

Report of the Park and Recreation Commission

2008

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

The Park and Recreation Commission submits its 12th Annual Report on the operations of the Park and Recreation Department to the Townspeople of Abington.

Paul F. Mollica and Scott L. Tomlin were re-elected to their third and second terms respectfully.

Organizing for the year, Steven J. Wakelin was elected Chair, Russell Esau was elected vice-chair, and Scott L. Tomlin was elected as Secretary.

The Abington Park and Recreation Commission wishes to thank all of those local businesses, families and Abington High School alumni who very generously donated over \$250,000 worth of capital improvements to upgrade Abington's recreational facilities at Memorial Field during the past summer. These improvements have improved the quality aesthetics and the safety of our fields for many years to come. All improvements were funded 100% private donations of cash, materials and volunteer labor, in a joint effort to give back to the community.

Baseball Field Improvements:

- removal of old cinder track from outfield areas
- regrading, loaming and seeding of baseball outfields
- installation of baseball dugout concrete foundations
- donation of prefabricated concrete dugout walls & roofs
- donation of 60-ton crane to erect dugouts
- construction of new baseball backstop
- regrading, surveying and reconstruction of baseball field
- donation of all site work for field improvements
- purchase of stone dust and clay for baseball field area
- hydroseeding of new baseball diamond areas
- removal of old telephone poles from field areas
- repair and painting of JV baseball backstop
- expansion and upgrades to field irrigation systems

Football Field Improvements:

- loaming, raking, seeding and fertilizing of the football field
- painting concession stand, scoreboards and retaining walls
- addition of new loam and seed areas beyond north end zone
- repairs and upgrades to the cement bleachers
- construction of a new camera & coaches press box deck
- purchase of portable set of 10-row aluminum bleachers

The Park and Recreation Commission would like to give special thanks to Mr. Shawn Reilly, who took complete charge of the fundraising efforts of the project and also helped in the coordination of the project, Mr. Glenn R. LaPointe and staff, Glenn R. LaPointe Construction Inc, Mr. Chris Kane and staff, Barcellos & Kane Landscaping, Mr. Lee Mann and staff, W Lee Mann & Son Landscaping, Mr. Scott Leines, Turf Irrigation Solutions, Mr. John D'Amelio, Precast Specialities, Paul and Mike Emery, Emery Construction, Russell Wheatley and staff, Russell A. Wheatley Co. Inc., Steve White, S.T. White Concrete Form Contractors, Dennis Barry, Hallmore Corporation, Ken Swezey, Jr., Swezey fence Erectors, Frank Mackiewicz, Brian Barry, Chris Barry, David Gomes, Kevin Whalen, Jim Batson, Highway Superintendent, Mr. Kenan Connell and staff, Abington Highway Department, Walsh Mechanical Contractors, William Perry Trucking, Francis Barrett Memorial Foundation, Max & Al Jeane Beach Foundation, 2008 Christmas House Tour and The Park and Recreation maintenance staff.

All fields remain extremely busy from late March until late November. We are seeing more players, more teams, and more leagues on our fields now than we have ever seen before. As these youth programs continue to grow, our

fields are receiving less and less time to recover from the use. The Commission and the youth organizations have worked very closely trying to plan schedules so fields have a chance to rest and recover.

During the winter months, equipment and manpower were made available to the Highway Department for snow and ice removal.

Other unseasonable chores include bench and bleacher repair, maintaining all small engine power equipment, maintenance of all larger landscape equipment such as riding mowers, walk behind mowers and mowing decks, and tree removal and brush cutting.

General maintenance and upkeep of the 70+ acres of Town property, parks and fields was done on a daily basis.

The Commission and the Park and Recreation Department assisted with the Cancer Relay for Life and the Night Before the Fourth Committee. Both annual events were a great success.

The 29th Annual Charles F. Whitman Senior Citizen's Cookout was held in August. There were over 200 Senior Citizens in attendance that enjoyed the festivities of the day. The Commission would like to extend Thank yous to all cooks and servers and especially to our sponsor, the Abington Bank. Also thank you to the Businesses in Town that donated prizes for the raffle. The music was supplied by the John Shea Orchestra who has been performing at the Senior Citizens Cookout since the beginning of this event. Thank you to the John Shea Orchestra.

All of the programs, except for a small portion of the staffing at Island Grove, offered by the Park and Recreation Department is self funded.

The Island Grove and the Eager Beaver Programs were under the supervision of Mr. Clifford Murray, Recreation Director/Aquatics Director and Peter Serino and Kaylan Finn, Eager Beaver Program Coordinators. Memberships and Swimming lessons were up over last season due to the struggling economy, an aggressive discount incentive package offered to those who registered early for these programs and the capital improvements that were made at Island Grove last summer. Both our programs were largely successful due to the commitment and caring of the Eager Beaver Staff and the Island Grove Staff. The Park and Recreation Commission would like to thank all summer staff members for going the extra mile to make these two programs so successful this past summer. The Park and Recreation Commission would like to thank the Friends of Island Grove for their continued support.

Other Recreational Programs included Men's/Women's' over 30 Basketball, Co-Ed Adult Volleyball, Adult Tennis Lessons, Youth Tennis Clinic, Girls Basketball Camps, Baseball Camp, Drama Workshops, and the FastBreak Basketball Camp

In all Recreational Activities the Commission tries to hire Abington Residents or Students as the Counselors or Instructors for all of its programs.

In closing, the Commission believes that the department is able to offer the taxpayers of Abington a good service thanks to the efforts of many organizations. The Commission would like to express its gratitude to all the Organizations, Clubs, other Town Departments and Citizens of Abington who have helped over the years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Abington Park and Recreation Commission

Steven J. Wakelin, Chair
Russell Esau, Vice-Chair
Scott L. Tomlin, Secretary
Paul F. Mollica, Commissioner
Christopher Trucchi, Commissioner
Mark S. Chirokas, Superintendent