

UnApproved

PARK DEPT. MINUTES

2-26-11

9am

Attendees: Don Billingsley Jon Strauss, Don Black

Guests: Lisa Doyle (Groton Pony Club), Iris Gromedio

Reading of the minutes of January 2011 voted to approve.

Bills paid:

GELD	Jan	FEB
BBall Court	\$ 7.31	6.75
5 Commons	\$ 32.50	32.50
Stonebridge Field	\$ 6.75	6.75
Cutler	\$ 6.75	6.75
Wheeler Park	\$ 6.75	6.75
CowPond (parking lot)	\$ 12.00	12.00
CowPond (soccer)	\$ 19.31	19.31
CowPond (Football)	\$ 10.77	10.49
Sawyer Common	\$ 6.50	6.50
Sawtell	\$ 6.75	6.75
Verizon	\$	
Triangle (Nov)	\$	
Montachusett	\$	
Karen Tuomi	10 hours	

New Business:

GELD will hang lights at the BBall Court by June 30th so CPC can close out the request.

Lecture Fund – Parks will submit a request for Fireworks, date TBD for \$5k

Field Use Requests: All Fields Use approvals pending site walks and release of fields

Groton Community School – behind the library June 3rd 5:30-7:30pm Approved

Groton Youth Baseball – Culter fields – April 1 – July 1 M-F 5:30-8pm; Sat/Sun 8am-8pm – Approved

Groton Youth Baseball – Town Baseball field – April 1 – Sept 1 – M-F 5:30-8:30pm; Sat/Sun 8am-8pm – Approved

Groton Youth Baseball – CowPond Baseball Field – April 1 – Sept 1 M-F 5:30-8:30pm; Sat/Sun 8am-8p, -
Approved

Groton Riding/Driving Club – Hazel Grove Park – Jan 1 –Dec 31; 7 days/24 hours; Approved

Correspondence:

Old Business:

Millstone project still at a standstill. The funding is a large question and a longshot in this economy David would like to have a formal meeting with Mark Haddad to discuss the town purchasing this piece of land for the development of fields. Jon expressed concern over the timing of the Park grant applications. David suggested that Parks have a Plan B if the Park grant does not come through. The Town needs to step up and take financial responsibility over this project rather than looking for private funding. Black asked where this should proceed and David suggested that Mark Haddad and Bruce Easom be invited to the March Parks, March 9th meeting. Also included should be any interested parties

Sawyer Common – Black met with concerned/interested parties. Lorraine Black created a conceptual drawing for the site. Black presented and explained this proposal. The Hanson Family will provide funding outside of the Eagle Scout Project funding so this will be of no cost to the Town. Flagpoles would like to be up by Memorial Day and completion by Veteran’s Day. Black made a motion to accept the conceptual plan along with the proposal for Chase Conklin’s Eagle Scout Project. Motion seconded and voted unanimously.

Eagle Scout Project – Black has met with Chase and signed all documents necessary for this project to proceed.

Stone Bridge Field Parking Modifications – Black met with Tim Madigan to discuss the creation of a parking area down the east end of the fields. LA and Groton are being less likely to allowing their fields being used so these fields are important. The actual game parking is not necessarily the problem but the transitional parking is the concern. David does not feel this will fly with the neighborhood. Black asked if we want to try any modifications at this time or just go the way they have been. LAX is out of field space and they may be at a point of turning children away. Black suggested that we look again at what is available at CowPond. David said that a rep from the Parks should approach LA and Groton about use of their fields. Jon also suggested the driving range at the GCC. Black suggested that might be more of a Fall field than Spring due to wetness. Jon suggested a note be sent to the user groups about not contacting the private schools for space. David said we should wait until after the meeting between Parks and LA/Groton School to see the protocol.

Hazel Grove Park Fields proposal

Suggestion was made to possibly use the infield for LAX fields. This would not only help LAX but also insure longevity of Hazel Grove Park. Concern over the current use of the Park is that the majority of people using it are not Groton residents. This might help alleviate this concern. Black reiterated that

this is a preliminary investigation. They would be using the far end of the track (north). There would also be a coordinated effort with scheduling events there.

Lisa Doyle said that the conception that Groton residents don't use is wrong. There are many Groton residents that use the area. There are 20 members of the Groton Pony Club, not many of them are Groton residents. Groton Driving and Riding Club has 12 members – 1 from Groton. Horse shows bring in more Groton residents (70 to 120 participants). Billingsley feels that LAX would be an unsafe partner for this space. Horses train at all times of the day.

Parks would be interested in using the field from April 1 – through mid-June. Practicing and games, Black feels that with a coordinated scheduling effort this could still work.

Jon said that comments come up all the time during the Master Plan meetings about the lack of Groton resident use during the space.

Iris also brought up the problem with relocating the jumps. Lisa also expressed concern about the size of the LAX fields and what they will be eliminating as far as the horses are concerned. Black stated that there is no physical proof that the land was deeded for equestrian reason only. David feels that LAX might bring more people and interest to the horse world.

Black feels that this is a viable fit for both groups however there is nothing that can be determined until after the snow melts and there is a site walk and all of these discussions are in the preliminary phase.

Billingsley feels that there is another piece of land (behind the outhouses – tree lined) that might work and would not be invasive to the horses.

Meeting adjourned at: 10am Next meeting March 9 2011

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