

Hazel Grove Planning Committee

MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2011

7:30 PM

FIRST FLOOR SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN HALL, GROTON MA

TYPE OF MEETING	Committee Meeting
ATTENDEES	Tim Svarczkopf, Jean Armstrong, Anna Eliot, Meredith Scarlet, Adam Burnett, Laurie Smigelski (Park Commission liaison)
NOTE TAKER	Jean Armstrong

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	
COMMITTEE CHANGES	Linda McCrossan notified Tim that due to a job change, she unfortunately could not commit to the time needed to be on the committee and would be dropping off the committee.
REGISTRY OF HISTORIC PLACES	<p>Tim reviewed the email that John sent regarding plans for registering the fairgrounds with the State and National Registry of Historic Places. The process to register is time consuming and can require a paid consultant to gather the information and submit the application. CPC funds could be available for this work however, the deadline for getting CPC funds for 2012 is due in December 2011.</p> <p>The committee agreed that registering the fairgrounds would be beneficial and fits the vision of the use of the property. However, we did not think that this committee would be doing the work to submit the application. We are recommending that the process go forward and a separate committee can plan and coordinate the work in tandem with our work to develop a short and long term plan for the fairgrounds.</p>
STARTING AN ASSOCIATION	David Howes could not make the meeting so discussion was postponed to another meeting.
CURRENT USERS	Reviewed the current user document prepared by the Use and Revenue Stream sub-committee.
INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>Tim is looking for a volunteer(s) to join him on the Infrastructure sub-committee.</p> <p>Discussed topics on existing infrastructure and opportunities for improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is at the junction of Jenkins and Riverbend. • Water at the fairgrounds currently comes from a shallow well. • Electricity • Capacity – how much road traffic and weight of vehicles; parking • Emergency vehicles access • Traffic patterns • Manure Management Plan – right now manure is transported to Gary's Farm Stand, potential improvement is to implement an aerated system which does not require turning and would be a potential resource for residents to use for their gardens.
PARKS UPDATE	<p>Laurie reported that the Parks Commission is asking all users to meet with them to review their current use of the facilities, any problems they have and future plans. This information will be used for budgeting purposes. The Riding and Driving Club and Groton Pony Club will be meeting with the Parks Commission in February 2012.</p> <p>The HGPC representatives will also attend the 12/14 meeting to give the Parks Commission an update on current work and plans to ensure we are heading in the right direction.</p> <p>Tim mentioned that as the committee delivers the final report in the same timeframe as leases are renewed we should consider any conflicts in the year one plan and request for use in 2012.</p>
FUTURE USERS	<p>We agreed that we would designate our January 18th meeting as an open forum for brainstorming session for future uses. We will notify the public that they are encouraged to attend the meeting and bring forward any ideas they have on future uses of the fairground. Jean to contact Mike Bouchard about getting information on town website.</p> <p>We also agreed that we should reach out to potential users to see if they would like to use the fairgrounds.</p> <p>Groton Local – Tim Groton Trails – Adam 4H – Laurie Sue – driving contact – Laurie FFA – Jean Local Horse Owners Association – Laurie Local Stables – Meredith to start with getting a list of local stables</p>

	Grange – Jean Ag Commission - Meredith
UPCOMING MEETINGS	1/4

Current Users

Groton Pony Club

Groton Pony Club (GPC), in the Central New England Region (CNER), is part of the United States Pony Club (USPC). The United States Pony Club is one of the leading junior equestrian organizations in the world, represented throughout 30 countries. GPC was founded in 1957 and has been using the Fairgrounds since its inception.

GPC offers weekly mounted instruction every Thursday evening in the spring and fall (find out how many months) at the Groton Fairgrounds. There are three instructors during these sessions who organize the students into groups based on riding ability. The novice riders ride in the arenas for safety reasons since it is easier to control a horse in a confined space. The more advanced riders ride in the open areas within the track and jump the cross country fences. Each year GPC submits a request to the Parks Commission for field use for the days of the show, clean up days and mounted meetings.

The pony club also offers unmounted instruction during the winter, and a week-long overnight camp in the summer. Unmounted instruction generally takes place at someone's house or barn and includes horse management, veterinary care, confirmation, and other topics. The overnight camp takes place at other locations and does not currently use the Fairgrounds.

GPC runs three horse shows at the fairgrounds for fund raising. These shows are open to the public; anyone may enter their horse in the show and ride. Spectators are welcome to the show. During shows there is an area that is designated for people only which includes the snack shack built by GPC. Main Street Café has catered breakfast and lunch for the past few years. Spectators at the show average around (???)

In 2011 the dates of the horse shows were April 17, May 15 and October 16. During the show, the dressage phase takes place in the open area between the rings and cross country jump area. This phase requires the rider and horse to execute a series of movements on the ground. The horse and rider are judged on their accuracy and style. Riders then jump a course of stadium jumps in the ring. The rider will receive penalty points if the horse refuses a fence, knocks any rails down or jumps any fence in the wrong order. The large arena is used for the stadium phase. The small arena is the warm up area for stadium and cross country jumping. The last phase of the show is cross country where the rider jumps a course over the cross country jumps. Cross country fences are solid fences like coops, barrels, logs and some tire fences. The course also includes a variety of ditches and banks to jump up or down.

In addition to the shows mentioned above, GPC also hosts pony club rallies for the Central New England Regional pony clubs. (summarize what happens during a rally)

GPC has approximately 25 active members from Groton and neighboring towns. GPC maintains the structures within the track that they use including the two fenced rings, tower between the two rings, dressage judge booths, cross country fences, and shed for storage. The GPC does not use the tower at

the old finish line and does not maintain that tower. GPC owns the jumps that are used in the rings, the portable shed and the dressage booths.

Yearly maintenance by GPC includes both routine and general maintenance:

Routine maintenance from spring to fall:

- Mow the fields
- Maintain the footing in the rings
- Weed whack around the fences
- Maintain portable bathrooms (year round?)

General maintenance:

- Painting
- Carpentry to repair fences and structures used by GPC

See table below for major projects funded by GPC in the last 8 years.

Members are expected to volunteer for (how many hours?)

Year	Project	GPC Volunteer Hours	GPC Funds
2003	Spring and Fall clean up, Cross Country (XC) jump maintenance, mowing, painting, portable bathrooms	77	2,412.47
2004	Spring and Fall clean up, XC jump building, tree and stump clean up, paint, new PA system, mowing and portable bathrooms	102	2,323.19
2005	Spring and Fall clean up, Construction of Food Booth and Wiring, Paint, Mowing, Portable Bathrooms	126	4,469.06
2006	Spring and Fall Clean Up, XC Jump Renovations, Mowing, Portable Bathrooms, Fence Painting and Maintenance	251	4,830.53
2007	Spring and Fall clean up, New Stadium Jumps and Rails, Purchase of New Shed, Mowing, and Portable Bathrooms	137	3,249.50
2008	Large Ring Renovation Project, Spring and Fall Clean Up, Mowing, XC Jump Renovations, Painting and Ring Maintenance and Portable Bathrooms	222	6,657.73
2009	Spring and Fall Clean Up, New XC Jumps and Renovations, Mowing and Portable Bathrooms	98	3,294.70
2010	Spring and Fall Clean Up, Dumpster for Weather Related Debris (Old 4H Shed), and	248	6,119.02

	Mini Ring Old Wood, Stone Dust for Coup Jumps and Dressage Arena, Mowing, Dressage Judges Booth Construction, Mowing and Portable Bathrooms		
2011	Spring and Fall Clean Up, Small Arena Renovation, Mowing, XC Jump Build (Cask), Portable Bathrooms, Painting and General Maintenance	220	5,700.00

Riding and Driving Club

Equestrians

Riders that are not affiliated with either the Groton Pony Club or the Riding and Driving Club may trailer their horses to the Fairgrounds and use the riding areas within the track or access the trails from the Fairgrounds. Riders may cross over the track but they may not ride on it for insurance reasons. The insurance is purchased by the Riding and Driving Club for their use of the track and does not cover liability for other users on the track. The footing on the track is also maintained specifically for driving use.

The Fairgrounds have been used by equestrians for riding since (a long time)

Riders are not required to be Groton residents in order to use the Fairgrounds.



Cross country jumps in upper half of inside track. Jumps continue along far right side and around the small and large arenas

Middle area used for two dressage rings (left) and open area on right for dressage warm up

Large Arena used for Stadium Jumping

Small Arena used for Jumping warm-up

Walkers

Anyone may park at the Fairgrounds and use the trails that are on the property and lead to other trail systems.

Things to add:

Insert a picture of the property with trails highlighted and explain access to other trails.

Future Uses

Pony Club could hold unmounted meetings at a new Exhibition Hall.

Chicken Swap

Organized Trail Rides

Harness race open to public (spectators)

Carriage Show

Three phase driving (exhibition and shows)

Future Revenue Stream

Structured mechanism for riders to donate funds or volunteer to help maintain the riding areas: one time riding at ring (secure box at facility) or donate to group. Reach out to stables in Groton and discuss idea.