

## Future of Lincroft parcel hotly debated

Posted by the [Asbury Park Press](#) on 08/9/06

BY [ALISON HERGET](#)

KEYPORT BUREAU

MIDDLETOWN — It's an issue that the mayor said "has taken on a life of its own" since a Lincroft neighborhood meeting earlier this year where discussion revolved around the fate of two 7.5-acre parcels on Middletown-Lincroft Road.

"I feel like I'm talking and no one's listening," said Mayor Thomas G. Hall at Monday's Township Committee meeting. "I couldn't tell you as I'm sitting here if we could put a lemonade stand there."

But local residents are not concerned about a lemonade stand. They are fearful there is going to be a large-scale recreational facility to meet what the mayor says is the township's need for another sports area.

"I want to know what is being proposed," shouted Lincroft resident Donald Howell at the meeting. Howell said he is afraid that the committee will allow a brightly lit, giant-speakered sports field to border his backyard.

But Township Administrator Robert Czech said discussions about proposals for the land are "premature" because the wetlands have not been completely mapped.

Recently, he said, township officials have been flooded with letters urging them to leave the site as it is.

Alicia Textores of Lincroft said that when she voted for the open space question, she thought Green Acres property was "going to be grass, it was going to be trees."

If a site is being considered for recreational use, Hall said, a public hearing would be held before the committee takes action. Hall said the township "probably needs another athletic facility," partly because the schools are being inundated with requests for lacrosse fields and more space for other sports.

Deputy Mayor Gerard Scharfenberger said he has been asked why the Middletown-Lincroft Road property cannot be taken out of consideration for possible recreational use.

"We have to follow protocol," he said. "It wouldn't be right to the other locations that we are studying."

*Alison Herget: (732) 888-2621*

or [aherget@app.com](mailto:aherget@app.com)