



Shrewsbury Youth Soccer

P.O. Box 604
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Feb. 27, 2011

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Youth
Soccer
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Mr. James Kane
Board of Selectmen
100 Maple Ave.
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Dear Mr. Kane:

Since 1985, Shrewsbury Youth Soccer has been providing Shrewsbury children between the ages of 4 and 19 the opportunity to play soccer. The goal of SYS is to create and foster a positive and fun-filled environment for players, coaches, officials and parents. The program strives to maintain the highest standard of skill and sportsmanship, developing and training players, coaches and referees for all levels of competition.

Shrewsbury Youth Soccer supports approximately 75 teams with 1000 kids in the spring, and 96 teams with 1300 kids in the fall. Practices and games are held at the Glavin complex on Lake Street, as well as on town fields throughout Shrewsbury. Approximately 60% of our teams play and practice at Glavin. This space is essential to our program.

The use of town fields incurs a usage fee of \$15 per child. The Glavin fields are utilized via a yearly lease agreement with the Glavin Center, which is currently \$1,500 per year, which is paid to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition to the cost of the annual lease, SYS maintains the fields at its own expense. Despite a great deal of volunteer labor to defray some costs, we currently expend approximately \$52,000 for grass cutting, fertilization, aeration, irrigation, lining/painting fields and leasing port o potties. If SYS was to lose the use of the Glavin fields, we would look to the town of Shrewsbury to provide additional recreational space for us to use.

In 1998, the state of Massachusetts and Glavin agreed to allow SYS to renovate and use the undeveloped property attached to the Glavin Center facility. SYS paid \$550,000 to renovate the Glavin land for recreational soccer use. To do this, SYS acquired a loan from Westboro Savings Bank. The bank required many agreements to be in place before the lending of the money to SYS. As a requirement of our loan, the Commonwealth gave SYS a letter of intent allowing SYS to have access to Glavin fields for 20 years.

On behalf of the entire Shrewsbury Youth Soccer Board of Directors, I extend our sincere support of the proposed zoning changes to the Glavin Center parcel and adjacent fields. We appreciate the proactive measures the Board of Selectmen are undertaking to protect our recreation and open space assets and to expand the non-residential tax base of the community.

Sincerely,

Scott Bobbitt
President, Shrewsbury Youth Soccer

cc: Kristen Wilson, planner