

The Facilities Subcommittee met on Monday, December 15, 2025, in a Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Jennifer Cullum, Andre King, Sara Ahern, Chris Dwelley, Dave Anthony, Doug Boulanger, Katri Mullaly, and Jennifer Hingston.

Ms. Cullum called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Mr. King, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2025.

Discussion on the Condition and Maintenance of the School Fields/Discussion on Facilities and Field Rental Fees

- Dr. Ahern stated the condition and maintenance of the fields is a collaboration between the schools and recreation department. Dave Anthony prepared a brief presentation to discuss the various assets.
- Mr. Anthony gave an overview of his presentation. The Committee spoke about the different users: school, recreation, and permitted other groups. They spoke about the costs of maintaining the fields and the fees charged not covering that costs.
- Mr. Anthony stated the Town Field Study is now 10 years old and not relevant.
- Mr. Anthony looked at the fields at Barnstable High School and Barnstable Intermediate School. The Schools permits out the high school fields. For this size high school, there should be four times the amount of land. One can see the wear on the fields and they should be rested. There is a community use of the tennis courts. There is more recreational use of the fields at the Intermediate School.
- Ms. Cullum asked how it is decided who rents it out: the school or recreation. Ms. Mullaly has not found an answer to this. Recreation has been renting out the fields when schools are not using it. Mr. Anthony stated the Town Charter allowed for continued use of the fields through recreation. There is a good relationship between the schools and the Town.
- Mr. Anthony stated the Intermediate School is an opportunity for growth. Barnstable United (BUES) is another school with opportunities. We have relied on the user groups of the Babe Ruth field for its maintenance. They helped fundraise and had volunteers help maintain the fields. To maintain this field, there is a lot of maintenance needed. He spoke about the Little League behind West Villages being well maintained at one point and then when the field behind BCIS came to be, the West Villages field was abandoned.
- Ms. Cullum stated the School and Town people need to come together to figure out who is responsible for this Babe Ruth field. The Town rents it out to Babe Ruth, so they need to speak to them about the shed and broken windows. Mr. Anthony stated the Babe Ruth parents put in the scoreboard, dugouts, press box and the fence. Those students have aged out and now people are asking why the Town is not maintaining the field. The Town and School would never have put those items on the field in the first place. Ms. Cullum stated this is going to cost money, so maybe fees will need to be raised.
- Mr. King stated there is a demand of the sports fields and the conditions need to be better. It is School property and a point of pride for members on this School Committee. He feels the responsibility is with the School Committee. He feels the fees should be going down and not up for the use of fields.
- Ms. Mullaly stated the Recreation Department has a different fee structure than the School does. The School Department does not see any of that revenue for maintaining those fields. Mr. Anthony stated this is not a lot of money. It is about \$15,000.
- Mr. Anthony spoke about the BUES football field. Barnstable Lacrosse was going to lease this field for 10 years and put money into it. The question is who would be the lessor of this type of contract. The track at this field is not needed for the school.
- Ms. Cullum asked about the Facilities building rental fees. He asked if Recreation Department has a different fee schedule. Dr. Ahern stated yes.
- Mr. Anthony looked at the West Villages baseball field.
- Mr. King would like a new category in the fee schedule for local non-profits.
- Mr. Anthony spoke about the tennis courts and pickleball courts at West Villages. The School does not have any responsibility for these courts. Ms. Mullaly stated the grounds around the courts are maintained by the Schools. Mr.

Boulanger stated the pickleball players are assuming the parking lots belong to them and are aggressive at pick up and drop off of students.

- Mr. Anthony spoke about the former Elite Little League Field. This field was abandoned by the little league. To clean this up is going to cost tens of thousands of dollars.
- Ms. Cullum stated she is not leaving the School Committee without a plan for the fields.
- Mr. Anthony spoke about the Barnstable-West Barnstable field. There is no access to the field without going on school property. He does not think Recreation permits this field.
- Mr. Anthony spoke about the Cape Cod Collective field. There are three small fields that the Collaborative has the right to permit out. He does not think Recreation permits this field.
- Mr. Anthony spoke about the field at Centerville. The field across the street is not School land.

Next Steps

- Mr. Anthony asked what the next steps looks like.
- Ms. Cullum stated we need to talk about what the needs are in the district and how do we meet those needs. She suggested having a focus group about what the community wants. The School might need to do a needs assessment on the fields and the sports programs. We are building our community and not just School needs. She would like to meet with Mr. King and Dr. Ahern to figure out the School needs.
- Mr. Anthony stated he has been given a set of goals and he supports moving towards those goals.
- Ms. Cullum stated they need to decide who needs to be at the table, what the school needs are, what the maintenance plan is, and then decide if we can do it or if it needs to be farmed out.
- Dr. Ahern stated there needs to be criteria in the decision making. There are examples in other communities.
- Ms. Cullum stated she would like to get together in January with Mr. King and Dr. Ahern.

Motion by Mr. King, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Subcommittee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant