

Groton Community Preservation Committee
Minutes from December 9, 2013 at 7:00pm
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Members Present: Russ Burke, Bruce Easom, Gineane Haberlin, Richard Hewitt, Bob DeGroot
Others Present: Regina Beausoleil, Interdepartmental Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Hewitt at 7:05P

Election of a new Vice Chair

Laurie Smigelski has resigned as the Parks Commission liaison to the committee, so therefore a new Vice Chair must be elected. Member Easom nominated Russ Burke. Member DeGroot seconded the nomination. Member DeGroot remarked that if Parks ever needed a CPC member to attend in support, feel free to use his name.

Budget Update

No New information

Minutes

Member Easom made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18th with the one correction of bolding the Baddacook Pond Header. Member DeGroot seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Discussion of Housing Coordinator Position and CPC Assistant.

Chairman Hewitt discussed inviting Town Manager, Mark Haddad to the next meeting on December 23rd to discuss how to properly contribute to the Housing Coordinator position as well as the CPC Assistant position. Member Easom feels that the Committee should pay what is fair for both positions and should find out a strategy to break out time worked for CPC specifically.

Changes to the Legislation

Chairman Hewitt posed the question of who we should solicit input from regarding these changes to Legislation. Member Haberlin suggested Groton DPW and Groton Conservation Commission. Chairman Hewitt noted the Gorton Pool and golf center would fall under this as well as Sargisson Beach and any Youth Athletic Associations in town. Fran Stanley in the audience asked if we would include the schools. Member Haberlin remarked that Karen Tuomi would be the point person for the school properties and Tim Svarckopf for the Hazel Grove Agricultural Association. Chairman Hewitt suggested we solicit information from various groups in order to properly plan for the future by sending a letter asking for feedback to be given at a meeting in January 2014 (chosen date 1/27/2014).

Parks Commission – Jonathan Strauss - Chair, Fran Stanley - Parks Commission Assistant

Mr. Strauss was before the Committee to present an idea regarding fields for the Town youth athletics. He stated since the Town did not receive the PARC grant (29th out of 45, only 25 were considered) he and Gineane Haberlin met with Town Manager, Mark Haddad to discuss alternative options for proposed fields. He stated someone had mentioned the Groton Pool and Golf Center. *Slide show enclosed.* The slide show consisted of the Town of Lexington High School which was an aerial view of their sports facilities. Noting this would be something to model the current proposal after. He began with envisioning the Driving range area with another pool or basketball courts. Mr. Strauss stated that this was not a mandate against the Groton Pool and golf center. The Groton Pool and Golf center looks good now from all the work that has been done but it is a marginal course. This particular project would be a longer planned out site of which he states he has received mostly positive feedback. Member Haberlin added that this proposal seemed like a better sell. Member Degroot asked Mr. Strauss if he had a built-in termination date for some time in the spring, he went on to say without a date,

projects like this tend to languish into ambiguity. Chairman Hewitt asked who The Parks Department has spoken to thus far. Mr. Strauss that they had let the Selectmen know as a courtesy. Chairman Hewitt asked if they had looked into putting fields in at Surrenden Farm. Mr. Strauss noted there was limited infrastructure at the site such as limited water accessibility and no electricity. Member Burke asked if the Town is really in lack of sports fields. Mr. Strauss pointed out the landscape of sports have changed. Chairman Hewitt asked about Lawrence Academy's fields. Mr. Strauss stated they have been very generous already and noted the School hosts a lot as it is. Member Easom stated his concern of putting this second alternative out too soon that it will turn off Ledge Rock. Mr. Strauss agreed that it is a concern but enough of a discussion can be engaged to know if it is feasible. Member Haberlin stated that Parks' Priority is to get fields. We were asked to get any alternative sites and that's what they did, because they knew it would be the 1st question anyone asked.

Mr. Strauss stated that since the committee members span a variety of boards, he was reaching out for an opinion on the proposal. Member Burke remarked that the proposal doesn't feel financially that it will help the Town any more than the Groton Pool and Golf Center already does. He stated if it became worst case scenario both proposals might be off the table to Town voters. Fran Stanley stated there is a pressing need for 3 more fields in Town. If Ledge Rock gets built there will be pressure to be a need for more fields. This proposal would be a long range plan. Member DeGroot stated that the plan would be an uphill battle but is a good example of a long range plan. He feels this is a way to get progressive with Recreation.

Other Business

Treasurer Easom stated a closeout letter is needed for the Conservation Commission.

Member Easom moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30P. Member Burke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Beausoleil
Interdepartmental Assistant