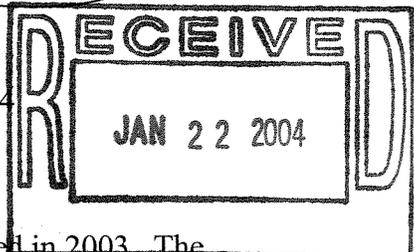


Bas 1/20 (17)



January 20, 2004

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I am concerned about the steep rise in NARA beach fees that occurred in 2003. The family fee went from \$80 to \$125, against the more moderate recommendation of the Recreation Director. The net result was a drop from 509 to 269 in resident family memberships. Although the family resident fee increased 56%, beach fee revenue for the season increased just \$225. I urge you to keep fees reasonable rather than setting a fee that seeks to maximize revenue. A rapidly escalating fee can be prohibitive and keep Acton residents from enjoying recreation opportunities at their town facility.

Seasonal memberships also stabilize revenue as they are not dependent on consistently good weather. Citizens get to fully utilize NARA Park rather than picking only those days when they can stay long enough to justify the daily beach fee in their budget.

Finally, it may be necessary to define "family" membership as some people took advantage of the lack of a definition and included large numbers of relatives under the one family membership.

We hope to work together with Nancy McShea and the Board of Selectman to continue to improve the NARA Park experience. Maximizing accessibility with a reasonable fee is an important part of this mission.

Sincerely,
Ronald Schlegel
Ronald Schlegel
Chairman
Acton Recreation Commission