

**1. Please state your department's or committee's charge or job description.**

The mission of the Hingham Recreation Commission is to provide high quality, affordable recreation programs as well as maintain safe and accessible fields and facilities throughout the Hingham community. Our program offerings will strive to assist all Hingham residents in enhancing their physical, social and emotional well-being.

**2. To whom is your department or committee accountable?**

The Hingham Recreation Department employees are accountable to the Recreation Commission. The Hingham Recreation Commission is a five member elected board. The Recreation Commissioners are accountable to the residents of Hingham.

**3. What three things contribute most to the successful functioning of your department or committee?**

First and foremost, the Director and Commission's working relationship is extremely productive. The current Commission sets policy and does not get involved with management decisions. The Commission empowers the Director to make staffing, programming, and budgetary decisions. This flexibility and trust has streamlined daily operations.

Secondly, the administrative staff including the Administrative Secretary, Program Assistant Supervisor, and the Summer Program Directors are incredibly skilled and hard working. The Department is lucky to have dedicated employees who truly enjoy working in the recreation field. The staff are always looking for ways to become more efficient as an organization.

Interdepartmental working relationships has been key to the successful functioning of the Hingham Recreation Department. For example, The Recreation Department and the South Shore Country Club have partnered on a number of projects including the Carlson Complex. A second example of the Rec's partnership with the SSCC was this year Halloween's party.

**4. What three things would you change to bring about more effective functioning?**

The operation of Town recreational fields and facilities could become more efficient by consolidating recreational services. Presently, two different organizations lease or control the athletic fields on Beal Street. Another non profit organization leases town owned land at Hingham Harbor to offer sailing and rowing classes. The School Department, Selectman's Office, and the Hingham Recreation all own and operate different parcels of land and playing fields. Having multiple organizations control a variety of recreational amenities has caused confusion among Hingham Residents.

A second reason to consolidate the operations of recreational fields and facilities is to have transparency. Hingham Recreation's revenue and expenses are processed through the Town's accounting department. This provides transparency to the Recreation Commission, Selectman, Advisory Committee, and the Capital Outlay Committee. Leasing Town owned land to non profit organizations does not give Town officials full access to the financial statements. The Hingham Recreation Commission has always prided itself by being self sufficient including capital purchases. We have also found it curious that the non profit

organizations who lease the Beal Street Fields, at no charge, are provided with free grass cutting. However, Hingham's own Recreation Department pays for grass cutting at the new Carlson Complex.

**5. What challenges do you anticipate that might impact the work of your department or committee in the future and what changes would you suggest for addressing those challenges?**

**Challenge 1: "Facilities to Grow"**

The Hingham Recreation Department currently has two classrooms at its' disposal. One of the classrooms is used as a childcare room (Monday-Friday) for fitness room members and fitness program participants. The other classroom is used to house a myriad of adult fitness classes including, but not limited to, spinning, tae boxing, and yoga. In addition to the classrooms there is also a gymnasium, game room, and fitness room. The facilities listed above are all in great demand.

This demand for facilities exponentially increases during the summer months. The Hingham Recreation Department has been offering a summer program to town residents for over 30 years. Our summer program provides a summer getaway for over 1200 children, ages 4-12. There are 4 two week sessions for children ages 6-12 and 3 two week sessions for children ages 4-5. The demand for our summer program is so high that the Preschool Program has been relocated to a local elementary school to provide additional room for the older children. Hence, many of our facilities are unavailable during the summer months. Due to this unavailability of facilities the department has only been able to offer a limited amount of supplemental summer programs and classes for children and adults not attending or involved with the summer program.

As a result there is little room in our scheduled events, programs, and classes to expand. Our lack of facilities makes it near impossible to expand all of the programs needed to satisfy the wants and needs of all individuals in the town of Hingham.

**Our Solution to this Challenge: Renovate the Recreation Commission's historic Barn behind Town Hall – (Community Preservation Proposal)**

We believe this proposal will preserve a town owned historic resource that is important to Hingham's character. This project will also enhance the overall welfare for the Hingham community while providing active recreational opportunities.

**Recent Update to the Rec Department's Community Preservation Proposal:**

At the last community preservation committee meeting, it was noted that the Town feels that building 179 may be a more appropriate building for the Recreation Department. Although we are excited for the potential of building 179, there are major questions that need to be answered. Most importantly, it would be extremely expensive to rehab building 179. Would the Town support the Recreation Department with an amended community preservation proposal in-order to rehab building 179?