

Hazel Grove Planning Committee

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2012

7:30 PM

FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, GROTON MA

TYPE OF MEETING	Committee Meeting
ATTENDEES	John Ott, Jean Armstrong, Gineane Haberlin, Meredith Scarlet, Adam Burnett, Laura Menard, Anna Eliot, Tim Svarczkopf (attended electronically over laptop), Laurie Smigelski (Park Commission liaison)
NOTE TAKER	Jean Armstrong

Agenda topics

REVIEW PRIOR MEETING MINUTES	Jean reviewed the prior meeting's minutes. Comments on minutes to include feedback from public attendees: Community picnics, canoe launching, protection of old growth and an emphasis on non motor vehicles on trails. Minutes approved.
PARKS COMMISSION UPDATES	<p>Laurie provided the following updates: Timing was discussed regarding the submittal of the Riding and Driving Club field use for the barns, paddock and track which is typically 24 hours / 7 days a week / 365 days a year. There is a concern that the exclusive use of these areas may not allow any changes recommended by this committee in June of this year. Ongoing discussions about the typical field use up to April when the insurance runs out and then renewing on a shorter timeframe thereafter.</p> <p>Some of the logging equipment has been removed. One piece remains as it could not be started and appeared to be leaking fluid.</p> <p>Laurie and Adam walked around and looked at what needed to be trimmed. 90% of it is small. It appears that there was significant brush clearing 25 years ago which has since then allowed for small pines to grow in. Could use a bucket truck to limb and drop and a chipper. Talked about getting some volunteers to do the work. Goal would be to rid of the small pines. Laura asked if they could also clean up the jump area that is on the far side of the paddock – the cross country jumps that are between the paddocks and the roads. Any 6 – 8 " logs could be re-used for jumps.</p>
PRESS	Laura brought the article from the paper and was concerned that the headline about downplaying equestrian use was not representative of the majority of the comments expressed in the meeting. Most of the comments were about maintaining the historical nature of the property and bringing in more activities to encourage the community to appreciate the park.
HISTORICAL	John provided copies of the Groton Agricultural Survey to the committee which includes information about the Groton Fair and Farmers and Mechanic Club.
NATURAL RESOURCES	<p>Adam reported on his work for the Natural Resources Committee – In regards to trimming work mentioned by Laurie, Adam added that there needs to be a regular plan for trimming and funding for that work.</p> <p>He has started the work of identifying the natural resources on the property. There are several large trees – part of an extended stand. He will be documenting this so we can talk about how we will preserve them.</p>
GROUP GOALS AND TIMELINES	<p>Laura asked that the committee look at some of the short term goals to improve and maintain the fairgrounds. The group discussed taking part in the GPC cleanup day. Make it open to all and invite other groups and volunteers. Talked about inviting the trails committee to bring trail markers. Ask the RDC if they have any projects they would like to do. Discussed what the role of the committee was for organizing the cleanup. Is our role to do year zero projects before June or just prepare the roadmap. Can we act in two roles – committee members working on a plan and friends of Hazel Grove asking for volunteers? This clean up could be a practice run for how the Association could ask for volunteers to help with the maintenance of the property.</p> <p>Discussed what to do with the tower. Do we want to keep it, keep part of it and rebuild or tear it down. There is interest in the community to help with out buildings. Talked about finding a barn and relocating to the fairgrounds. Building a new tower integrated with storage for GPC jumps. GPC does have a lumber fund so that they can replace the trailer currently used for storing jumps.</p> <p>Talked about plan for putting together final report. Agreed we needed to spend the next few sessions starting the writing process.</p> <p>Meredith started with capturing the following: agricultural and equestrian</p>

	<p>Racing- current and additional pony club -current plus improvements other equestrian trailer in historical ? buildings, natural/ trails wildlife, trail markings, maintenance</p> <p>educational where ? compost pit</p> <p>exhibitions</p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

NEXT MEETING	2/29
-------------------------	------