

Members of the Board of Selectmen(women):

For the past 12 years, I have served this town as either the Chair, or Vice Chair of the Recreation Committee. During this time, I have been part of the delivery of youth sports and activities to the children and families of this town. I have administered leagues, I have recruited coaches, I have coached, refereed and maintained fields, organized and chaperoned trips and worked diligently to solve the conflicts that naturally arise throughout these years.

Recently, as the former Grange building was restored for Community use, the committee of two was expanded beyond volunteer participation to include a committee of appointed participants who were appointed for specific terms and charged with a specific purpose. That purpose currently includes Youth Sports as well as community activities designed to enhance the experience of living in Hampton.

Within this Recreation and Community Activity Commission, I have continued to serve as Vice Chair and recently as Chair. Throughout my service, I have led to my abilities fairly, openly and collaboratively to ensure everyone – EVERYONE - feels welcomed to participate.

The committee is currently working through conflict that has naturally emerged from these recent changes. I don't believe that the removal of Youth Sports from the committee is appropriate at this time. Since the combination in fact, we have been able to effectively deliver youth sports as well as an expanded listing of family & youth activities that comes with a larger committee. These activities include: Pumpkin Carving and Public Display, youth participation in integrated theatre, Christmas caroling, 4 H support, Girl Scout support, Mother's day and Doll Tea Parties. This list is only limited by volunteer support.

Since the expansion, youth sports has continued to effectively deliver opportunities to town families. The committee as a whole has supported youth sports requests and overseen field improvements, purchase of required equipment and support of services to an expanded audience.

I am concerned that activity to separate youth sports from the committee that currently oversees it is short-sighted and personally disagree with the approach in which it is being effected. Quite honestly, my personal feelings are hurt by this activity.

With that said, I will repeat in public what I have asked in private. I am not necessarily against a separation of Youth Sports from the Hampton Recreation and Community Activity Commission's oversight if it is what is best for the community. I believe the proper protocol is to investigate the benefits of such action and weigh them against the benefits of the current situation. Then, I believe that activity to separate should come to the Board of Selectmen as a recommendation from the appointed committee on behalf of the best interests of the residents.

We as a commission stand ready to support and effect such a protocol. In addition, I look forward to working with town leadership to advance the use of the former grange building as a center for community activity and use.

Thank you

Troy Lake
Chair – Hampton Recreation and Community Activities Commission