

Friends of Brodie Park South

***"Preserving the Rural Character and Environmental Treasure of
Brodie Park South"***

March 24, 2012

Dear Neighbor of A New Hartford Town Park:

The nature of your neighborhood in proximity to a town park is vulnerable and may be about to change dramatically, just as the neighborhood around Brodie Park South (BPS) has. This is because the Recreation Commission is now **reviewing and revising the town's park rules** while they are under extreme pressure from the First Selectman to rewrite the rules to permit intensified sports activities in the parks such as took place at BPS last year. The new park rules, like the old, will apply to all town parks. We have all relied on these rules through the years to preserve the **character of our neighborhoods** and our **property values**.

Last fall the Football program practiced at BPS on Niles Road **in a residential neighborhood WITH the First Selectman's support and AGAINST the Recreation Commission's long standing park rules.**

3 to 5 nights a week and some weekend mornings and for 3- 4 hours each practice, August through November, Football practiced in BPS under these conditions:

- Practices were held to as late as 9 at night, with activity continuing sometimes later - **PARKS CLOSE AT SUNSET**
- Football used construction floodlights powered by a generator and the headlights of their cars to light up the fields - **THE USE OF LIGHTS WAS NOT APPROVED BY REC**
- Parking of 50+ cars regularly overflowed north & south on rural Niles Road as well as onto the fields of BPS. BPS's parking capacity is approx 12. Multiple times, cars parked directly on neighbors' property - **PARKING ON ROADS ADJACENT TO PARKS & ON PARK GROUNDS IS A VIOLATION OF PARK RULES.**
- For 4 months, 3 to 5 nights per week, whistles sounded shrilly & frequently. Intensely yelled military style coaching commands resonated repetitively. These commands were followed by high volume group chant backs by team members. All this could be heard from well over 1000 feet from BPS - **EXCESSIVE NOISE IS A VIOLATION OF PARK RULES.**
- A large storage unit was rented by Football and put in the park for 3-4 months to store equipment - **PERMISSION FOR THE STORAGE UNIT WAS NOT GRANTED BY REC WHICH HAS NEVER ALLOWED THIS TYPE OF EXTENDED USE.**

Neighbors asked Football to follow the rules and **they were ignored.** The **Recreation Commission** asked Football to move their practice to another location. **They were also ignored.**

Neighbors and other concerned residents formed the Friends Of Brodie Park South (FOBPS). This group went to the town's Selectmen and were turned away. They went to Planning and Zoning Commission with 12 written complaints and no action was taken by the Zoning Officer. They called the State and Town Police for help and no enforcement action was taken.

With another football season only months away, the First Selectman has publicly said that Football will again return to the fields at Brodie Park South this year and the next with their activity continuing at the same level as last year, even though the **more appropriate field space** at Antolini School is available to Football.

The Recreation Commission has **reaffirmed the park rules and regulations at their March 7 meeting**. They also reaffirmed that **the rules and regulations apply to all group activity at all town parks**. To watch a **video of that meeting** go to <http://youtu.be/UGeepJsM-9M>.

The First Selectman's response to this reaffirmation was to issue a directive to the Recreation Commission to **cancel all evening activities in the parks, including activities booked at Berkshire Hall**. Planning and Zoning refused to accept the Farmers Market application even though Rec had approved their site plan.

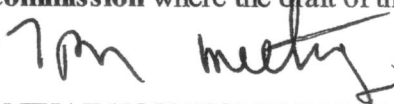
The Recreation Commission met with the First Selectman and agreed to review and revise their rules, which they are doing.

We are **EXTREMELY CONCERNED** that Rec might be pressured to change the rules to permit the activity that has been occurring at Brodie Park South. This change would effect activities in all our town parks. Please understand that we are not opposed to sports activities but are opposed to the intensified use of our town parks that disturbs neighborhoods and limits the use and enjoyment of our parks by other residents.

Please let your voice be heard:

LET REC KNOW THAT YOU WANT THE SAME LEVEL OF PROTECTION AS YOUR PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED!

- **Contact members of the Rec Commission** and let them know that you support them and their efforts to continue their management of the parks in a way that respects the needs of all users and neighbors. See the New Hartford phone book for the names of members of the Rec Commission.
- **Attend the April 4th meeting of the Rec Commission** where the draft of the revised park rules will be presented and public input will be allowed.



LET THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE KNOW THAT YOU WON'T TOLERATE THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN OUR TOWN PARKS THAT HE IS SUPPORTING AT BRODIE PARK SOUTH!

- **Contact First Selectman Dan Jerram:** 860-379-3389
- **Email the First Selectman:** djerram@town.new-hartford.ct.us

TO LEARN MORE OR TO JOIN FRIENDS OF BRODIE PARK SOUTH'S ORGANIZED EFFORT

- **email:** friendsofbrodieparksouth@gmail.com **call:** 860-689-5756