

Hazel Grove Planning Committee

MINUTES

JULY 20, 2011

7:30 PM

SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, GROTON MA

TYPE OF MEETING	Committee Meeting
ATTENDEES	Adam Burnett, Tim Svarczkopf, Patti Modzelewski, Jean Armstrong, George Moore, Laurie Smigelski (Park Commission liaison); Don Black, David Howes
NOTE TAKER	Jean Armstrong

Agenda topics

QUORUM

DISCUSSION	Since the committee did not have a quorum, no votes were taken and minutes were not read from the last meeting.
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MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Reviewed the mission statement that we were requesting from the Park Commission – removed some words from the mission statement in the last minutes. New wording: "The primary goal for your Committee is that by June 30, 2012, you will submit a 1, 3 and 5 year plan for the betterment, the improvement, the maintenance and bringing forth longevity to the Hazel Grove Park, taking into consideration not only the historic use of the Park but also the current needs of the Town and the future vision of Groton and where the Park fits into that vision."	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Committee to vote on new wording and send to the Park Commission for approval	Committee	8/3 or next meeting with a quorum

GOOGLE DOCS

DISCUSSION	Google Doc – Tim confirmed that we can use Google Doc for sharing information. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1umfNZEp0qN9ff1RM0cLUTdEIDml0Hiq8y21erTETCng/edit?hl=en_US Building Assessment document posted	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Any information gathered by the committee can be posted here. Tim mentioned that you can restrict the document from editing from other people.	Committee Members	n/a

PARK COMMISSION INFORMATION

DISCUSSION	The Park Commission members shared the information that they had on the Hazel Grover property regarding use and maintenance of the property. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Both the Groton Pony Club (GPC) and Riding and Driving Club (RDC) fill out field use forms every year like the other athletic groups. Both groups indemnify the town. The riding and driving club mows the grass, maintain the track and the barns.
Regarding field use there is an informal relationship with the school building and field use coordinator. If a group needs field space, the Parks Commission may suggest they contact the school to see if they have fields available.	
In general properties overseen by the Parks Commission are gifts to the town and athletic leagues have not been charged for use. The groups using the fields improve and maintain the property. The parks budget is about 36,000 per year.	

Noted that if the RDC needs to put more money into updating the property, then there may be a need to provide them with more than a year by year commitment.

There have been some cases where people wanted to build another barn on the property or keep their horse at the barns used by the RDC.

INFORMATION SHARING

AGRICULTURAL CONTACTS	George provided contact information about the Spencer and Greenfield agricultural associations.	
MASTER PLAN	Adam shared his findings in researching how the property was referred to in the working Master Plan. Read from pages 9, 13, and 29. Noted that there was some contradictory information in the plan that should be reviewed.	
HISTORICAL REGISTRY	George provided an update on the progress for registering site as historic property. It has been recommended that in the Spring they will approach the CPC (conservation ? committee) to fund the research required to submit the paperwork to the State. They have identified someone to do the research. Once the state approves it, it goes to National.	
TREES	Adam shared information regarding the trees on the Hazel Grove property and the Farmers and Mechanic property. There is old growth forest in this area that is never seen East of Wachusetts. Someone seems to have decided in the early 1800's to keep the forest in this area intact. Some of the trees measured approximately 100 to 110 feet tall. Mostly pines but there is old growth red and black oak. Noted that the old pines that have died off are used for roosting by the larger birds – hawks and eagles.	
SITE WALK	Adam is attending the site walk on Saturday July 23.	
REC LEAGUES	<p>Patti shared her information that she gathered about how the rec leagues use and maintain their fields. She has a spreadsheet with rows for each organization documenting towns, # of participants, Facilities used, Ages/ Grades, Season, Fee, Maintenance and Hazel Grove interest. She was not able to reach the soccer and lacrosse contacts but of the groups she spoke to none had an interest in the Hazel Grove property. Basketball has a large number of participants and would be willing to use a new basketball court if one was built.</p> <p>Most rec leagues like to have one central area that they use so their equipment is in one place and they have the ability to add and improve on the site for their specific needs.</p> <p>In general enrollment was on the decline in the last year.</p> <p>Rec leagues have no formal agreement with using Lawrence Academy or Groton School fields. When the leagues do use these fields it is due to an informal relationship between coaches and faculty at the school. Groton School has made its facilities available for evaluations and will try to use the fields early in the day so they could be used by the town later in the day.</p>	
GENERAL FIELD DISCUSSION	<p>Patti mentioned that no one was using the fields in Florence Roche. The committee also discussed Prescott Street and what would happen to any field it has. A general theme on fields that are not used all the time or at all are the challenges they pose to nearby neighbors for noise, lights, and parking issues.</p> <p>Surrenden Farm was discussed – it does have access issues with a dirt track as the primary means for getting to the property. This would have to be upgraded if it was used for a lacrosse field.</p>	
BUILDING ASSESSMENT	Tim summarized the building assessment he did on the barns and structures at Hazel Grove. The two structures that had structural issues were the main barn – concerns about the beams and floors and the structure racking and the Viewing tower which is leaning. Tim felt that something needed to be done in the short term as these buildings could pose a risk. Tim recommended asking the building inspector to check them out and make a formal assessment.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact the Spencer and Greenfield agricultural contacts.	Jean	8/3

NEXT MEETINGS

AUGUST MEETINGS	The next meetings are 8/3 and 8/17. Jean cannot make the 8/17 meeting. She will see if Gineane will be there and if she can take minutes.
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