

Town of Groton

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Park Commissioners

Laurie Smigelski, Vice-Chair
Kenneth Bushnell
Robert Flynn
Jonathan Strauss
Gineane Haberlin

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 2, 2013
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Legion Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 75 Hollis Street, Groton
Commission attendees: Jonathan Strauss, Robert Flynn, Gineane Haberlin, Laurie Smigelski
Guests: Tim Svarczkopf

Laurie Smigelski called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Revisiting the issue of the chairmanship of Parks, Laurie Smigelski stated that she is not interested in serving as Chair in part because she is not running for re-election as a Commissioner. Jonathan Strauss would like to have the whole board in attendance for discussion of chair and this suggestion was met with general agreement from the group. Kenneth Bushnell and Robert Flynn have three year terms and Gineane Haberlin has to run for election in the spring.

Gineane Haberlin suggested dividing Park Commission properties between Commissioners. Approve expenditures up to \$1,000. Anything more, and the Commissioners should meet as a group if they so choose. The decision to meet can be made outside of a public meeting through coordination with the administrative staff. This change would serve to narrow chair responsibility to meetings. Gineane Haberlin will draft a proposal to help the group to focus on the implications of such a policy change. Also, could Kenneth Bushnell be asked to draft a maintenance plan for various properties?

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the September 25, 2013 draft minutes as corrected. Robert Flynn seconded. Motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Commission members talked about requesting the removal of the Cutler Field porta pottie by Thanksgiving.

Regarding HGAA, Tim Svarczkopf asked the Park Commissioners to move quickly through the process. He would like the review to be complete and accurate but to also move at a faster pace. HGAA has removed close to ten dumpsters of trash. They have received a quote for liability insurance and they are looking to obtain directors' insurance as well.

Laurie Smigelski recommended that the Commission adopt the Conservation Commission practice of annual field walks to review HGAA progress in meeting agreed upon goals for the Site. Robert Flynn thought that this would be a good idea for all of the Park Commission sites, not just Hazel Grove. Jonathan Strauss said that spring walks are done for all of the fields and Hazel Grove can be added in. Jonathan Strauss was very favorably impressed with Hazel Grove. He saw that lots of work had been done to clean up and that the atmosphere was quite warm. He said that the relationship between the Park Commission and HGAA has never been adversarial and he does not see how this could be bad for the Town.

Robert Flynn commented that the HGAA needs revenue to run the operation and that stall rentals are a way to get that revenue in order to make site improvements. The Commissioners discussed plowing at the site.

Jonathan Strauss moved to accept the Hazel Grove request for proposals response submitted by the Hazel Grove Agricultural Association. Robert Flynn seconded. Motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent and Gineane Haberlin abstained).

Gineane Haberlin reported that the Finance Committee voted 5:0 in favor of the Park Commission warrant article proposal. The Board of Selectmen supported the warrant article too.

The group discussed how it would order and present its warrant article to Town Meeting attendees.

Jonathan Strauss moved to ask Kenneth Bushnell to read the Park Commission warrant article. Robert Flynn seconded and motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Commissioners agreed to bring list of maintenance wish list items to October 16th meeting and Gineane Haberlin will write it up.

Robert Flynn will coordinate with Jonathan Strauss to collect quote for tree work from Mead Tree.

Jonathan Strauss will ask the CPC for the \$41,000 remainder of the original Ledge Rock \$350,000 amount. The group wondered how much unallocated reserve was presently available.

Jonathan Strauss updated the group on the status of the Level 1 Site Plan Review before the Planning Board for Cutler Field parking lot expansion.

Fran Stanley will ask HDC assistant whether Park Commission needs to come to HDC with its flag plan proposal.

Quote received from Turf Unlimited for winterizing some ball fields. Winterization of the fields will be put on the agenda for the October 16, 2013 agenda.

Gineane Haberlin moved to adjourn the meeting. Robert Flynn seconded and motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Notes by Fran Stanley.