



**TOWN OF GROTON**  
173 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

**Community Preservation Committee**  
Bruce Easom, Chair – Conservation Comm.  
Carolyn Perkins – at large  
Russell Burke – Planning Board  
Robert DeGroot – Historical Comm.  
Daniel Emerson – Housing Auth.  
Anna Eliot – Parks Comm.  
Richard Hewitt – at large

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall  
Members Present: Bruce H. Easom, Anna Eliot, Robert DeGroot, and Carolyn Perkins  
Members Absent: Daniel Emerson, Richard Hewitt, Russell Burke  
Others Present: Cathleen Berry, Phil Francisco, Peter Cunningham, Chris Clint, Matthew Ricard, Jon Strauss, Robert Accomazzo

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**The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Bruce Easom at 7:00 PM.**

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### INITIAL DISCUSSION

Discussion of 2024-05 Construction of 2 Softball Diamonds at Cutler. Jon Strauss and Christopher Clint address the committee regarding this project application. Clint representing the youth lacrosse program. Strauss and Clint both brought forth concern regarding alleged lack of transparency and communication regarding the scope of the project and potential for displacement for girl's lacrosse. Gail Chalmers, letter to change her vote on Cutler field. Bruce Easom indicated that from the viewpoint of CPC, the application process thus far has met all procedural standards and requirements. Matt Ricard, athletic director for the district spoke, he as well as other youth group leaders and the Town Manager will be meeting Thursday 6/15, he sees all sides of this issue, and is happy with all that parks has done for youth programs and would like to see groups continue to come together. While there were some disagreements on this project, there will be continued meetings to discuss the project moving forward.

### ASSIGN NEW PROJECT LIASIONS FOR NEWLY APPROVED PROJECTS\*

- 2024-01 Housing Trust Funds Request-**Carolyn Perkins volunteered and will be the liaison for this project.**
- 2024-02 Preservation of Lake Massapoag – **Robert DeGroot volunteered and will be the liaison for this project.**
- 2024-03 Conservation Fund FY2024 – **Bruce Easom volunteered and will be the liaison for this project.**
- 2024-04 Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond – **Anna Eliot volunteered and will be the liaison for this project.**
- 2024-05 Construct 2 Softball Diamonds at Cutler – **Anna Eliot volunteered and will be the liaison for this project.**
- 2024-07 Housing Coordinator FY2024 – **Carolyn Perkins volunteered and will be the liaison for this project.**

- 2024-09 Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT)- **Bruce Easom volunteered and will be the liaison for this project.**

**Robert Accomazzo addressed the committee**, for clarity on what next steps are in the process as he is the applicant for the Lake what is the process, he is the applicant for the 2024-02 Preservation of Lake Massapoag project. Bruce Easom shared next steps, and newly assigned liaison Robert DeGroot gave his business card.

#### **PLAN KICKOFF MEETING FOR PROJECT LEADERS**

Project Kickoff meeting schedule to be held Monday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00pm. Cathleen Berry, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant, will send invitations to Project Leaders as well as Town Accountant Patricia Dufresne to provide municipal procurement law information as outlined in Community Preservation Plan.

#### **REVIEW PROJECT UPDATES**

- 2020-03 Conservation Fund (BRUCE EASOM) Bruce Easom noted that monumentation at Casella Property, recently acquired land grant, installed a number of granite monuments. MA Fisheries and Wildlife will hold Conservation Restriction on other parcels but will not hold one on Brown Loaf property, no net loss provision would apply.
- 2019-08 Duck Pond Restoration (RICHARD HEWITT) Bruce Easom noted that bubblers are running, Anna Eliot has been in contact with lakes organizations to discuss responsibility for electric utility bills.
- 2022-01 Maintenance Shed Restoration (ROBERT DEGROOT) Robert DeGroot had no updates.
- 2022-02 Feasibility Study for Cow Pond Fields; Woitowicz Field; Cutler Field (ANNA ELIOT) Heritage Landing has filed comprehensive permit, met with Paul Alphen the attorney for the project, there will be a need for parking lot and addition of egress. The Zoning Board of Approvals and Housing Authority are both involved in planning. The developer is looking for 15 acres to offset nitrogen load, the 15 acres can be in multiple parcels.
- 2022-04 Affordable Housing Site Assessment Study (DANIEL EMERSON) Dan Emerson not present, Anna Eliot added that MEPA study will be done for this project.
- 2022-06 Squannacook River Rail Trail (BRUCE EASOM) Peter Cunningham addressed the committee to share that the rail trail project has progressed very well, and will be moving into the next phase.
- 2022-09 Groton Dunstable Natural Field Restoration Plan (BRUCE EASOM) Bruce Easom indicated that he left a voicemail with the school and they have not returned his call as of yet, he will keep trying. Study for PFAS will be done due to watering natural fields with water.
- 2022-12 Groton Country Club Recreation Courts Project (ANNA ELIOT) Anna Eliot stated that they should be ready for closure and will need to ensure all invoices have been submitted and paid.
- 2022-14 GDRSD Middle School Track Construction (BRUCE EASOM) Bruce Easom stated that he believes the track project is completed, the cost having gone over by 5-10k will be picked up by Town Manager.

- 2023-03 Prescott Stone Project (ROBERT DEGROOT) Carolyn Prescott said that the wall is complete and came out beautifully. The final bill for \$4200 should be submitted by the end of the week. Unveiling and dedication will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023.
- 2023-04 Nashua Riverwalk (CAROLYN PERKINS) Carolyn Perkins stated that there was no update but there will need to be collaboration with Conservation to discuss walkway, benches overlooking river were not approved.
- 2023-07 Bates / Blackman Improvements Including Accessible Path (RICHARD HEWITT) Bruce Easom noted that the crossing of James Brook is complete.

## REVIEW CPC BUDGET- Notes

Forecast for FY24

Bruce Easom provided updates on budget.

No encumbrances will need to be made in FY2024 to insure no shortfall in FY2025.

200k reserved under Housing Trust FY24

Warrant articles for projects

No historic projects, reserve has built up.

Open space is down, as mentioned.

Task to put together budget for FY25.

Robert Degroot- asks about the possibility of allocating a \$2500 operating budget for Historical Commission, as had been a practice in years past, by potentially applying for Historic Reserve funds through CPC. To be added to next agenda.

## NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Committee members reviewed and signed invoices.

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## MEETING MINUTES

Committee members reviewed minutes from April 10<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Anna Eliot moved to approve the meeting minutes from Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Robert DeGroot seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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**Bruce Easom moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM. Robert DeGroot seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.**

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Respectfully submitted by Cathleen Berry, Inter-Departmental Assistant  
Approved: 6/26/2023