

Hazel Grove Planning Committee

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 7:30 PM

FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, GROTON MA

TYPE OF MEETING	Committee Meeting
ATTENDEES	Adam Burnett, Tim Svarczkopf, Jean Armstrong, Laura Menard, Gineane Haberlin, Meredith Scarlet, Anna Elliot, Laurie Smigelski (Park Commission liaison), Jon Strauss (Park Commission)
NOTE TAKER	Jean Armstrong

Agenda topics

SPENCER FAIR VISIT

DISCUSSION	Jean and Laurie gave the group an update on their visit to Spencer Fair. Notes distributed to group.
Action Item	Meredith to see if she can get a copy of the lease with the town and the ag association.

UPCOMING HORSE ACTIVITIES AT HAZEL GROVE

DISCUSSION	<p>Laura invited the committee members to come to a mounted meeting at Hazel Grove – Thursdays at 5:30. 9/8 is cancelled due to rain.</p> <p>Horse show is on October 16th.</p> <p>Website has all schedule information http://www.groton.ponyclub.org/</p> <p>Talked about options for getting the word out about the show – The Groton Line, Talk About Groton, Banner on Route 119</p>
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PARK COMMISSION MEETING REGARDING EXHIBITION HALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Jon gave an update on the meeting with Tom Delaney and the Park Commission. Tom recommended that the Exhibition Hall come down before winter to be re-assembled at a later date. Jon was asked if there CPC funds available. He responded that there may be some funds available but funds are available based on certain contingencies – e.g. funds available if the hall is to be moved elsewhere.</p> <p>Anna commented that the Selectman have reserved an article in the next town meeting to request funds to dismantle the Exhibition Hall.</p> <p>The most desirable outcome is to keep the wings functioning for horse stabling. However the Riding and Driving Club (RDC) should be considering temporary solutions for stabling as a contingency.</p> <p>Adam asked if there were alternatives to dismantling it. Jon responded that you could spend money to shore it up but the money would be wasted in the long term since the work to fix it would require undoing any work to shore it up.</p> <p>The group discussed who is responsible for making the final decision on what happens to the Exhibition Hall. The town gets to decide if money will be allocated to dismantle it. The HGPC and Park Commission need to work together to come to a consensus on the long term plan for the building.</p> <p>The group started discussing how we can decide what the long term plan for the building is given the need to give the town some direction by the town meeting in October.</p> <p>Taking it down may make it harder to get it on the National Registry – need to get John's input on this. John has said that not every old building needs to be saved.</p> <p>Talked about what is important to preserve – historic building or historic use.</p> <p>Preserving historic building is costly. Can we build new using materials from the old building?</p>
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NEXT STEPS	Gather information with RDC on thoughts for temporary stabling, document past maintenance expenditures and budget for future maintenance.
	<p>Laura has documentation on GPD budget, revenue, maintenance spend.</p> <p>Work quickly to come up with information for the town meeting. Here is what we thought we agreed on in the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long term vision is to have a building in which to hold exhibitions or events. 2. Want to preserve the historic use of the property. 3. Proceed with applying to list fairgrounds on State and National Registry of Historical Places 4. Future use of site is to continue the agricultural use and equine sports.

MEETING LOGISTICS

QUORUM	<p>It is getting difficult to have a quorum. Need all members to attend and provide their unique perspective to help the committee. Things are moving faster than anticipated so the next meeting(s) is critical.</p> <p>Discussed option of designating some members as alternates. They can participate but can't vote unless they have specifically been designated to replace a committee member for that meeting / vote.</p>
VISION STATEMENT	<p>Please review the four points in the discussion above on what we agreed our vision was for Hazel Grove. Tim will start a draft. Please read and come prepared to the next meeting to give input and vote.</p>

NEXT MEETING

UPCOMING MEETINGS	<p>9/21</p> <p>10/5</p>
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Spencer Fair 9/3/11 Visit

Jean Armstrong and Laurie Smigelski visited the fair and spoke with Allan Walker. The fair has been going for 123 years.

The land was originally privately owned then given to the town.

1930s the Spencer Trotting Club was formed as a non-profit. These horses are there permanently and some owners are from out of town. They built their own barn and rebuilt the barn after a fire. The buildings once built belong to the town. The club maintains the building and track. If there is a problem on the remaining fairgrounds they notify someone.

The fairground association has a 25 year lease from the town and the trotting club subleases. They currently are on their third 25 year lease. With a lease there is flexibility. The association can and has built permanent buildings. These buildings revert to town ownership. The committee negotiates the lease with the town every renewal. The current lease is \$2500. per year.

The buildings are also used as winter rental storage.

We will need to contact Spencer Trotting Club for further information.

Laurie Smigelski

Spencer Fair

What is at the fair

1. Carnival Games
2. Fair food stands
3. Carnival Rides
4. Crafts / vendors
5. Exhibition Halls
 - a. Hall One
 - i. Display prize winners for the various categories – vegetables, pies, crafts, etc
 - ii. Chicken information and chicks hatching
 - iii. Bee information, products and hives to look at
 - b. Hall Two
 - i. Cows – stabling for cows – judging outside under a tent.
 - ii. Some exhibits – prizes for hay, information on cows and groups there
 - c. Hall Three
 - i. Vendors – variety of vendors – crafts, animal organizations, to window installers.
6. Tents
 - a. Poultry
 - b. Barn Animals – cows, horses, rabbits
 - c. Alpacas
7. Grandstand
 - a. Bands, Shows (pig racing etc)
8. Pit
 - a. Demolition Derby,
 - b. Tractor Pulling

History

Similar to what the fairgrounds is going through now. Originally privately owned by someone who was involved with horses and sulky racing. Gave the land to the town as a park. Spencer Trotting Club had horses at the park and ran the fair. Barns were old and needed repairs. Eventually a non profit Spencer Fair Ag Association was created to run the fair. They sub lease to the Trotters Club.

Trotters Club rebuilt barn twice with their own money. Spencer Ag Association spends their own money to build exhibition halls and maintain property. All buildings are the property of the town.

They have a 25 year lease with the town. The Ag Association negotiates with the Selectman.

Horses are at the facility now. There is a fence surrounding the barn and turnout. They maintain the track and keep an eye on things year round.

Allen recommended creating a non profit association with current users and then propose to the town officials that the association would lease the land from the town and run the fair each year.

Next steps is to contact someone on the Spencer Trotters Club.