May 14, 2025

To the Northport Village Council,

My name is Abigail Charter and I am Buster Dame's granddaughter. I'm writing in regards to using the Buster Dame Ballfield for a proposed housing project. For those of you who don't know me, I was born and raised in Northport, I grew up a block away from Buster & Jean's home. My mother, Buster's daughter, and my brother still live in Northport and my father & grandparents are buried here. I lived in Northport for years before I moved away…my heart is in Northport although I no longer live in town. I also grew up playing at the ballfield.

I'm sure some of you might be wondering why members of the Dame family are choosing to speak up now. Simply put, no one thought to talk to the Dame Family before this all started. Imagine our surprise when save Buster Dame signs started showing up in Northport and the reason for it. While I'm not naive enough to think that it was by any means a requirement that someone in the family be notified, it would have been the kind thing to do.That said, we are grateful for all the hard work Eric and others have put into "Saving Buster Dame".

I recently attended the Northport Township meeting on May 13th, and was told that Buster Dame Ballfield was not going to be used for a land trade or for anything but recreation. We appreciate those statements and hope they continue to be true. I would still like for people to understand that my Grandfather would be against using the ballfield for anything but recreation. We also ask that people stop stating what my grandfather would want online and in conversations about the ballfield.

My grandfather ran the summer youth program, refed basketball and was a Boy Scout Leader for many years, earning the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award a Leader can receive. He proudly served his country in World War II and that service was something he held close to his heart. Even after his stroke, when he could no longer do the things he loved, he rode around town on his scooter enjoying the town he loved. It was a proud day for our family when the ball park was named after him.

He spent most of his life helping to make the community of Northport a wonderful place to live. His philosophy was a busy kid is a kid who stays out of trouble. Buster would not want the ballfield to be destroyed and would want it to continue to be used for recreation purposes. He would want it to continue to be a place where the community can do all sorts of activities….not just baseball. It's off the beaten path so to speak and is a great place to use when other areas in town are not available, it's fenced in and you're able to

see all around the field from any vantage point which is perfect for kids. Now more than ever Grandpa would want green spaces in town protected.

If the ballfield was anywhere near the lake, it wouldn't have been suggested as a place for housing. Buster's family does not support a land trade or any other ideas that have been suggested in regards to housing and using the ballfield. It needs to stay a place for recreation and for community use.

In the end, what is going to happen will happen, but here's the thing…once the park is gone, it's gone. And that is a disservice to Northport and to my Grandfather.

Thank You for Your Time,
Abigail Charter