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PARK COMMISSION MEETING 5/8/13 7:01 PM

Present: Jon Strauss, Rob Flynn, Ken Bushnell, Laurie Smigelski  
Guests: Bruce Easom, Phil Jordan, Anna Eliot, Tim Madigan

No reading of minutes  
No correspondence  
No field use requests

Bills signed: Laurie Smigelski purchased 2 gate hangers to repair Cutler Field gate. Total bill \$6.50 was paid to Gate City Fencing in Nashua, NH. The gate was hung by Laurie.

Budget: approx. \$16,000 remaining for this fiscal year. Chairman Strauss asked groups for a short list of projects that could use additional money.

Montachusett Lawn Sprinkler repaired the Cow Pond Field irrigation on 5/8/13. Dawson will repair the irrigation at Cutler Field and Woitowicz Memorial Field this week.

Mack from Aslan Enterprises has finished all of the fertilization of the fields.

Chairman Strauss introduced our two new commissioners Ken Bushnell and Rob Flynn. Each spoke a little about themselves.

A discussion over Cutler Field included the need for Lacrosse to use this field as well as use as a multi use field for others. This field will need regrassing of the bare areas.

Member Flynn requested a map of our commons with corresponding names for reference.

The Park Commissioner members will share responsibilities with regards to tasks at commons and fields. Past member Don Black had previously provided this coverage.

Jamie Kulesz, Lyme awareness advocate, asked for permission to put green ribbons and a sign at the Minuteman Common for the month of May. May is the Lyme Awareness Month. Jamie will remove the sign and ribbons at the end of May. It was noted that she had tried to contact us through the town website for this permission but had not received a response. Member Strauss will look into this so we can find out where that request went.

A motion was made by Member Smigelski: I move to permit Jamie Kulesz to put up a sign and green ribbons at Minuteman Common for Lyme Awareness Month and that she will remove them at the end of May.

Seconded by Member Flynn. Unanimous vote to permit.

PARC Grant: Phil Jordan

Natural Heritage looked at the site at Ledge Rock in February and had concerns about habitat but not terminal for the project to proceed. Bruce Eason will talk with Natural Heritage to see what concerns that they have before he speaks with Stan Dillis. The PARC Grant will need Natural Heritage's permission to proceed.

Phases of the PARC grant: Writing of the grant (Phil Jordan)

Attachments (Jim Gmeiner)

Interfacing with Natural Heritage (Bruce Eason)

May 14<sup>th</sup> PARC grant meeting prepared by the State (Phil Jordan and Jim Gmeiner will attend).

Chairman Strauss suggests hiring a grant writer for the town, not for just the PARC grant but for others as well.

It was pointed out that if Groton becomes a "green" town that it adds a point value of 5 toward grants. Kelly Brown would be a contact to discuss becoming a "green" community.

Chairman Strauss suggests meeting every 2 weeks during the period that we are working on the budget and PARC grant.

#### USE GROUP CHECK LIST

Lacrosse- Tim Madigan

At Woitowicz Memorial Field

- 1) repair dip from the street and into the parking lot is a **Priority**
- 2) repair the chain link fence where it has dipped
- 3) repair sink holes in playing surface, it worsens every year
- 4) remove the unused foul pole

There may be some funds available for projects at the end of this fiscal year.

Lacrosse is willing to provide some funds toward reseeding portions of Cutler Field. The field would be used by other groups as well.

Tournaments: Discussion brought up the point that 5 fields are needed for tournaments as well as parking. Devens charges \$12,000 for a 2 day tournament fee. Phil Jordan will pursue this idea for tournaments at Cow Pond but on a smaller scale since there are only 4 fields. There will need to be collaboration between various user groups at Cow Pond for larger accessibility and maintenance support of the town playing fields. Chairman Strauss stressed that sufficient Town field space is the job of the Park Commission and to support them with our budget. Groton does not have a Recreation Dept. but the youth sport groups can and do work together. The fields should be available to groups without pain or anguish of other groups or damage to the fields.

It was suggested by Anna Eliot, Chairman Strauss and Member Flynn to keep the field coordination through the private groups such as the Groton Youth Athletic Ass.

Hazel Grove Park update: Town Council is still in contact with William Krikorian's attorney.

Chairman Strauss stressed the point of any event happening at Hazel Grove Park be advertised via online, sandwich boards and newspapers.

Groton Pony Club would like to replace the old horse trailer in the infield at Hazel Grove Park with a new shed. Chairman of Hazel Grove Ag Ass. Svarczkopf is checking in to a possible free shed through his company Perennial Lumber. If this does not work the Pony Club is prepared to purchase one. This shed will house their good jump used for shows and training. Chairman Strauss wants a map of where this shed will be located for next meeting. The old trailer will be removed from the property.

The Hazel Grove Agricultural Ass. (HGAA) met with Dan Barton of Mangel Architects to discuss his concept plan for Hazel Grove Park. HGAA will continue to work with this plan to see what will work. There were great ideas shared at the meeting.

Bleachers were mentioned for HGP as a possible donation. Chairman Strauss wanted to be sure of their safety first. (Note: there is currently a fee requested for these nice bleachers).

Dunstable is charging the youth groups to use Larter Fields. The suggestion was to use the youth group and Park Commission money toward the rehab of Cutler Field. Currently the Park budget pays for fertilization, irrigation and electric at Cutler Field. If the field is not repaired then no more money should be spent on these expenses.

Budget: FY 2013 \$37,000  
FY 2014 \$47,000  
FY 2015 \$57,000

There are two trash bins at the Town Field, one controlled by Waste Management and the other by DPW. The DPW bin is not collected weekly and is often over flowing. Don Black, before he retired as a Park Commissioner, asked for the DPW bin to be removed and suggested that we may want another WM bin at that site. Member Flynn will ask the DPW about the trash pickup.

Vice Chairman Smigelski suggested volunteers from the baseball group pick up the trash located around the parking area at the Field of Dreams. It would not take much but would benefit everyone.

Next meeting is May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM Legion Hall

Motion to adjourn Member Flynn, Second by Member Bushnell. Motion carried unanimously.  
Adjourn at 9:36 PM

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Smigelski Vice Chairman