; please keep to the Little League.

Lisa Jones feels bamboozled. When she was first notified she was the only abutter at the Recreation Commission meeting. Little League likes to say how wonderful everything is but she finds children unsupervised in her back yard. Her house is right on the third base line. The safety issue is the children. She doesn't like what goes on at Little League games. She asked if the Little League uses fertilizer on the field. She asked if there will be a sprinkler system because there is a concern about run-off into the stream. **Kathy Pina** said she was misinterpreted. If you are a taxpayer in the Town of Barnstable, and you want to know what is going on, you have access to Channel 18 to find out what the Town of Barnstable is spending their money on. And we have addressed 3/4ths of what concerns you have. **Lisa Jones** asked what the Danforth Property is going to be used for. **Kathy Pina** said that the Danforth

Property will be a year round facility; Little League is asking for 3 months. **Rene King** thanked Lisa Jones for coming to the first meeting and identified the issues. She feels the safety concerns are right on. We are not done yet; we have more work to do. Rene would like to see how we can bring this project together because we are doing this for our youth. **Lisa Jones** asked if there were any spectator seating proposed in the plan. **Steve Mele** said no. **Lisa** asked where the spectators will be to watch the games. **Steve** asked if it is an issue. **Lisa** said it was and it isn't fair. It impacts trees being cut down. It is a safety issue; where will people be sitting and where will children be running around. There are batting cages set up in the parking lot. **Steve** said because Lisa was at the first meeting Little League has fine tuned the plan.

Brooke Fishback asked if he and 100 friends could use Bay Lane fields whenever they wanted to because it was a public space. **Kevin Turner** said he needed to get a permit from the Recreation Division to do so. **Brooke Fishback** said that above and beyond Little League, we can get large crowds at the field as long as we have a permit. He said traffic is getting bad everywhere and not just on Bay Lane.

Andy Gauthier asked for clarification on Saturday and if there will be orange cones along the road. He has an issue with the safety and the cars because it limits visibility. **Steve Mele** asked if the permit they have extend to the road because they will put orange cones up and down the road for Saturday. The only one that will complain will be the people who want to park there. **Kevin Turner** said that regarding the stream we did have a lengthy discussion in November of the law regarding the stream and we did have the topography from the coastal engineers and are aware of it. **Steve Mele** said they were not invading the stream in anyway. **Clyde** asked that the comments be limited to a minute because they would like to wrap things up.

Pete Fisher of Centerville believes everyone on the panel has heard of the the Town's Comprehensive Plan. He said the Town is required to write a plan every few years to the Cape Cod Commission about the problems the town is encountering, how they are working to improve them and what the goals are. Every village has to write a village plan. In the Centerville Village plan we had addressed Recreation. There is a lack of open space. Centerville has 285 acres of open space and is last among the seven villages of open space and recreation lands. He said more public land is needed for neighborhood recreation and passive open space. Increased recreational areas are needed throughout the village. **Pete Fisher** said that this was written about three years ago. He had said that one of the action steps was to pursue outside funding for maintenance of our outside facilities. He said they never dreamed Barnstable Little League would propose a project like they have. **Pete Fisher** belongs to the Centerville Civic Association also and Meg Loughran, the CCA President, has lived in Centerville all her life as a property owner, is on many Centerville Committee's and is currently president. She also works with the West Barnstable Civic Association. When the letter from the residents on Bay Lane was sent to the Centerville Civic Association and said that the Little League had gone to them for backing; that is not the case. **Pete Fisher** said they had heard about it in the winter and we asked Little League if Centerville Civic Association could be involved. Since then, Barnstable Little League has made a presentation to them and has been on their agenda for the last four meetings including tonight. But we did check it out and checked out the Little League and found it to be a highly professional and first class organization. We looked at some of the problems they had such as the traffic, parking, and clean up. We came up that safety was the most important issue. He went to 2 games on Bay Lane and counted cars. There were 18 cars on the first night and 22 cars the second night. There was parking on the street and those cars were people at the school; there was a school function that night. He went on to say that this was a good plan from Barnstable Little League and they should take advantage of it. It is good for the kids, good for Centerville and good for Barnstable. **Kevin Turner** made a motion to approve Little League's proposal for the Centerville Ball Fields project; seconded by **Andy Gauthier**. **Kevin Turner** said that he was glad that Rene King thanked Lisa Jones. His views have changed since the initial meeting. They have done a significantly amount of

work on this. For two years they have been discussing Little League fields and Centerville specifically. **Kevin** said he feels very comfortable that we have done our due diligence for letting the people know of the direction of the inquiry and feel very comfortable making a decision tonight on which way to go. The Commission voted and it was approved unanimously.

Lisa Jones said she asked at the last meeting that the bouse house be moved; it is a foot from her property line. **Kevin Turner** asked Mike LeBlanc, President of Little League, if he could take care of that situation. **Mike LeBlanc** said that as he has done with his other fields, particularly Larrusso, he has knocked on doors and talk with people to make sure things go well. He is very happy to meet with the abutters on Bay Lane, see what there concerns are because he thinks they can make this work for everyone. **Kevin** asked how they can immediately take care of Lisa's request. **Mike** said he will make a call to bouse house and take care of it.

New Business **Clyde Takala** continued with the Appointment of a Recreation Committee member to the CPC, Community Preservation Committee. Joe O'Brien was their past representative and is stepping down. The CPC meets monthly, the third or fourth Monday in the Hearing Room at 5pm. **Kevin Turner** said he would like to nominate Kathy Pina, seconded by **Andy Gauthier**. **Kathy Pina** said she could not commit to that. **Joe O'Brien** said he is commuting from Boston and it is difficult to make the meetings, but he enjoyed the committee immensely. He also said that several pieces of land that have gone before CPC that have been proposed by Recreation. He thinks it is beneficial to have someone from Recreation on that Committee. **Rene King** said that she will get back to the Recreation Commission as soon as she can. **Clyde** said they are required by law to have a member on the CPC.

Old Business **Clyde** asked the Recreation Commission Members if they have any further comments on the Growth Management Open Space report. **Kevin Turner** said Centerville Ball Fields are on that open space twice and is glad to see Growth Management is concerned about the same issue. **Joe O'Brien** made a motion to approve the adjustments Growth Management made and approve them. Seconded by **Rene King**, the Commission voted and it was approved unanimously. **Clyde** said the Growth Management has a meeting on Friday and he will bring it up that Recreation has approved the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Joe O'Brien asked if signage and speed bumps can be addressed at Bay Lane. He thinks it is very important safety issue. **David** said he will talk to Mr. Perry, the Building Commissioner and get that rolling.

Public Comment **None**

Director's Report **Issues will be discussed at the next meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12th, 2010 at 5:30 at Town Hall. **Kevin Turner** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously at 7:40 pm.

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