

CCHS Girls Varsity Basketball coach is gearing up for the season

by Anne Lehmann

It is a perfect fit when you hire someone who has played, coached and refereed basketball in high school and college to be the CCHS girls basketball coach. Amy Davagian is just that perfect mix. Playing for Holy Cross in college is what began this long love for the sport and zest for team comradery. During these early years she developed as a person and an athlete. Davagian noted that she played on great teams with outstanding teammates and coaches. "It was at this time that I developed a focused work ethic and understood what teamwork is all about. It's the teammates and hustle combo that enables wins and championships." Winning was in the cards last season as the CCHS girls team had a 12-3 record and won the dual county championship.

Davagian reflected on the team she has for the upcoming year and her ideas about developing the program. One of her initial tasks is building a strong coaching staff and offering the team off-season workout sessions to deepen skills outside of the winter season. She is also continually striving to best her own coaching and leadership style. Another goal is to increase participation in the basketball program from youth to high school in both towns, Concord and Carlisle. Finally, her goal is to reconnect CCHS girls' basketball alumnae with the program.

It is impressive that in one year, Davagian has created the building blocks to cross generations in both directions. Simply put, Davagian is expanding the program to reach kindergarten through eighth-grade girls basketball players. As the former CC youth basketball coach, she has a breadth of knowledge in this area. She has recruited her high school team to run clinics for this age range and give kids off-season opportunities. There is a girls' clinic on Saturdays this fall for any girls interested, kindergarten through eighth grade. Current CCHS players volunteer to coach,



Coach and mentor Amy Davagian. (Courtesy photo)

support and simply be role models for the younger kids. These relationships are not lost within the CC team as they understand their impact on other kids in the program and in the community. This coming season is interesting. It is an unusual year because there are ten returning seniors and three returning juniors. This again provides the opportunity to have the upper classmen be the leaders, role models and mentors to the younger girls in the program and on the team.

In addition, Davagian and her team will host a New Year's Eve clinic. High school coaches run the clinic and again K-8 come and experience basketball. While this event is fun filled, the hope is that it increases enrollment for CC youth basketball. There are additional opportunities for younger girls to experience a high school level game situation, they can be a 'ball girl' during home games. If that seems a bit much, then this year visitors are allowed to attend games in person and everyone is welcome to cheer the team on, home or away!

The second generation that Davagian is knitting together is the CCHS girls basketball alumnae. She is planning to recruit previous players to form an alumnae network and of course to play in an alumnae basketball game this December. With the intent of keeping players connected, she wants to link any interested high school student together with an individual alumna to build a career mentoring program. It would provide an opportunity to match interested CC players with alumnae who have similar career interests. The alumna can come back and still feel part of the program, and both play in a game and separately provide career advice to players. Davagian noted, "If I can grow the network and connect women who have gone on to do great things and then be impactful role models for the players, that would meet my goal."

This layered plan provides ways to involve youth in the program and allows former players to provide advice and mentoring, while still aiming for the DCL championship for the current team.

For specific information about the clinics and the new year's eve event go to their website <http://www.cchsgirlsbasketball.org/> and follow them on twitter @CCgirlsbbalDCL for the latest news during the season. A

Master Plan Steering Committee reviews priority recommendations

by Sam Cochrane

The Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) met on November 3 to discuss the town Master Plan's recommendations and next steps for the plan's approval this year. With feedback collected from surveys and the September 29 community forum, the committee created a list of near-term "priority recommendations."

Key takeaways

The MPSC agreed that the greatest consensus relates to key decisions about land use and facilities in Carlisle. The central recommendation was item 7A, which recommends that the town develop a five-to-ten-year facilities plan that prioritizes "maintenance, rehabilitation, land acquisition, and new construction." The committee agreed that development of the facilities plan should engage the community as well as leadership from the public schools to ensure an effective and inclusive process.

Another key recommendation was for the establishment of a Master Plan Implementation Committee that will report to the Planning Board while the plan is being instituted.

Municipal priorities

Committee members shared their support for recommendation 4A, which encourages the town to introduce "integrated municipal use" of Geographic Information System Mapping (GIS) to inform land use, zoning, and other municipal decisions.

Another recommendation labeled as a priority is the use of proactive

planning for Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B properties in Carlisle. These are properties that receive tax reductions from State land programs, specifically for lands considered valuable to forestry, agriculture, and recreation. As of last year, 32 parcels in Carlisle comprising nearly 700 acres were enrolled under the three tax-reduction programs.

The committee recommended developing a conceptual plan for the Banta-Davis and Moseley lands that incorporates multiple community needs and is accessible to a range of users. To improve the efficiency of general land acquisition, the MPSC also recommended the development of a standing request for proposal (RFP) for town land acquisitions.

Also included was an analysis of municipal space needs by departments, including possible space freed up by the construction of new public safety facilities. This process would be aided by the Municipal Facilities Committee, Public Safety Building Task Force, and the Town Governance Task Force.

Environmental Stewardship

Committee members expressed their support for recommendation 15E, to "incorporate environmental stewardship and sustainability impacts into municipal decision making." Committee member Deborah Bentley shared her support for environmental stewardship and made it clear that specific recommendations will have to rest on the back of 15E.

"Decisions on sustainability can also come from the top, which I believe they

are beginning to" added Bentley.

Using the "Path to Zero Emissions" report as a starting point, the committee agreed to prioritize an implementation plan for achieving sustainable goals and tracking progress over time. The committee will recommend the establishment of an environmental stewardship volunteer committee to develop and implement the plan. Members agreed that to aid the volunteer committee, a designated staff member should be hired to work 20-40 hours per week. Their duties would include grant-writing and applications as well as community outreach work.

Bentley has served on the Carlisle Energy Task Force that worked on energy sustainability, and several years ago employed a part-time energy manager who helped apply for grants. The Task Force is not currently active (see "Energy Task Force paused," July 14.)

The MPSC will also recommend further policies to encourage recycling and reduce solid waste in accordance with the 2021 Transfer Station Task Force and the Household Recycling Committee.

Caring community

The MSPC voted recommendation 23C as a top priority, which aims to protect the community from impacts of climate change through the implementation of the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan and

Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plans would help address emergency shelter needs, improve the resiliency of the electric grid (perhaps by partnering with Concord), and identify vulnerable infrastructure throughout Carlisle. The MPSC also agreed to recommend regulatory changes that will promote housing diversity and "allow development of missing middle housing" in specified areas.

Fiscal priorities

The MPSC gave top priority to recommending the development and use of a comprehensive financial model that would "enable citizens, town staff, and committees alike to understand the Town's fiscal health."

Connectivity and access

The committee agreed to prioritize the development of a holistic communication and technology strategy for the town. This strategy will encompass nine separate recommendations relating to connectivity and access. Also prioritized was recommendation 12A, which would provide broadband Internet access to all residents. Other priorities for connectivity and access included improving and updating electric infrastructure.

Survey closes November 18

The final MPSC survey to gather public comments for the Master Plan will close on November 18. To participate, pick up a paper copy at Gleason Library or Town Hall or fill it out online at www.carlisleplan.org. A

Magic Noodle Take & Make Kit at the Gleason

Unleash your imagination. Bring home a fun kit to make a Magic Noodle turtle or your own 3-D structure. Each Take & Make craft kit includes a cardstock turtle, an orange paper plate, a large scoop of colorful Magic Noodles and instructions.

Register at gleasonlibrary.org/events for a kit and pick it up any time between Friday, November 12, at 10 a.m. and Monday, November 15, at 9 p.m. via in-person or curbside pickup. This Take & Make craft is for ages three and up with help from an adult. This Take & Make craft kit is made possible by the Friends of the Gleason Public Library.

If you have any questions about this kit, email childrens@gleasonlibrary.org.

RSC School Committee hosts METCO coffee

Join the Concord-Carlisle School Committee for coffee and conversation this Saturday, November 13, at METCO, Inc. 11 Roxbury Street, Roxbury, MA from 12 to 2 p.m.

There is an exhibit of the history of METCO which you will have the opportunity to tour and then meet in the conference room. This is the third and final of the School Committee's Fall coffees that have been focused on highlighting updates in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Special Education and the Concord Middle School project. School Committee members welcome the opportunity for questions and for you to engage with the committee informally. Have a mask with you as you will be inside and there is a mask mandate for the city of Boston.

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