

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 6/28/17**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 7/10/17**
PUBLIC HEARING ON FRANCHISE/CONCESSION GRANT
TO THE CAPITAL DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
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Attended by Supervisor Dellisanti, Deputy Supervisor Ruso, Councilmembers Briody, Irving and VanEtten, Town Clerk Finke, Tax Collector Jordan, Highway Superintendent Jordan, and 2 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

Supervisor Dellisanti opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM and read, 'Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Hearing before the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore on June 26, 2017 at 6:45 PM at the Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding a Franchise/Concession Grant to the Capital District Cricket Association. All persons wishing to be heard in favor or opposition will have such opportunity at the time and place stated above. By Order of the New Baltimore Town Board'

Supervisor Dellisanti: Anyone have any question on the Cricket Association?

Ellie Alfeld: I understand this is going to be a two year agreement.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes.

Ellie Alfeld: And we're only going to get \$25 per day that they use the thing.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Correct.

Ellie Alfeld: On the Agenda that I read today, I didn't see where it said that the New Baltimore public can also use those grounds.

Supervisor Dellisanti: It's in the resolution.

Ellie Alfeld: Even though they may be having a game, they can use the side yards?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Absolutely. I'm hoping that he actually comes tonight from the Association so he can give a little background and what type of maintenance they're going to do onto the outfield or the ball field. They have to bring in tons of top soil and seed to level off the ball field in District 3 Park.

Ellie Alfeld: I think this is a very good thing that you're doing and it didn't take place when it first originated in Hallock Park. We didn't have this public hearing thing I don't think or remember. I don't remember us ever having one, but that's beside the point. They've worked out very well for us.

Town Clerk Finke: He came to our meeting.

Ellie Alfeld: Yes, I remember the meeting.

Supervisor Dellisanti: They made a presentation. They put a lot of time, effort, and money into that.

Ellie Alfeld: Oh, I know. I said it worked out well. The cricket thing is during the daylight hours so from what I gather.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Summertime it's still light out until 8:30 at night so they can actually play all afternoon. Ashok, before you sit down, we're talking about your resolution. Why don't you step up to the podium and tell us a little bit about the Association and what your plans are. Tell everybody who you are.

Ashok Adikoppula: First of all, thank you for the opportunity. My name is Ashok, I'm the founder of the Capital District Cricket Association. We established this organization in 2015. It's a not-for-profit organization to promote game of Cricket. I don't know how many of you are familiar with the game itself, but to begin with it's the second most popular game across the world and also the first international cricket game ever was actually played in New York City back in 1844, but then whatever happened after that, that's another story. Here we are today trying to bring the game back into the local community. There are a few states, especially

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New York City, Indiana, Atlanta -- I mean the cities -- Dallas, Texas. I know Missouri, they have well-established system as well as school cricket right from the grassroots all the way to pro leagues and stuff. So that's what we are trying to do here. We have about 22 cricket teams located majority of them around Capital District -- Clifton Park, Albany, Guilderland, Glenmont, Bethlehem -- so they're all over -- Menands -- but we also started working with three school districts -- Shenendehowa School District, North Colonie School District as well as Menands School District -- for the school cricket hopefully from September, it has to be a case in one or two school districts it's going to be part of the curriculum. So that's the next step what we are looking into. The reason for me being here since it's kind of standard to picking up, we were looking for more fields. Cricket field actually is kind of larger field in comparison with other sports and there is a certain style as to how the field has to be set up, a hole has to be dug right in the center and hard at the surface. Therefore when we pitch, pitch out to the ground and it has to come on a bounce so it's a separate requirement in comparison with other sports. So we were trying to reach out to places on top of what we already have in Schenectady and downtown Albany. I'm not sure I probably called ten different places and I used to live here in Coxsackie, so then I said 'okay let me just go ahead and give a call, what am I going to lose?' If anything then they'll say they don't have any availability right, but then I was on the phone with a lady who was very helpful. I don't know who that one is, but she was very helpful and she said 'okay I'm kind of familiar with the sport, but our Town Supervisor is even more.' So I got in touch with this gentleman here, Town Supervisor, and he's more than helpful obviously. So Mr. Dellisanti said 'come on over, why don't you come over, take a look at the field if it works.' And then I come to know he actually maintained cricket fields in New York City so obviously it was a great help to talk to somebody who knows how the setup has to be and everything and the gentleman over there, the Assistant Supervisor or Deputy, remember the ride we took? That's great, thank you.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, of course.

Ashok Adikoppula: But otherwise the goal is to bring the actual leagues to the Town and start building the youth cricket. I see what you guys are doing in Town with that little baseball field. That's awesome and in two years if you can bring the Champions home, obviously it can bring a lot of results. That's the goal for now, but on top of all that we also have a bill in both the House, Senate and Assembly. We are working with local Assemblyman and also Saturday I happen to meet with Paul Tonko, the Congressman, to get his advocacy because the bill actually involves three separate states -- New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. So we needed something about just the State level. So working with the Congressman and I have an appointment with him in a couple weeks so hopefully let's see how that goes. And that's where I stand for now. Coming to personal level, I played in England, major league cricket for Sussex County and I played for India, and I played in New York, New Jersey; now trying to pass the knowledge to hopefully bring some school cricket in place.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Into the large Town of New Baltimore.

Ashok Adikoppula: Yes, sir.

Ellie Alfeld: We got the land.

Supervisor Dellisanti: The other thing we were talking about in prior meetings is that you're going to be bringing in some topsoil to level out the outfield of what was normally the baseball field over there and also rolling it and seeding it as well.

Ashok Adikoppula: That's the plan because we need a flat field as we discussed right, it has to be completely flat all around. There is a portion of it, I think about 30-40 percent of the field is on the lower side, so we were working with suppliers to see who can bring it up. As a not-for-profit, as obviously all of you can understand, we don't have a lot of budget, but we're doing what we can. Lafarge has been nice to donate the limestone already and then we're trying to see if we can get some more donations and then hopefully we can get that done around September or October time.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Excellent.

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County Legislator Linger: How many people do you bring in to the Town for your tournament or your games?

Ashok Adikoppula: There's a couple of ways to look at this. The first, we have league games. League games are typically played between, you know the schedule goes just two teams. Cricket games, I don't know if you have an idea, they generally go for long. You can play -- not at our level, but professional level -- it can go from 9-5, 5 days including lunch breaks and tea breaks and then you can play a game from 9-5 one day -- itself is called one day game -- and then we have truncated version which is a 20-20, roughly four hour games. Even truncated at our level because semiprofessional so we're doing it 35 lower games. From 50 truncated to 35, so that is generally 6 hours games, and then the 20-20 is like 3 1/2 hour games. And then we have hardball which is a cricket ball, I wish I could show that, I'm sorry I think I should have one in the car I can bring to you, but it's a really hard seamed cricket ball and that's one type and the second type is with the harder tennis ball, softer cricket ball. It's actually a tennis ball, but they made for cricket, a little harder than actual tennis balls. So those are for about an hour-and-a-half or so, but those we do it as tournaments not just leagues. We have leagues as well as tournaments. So for an example what we had on June 10-11, we had a tournament that was spread out on three fields with 24 teams, so each team roughly about 11-15 people with your extras -- backup players, injuries, all that stuff. I forgot to mention I was actually, I shared that information to Mr. Dellisanti, we had on June 3 a Mayor's Cup in downtown Albany. Kathy Sheehan was present, the media and everything, so we had about 200 spectators for that game.

Supervisor Dellisanti: I saw the video, you had sent me video of the game. It was very good.

Ashok Adikoppula: News Channel 13; there was coverage from them.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I remember when we took the ride. You spoke a little bit about the youth instructional and the programming that you had in mind. And I think that's a great idea. I dare say there is nobody in the Town of New Baltimore who's a cricket player, but how would a youngster, I think is what you're looking to, how would they perhaps come on up, take a look, and maybe get some instruction and maybe even join in?

Ashok Adikoppula: Yes, that would be awesome. Currently that's another piece of item. What we are doing is working with Capital District Guilderland YMCA Branch. We are working with them for the summer youth camp. It's about an eight week program, started two weeks ago on Tuesday. By the way I'm also a certified coach so I took up that initiation to start the first ever youth program and also in association with the YMCA. We have about 15 kids from various backgrounds and everything is going great. It's only been two weeks; tomorrow will be the third session. Fifteen kids and obviously most of them they don't know what the basics are; we are starting right from the scratch, but that's the fun. Personally I want to start there because it's easy to groom right from the beginning and then when they see when they're around our games, it's more exposure to them in how the games are played and how easy because once you know the basics like any sport, you know how it is.

Ellie Alfeld: Question, how many people, if you're a nonprofit in the local area, approximately how many people are actually in your club or organization?

Ashok Adikoppula: Multiple clubs, but the organization you're talking about or the actual clubs?

Ellie Alfeld: Here in this area I'm taking about.

Ashok Adikoppula: In New Baltimore?

Ellie Alfeld: No.

Councilmember VanEtten: No, you mean Capital District area.

Ellie Alfeld: Capital District, yes.

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Ashok Adikoppula: Number of playerswise I would say roughly about 400 players among all the clubs and stuff because 22 clubs and then we have officials – referees and all those kinds -- and then we have the Board members. So close to about...

Ellie Alfeld: So you have a good membership.

Ashok Adikoppula: Yes, ma'am, 300-400 members actively working every weekend either playing or organizing or some sign of participation.

Ellie Alfeld: Thank you.

Ashok Adikoppula: You're welcome.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Any other questions? Hearing none, I'm going to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to close the Public Hearing at 6:59 PM

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Briody, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Supervisor Dellisanti: This hearing is closed.

Ashok Adikoppula: Once again thank you for the opportunity.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Thank you for coming.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke
Town Clerk

