

**MINUTES PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**December 18, 2008**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Wakelin, Vice Chairman Esau, Secretary Tomlin, Commissioner Mollica. Superintendent Chirokas.

Chairman Wakelin opened the meeting at 7:05pm.

The Minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Mollica presented the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Secretary Tomlin followed by a unanimous vote.

The Commissioners then had a lengthy discussion regarding the Tennis Court. Shawn Reilly attended the meeting and stated that the Town needed five courts. Mr. Reilly is presently searching out information regarding the replacing of the three present courts and adding two new ones. He also stated that he was privy to information where people would donate sizable funds towards this project. Lights are also needed as some have gone out, plus some of the poles need to be replaced. Mr. Reilly felt the Town could do the paving. Also Mr. Barrett, owner of the Ale House Restaurant is willing to help hold fund raisers for the building of the Tennis Courts.

Chairman Wakelin feels the Commissioners are all in agreement to build five courts. Discussion followed on where they could locate the courts. Mr. Reilly stated that the land across from the High School is not a big enough area, nor above the track, as you come into the High School would be good, but they do not have the funds to purchase the land. Discussion followed whether to put an article in under Capital Plan for \$40,000. to \$50,000. for the courts in addition to fundraising efforts for the Tennis Courts. Superintendent Chirokas stated that if they receive Capital Funds for this project, the portion of the project the funds are used for will have to go out for bid.

The Commissioners then met with David Moore of Cape Island Tennis. Discussion followed. Mr. Moore gave a quote of \$250,000. for five new courts. He informed the Commission this figure could be adjusted once he had the accurate specifications and timetable, but that they should not wait but move right along on the project as costs are going up. He also felt they should not cut corners and have a good grade of pavement plus good fencing put in. Mr. Moore was thanked for coming and that the Commission would be in touch with him.

Discussion again followed regarding the Tennis Courts. Using the Park Department and the Highway Department labor and equipment to take out the present courts could cut the cost of the project a great deal. They are to contact the Highway Department and get their expertise and estimates on the project. It has been thirty five years since the last courts were built. The Commissioners also stated they have a year and a half lead time before having to definitely get the project underway. They feel they could get a season out of the present courts and once school is out get the project done.

Superintendent Chirokas is to check with Jim Daley to see if there is any Grant funding in the line of constructing Tennis Courts. Further discussion on the Tennis Courts will be held at the next meeting.

The Commissioners then discussed the Community Preservation Act. They felt the Abington residents needed to be appraised of what the Community Preservation Act was and how it would benefit the Town. They are going to contact other Boards, Committee's, Commissions in the Town plus use Cable TV to open up information on this for the voters, and also put an article in the Mariner where most

residents read this newspaper. The Commissioners are putting on their next Monthly Meeting Agenda further discussion on the right approach regarding the Community Preservation Act.

Superintendent Chirokas then gave his Superintendent's Report. He stated he will be going to court regarding the damage done to the bleachers at the Little League Field. The Town could receive restitution damages. Superintendent Chirokas said he could sell the damaged bleachers for scrap to help offset the cost of new replacement bleachers. He also stated that after reviewing the budget he may not be able to line the fields this spring and summer as he may not be able to hire the needed part time help.

Discussion followed about moving the Junior Varsity Baseball Field. Superintendent Chirokas stated if the field is moved they could lose two Softball Fields in the corner. There will be further discussion regarding this.

At 9:24pm Commissioner Mollica presented the motion to adjourn. Secretary Tomlin seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote.