

REPORT OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

The Park and Recreation Commission submit its 124th Annual Report on the operations of the Park and Recreation Department to the Townspeople of Abington.

At the annual town elections, Steven J. Wakelin was elected to his 3rd term.

Organizing for the year, Christopher Trucchi was elected Chair, Paul F. Mollica was elected vice-chair, and Robert Walsh was elected as Secretary.

Track meets, soccer games and summer band concerts are in the there second season at the John B. Reilly Field. Attendance at these events has been very good. Many positive comments about the complex.

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 27th 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 North Abington Cooperative Bank. Also thank you to the Businesses in Town that donated prizes for the raffle. Once again the John Shea Orchestra supplied music. The John Shea Orchestra has been performing for the Senior Citizens 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.

With the help of the Friends of Island Grove Committee, we increased the awareness of Island Grove and the Eager Beaver programs. The Friends of island grove Committee, the Park and Recreation commission and the Park and recreation department worked very closely together to ensure that these programs will stay open for the benefit of the residents of Abington. The Commission and the Department is looking forward to working with the Friends of Island grove for many years to come.

The Island Grove and the Eager Beaver Programs are under the supervision of Mr. Clifford Murray, Recreation Director/Aquatics Director and Melissa Sulmonte, Eager Beaver Program Coordinator. Both programs experienced difficult summers with cold wet weather being the norm. Even though attendance was down in both programs because of weather conditions, the overall enthusiasm and spirit of the programs was outstanding. 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 to thank all summer staff members for going to extra mile to make these two programs so successful this past summer.

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 Commis-
sion*

Christopher Trucchi, *Chair*
Paul F. Mollica, *Vice-Chair*
Robert Walsh, *Secretary*
Steven J. Wakelin, *Commissioner*
Scott D. Tomlin, *Commissioner*
Mark S. Chirokas, *Superintendent*