

## Town of Groton

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## Park Commissioners

Gineane Haberlin, Chair  
Kenneth Bushnell  
Robert Flynn  
Jonathan Strauss

### Meeting Minutes

Date: April 9, 2014  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Legion Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 75 Hollis Street, Groton  
Commission attendees: Gineane Haberlin, Jonathan Strauss, Kenneth Bushnell, Robert Flynn  
Other attendees: John Llodra (Lacrosse), James Gmeiner (Soccer), Chris Davies (Soccer)  
Handouts: Agenda, pending invoices, pending Field Use Permit Requests

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Gineane Haberlin called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Commissioners reviewed and signed pending invoices.

Gineane Haberlin offered the following updates:

1. At Cutler Field, the stumps were pulled today (April 9, 2014). The grass on the field looks sparse even though the grass looked good in late fall.
2. For consistency, is the Commission interested in finding a volunteer flag warden? Commissioners want to have a regular May & September flag inspection and develop a replacement schedule. Ideally, there will be fresh flags up for Memorial Day and on Labor Day. Current Park Commission flagpoles are:
  1. Fireman's Common at Pleasant and Main Street
  2. Badger Common at Mill and Pleasant Street
  3. Minuteman Common at Lowell Road and Main Street
  4. Carol Wheeler Memorial Park off West Main Street
  5. Sawyer Common at Chicopee Row and Martins Pond Road
  6. Woitowicz Field on Forge Village Road
  7. Hanson Family Memorial at Town Field
  8. Prescott Common at Old Ayer Road and Main Street

Park Commissioners asked lacrosse regarding its usage of area fields that are not Park Commission properties. As Jonathan Strauss explained, the Park Commission is trying to get a read on the demand for ball fields and assess adequacy of field space. There are 350 to 400 children in the program. About 60 older girls (U13, U15) practice three times per week at the Groton School. About 18 to 20 boys (U13) practice twice a week at the Groton School. It was observed that both Lawrence Academy and the Groton School are building artificial turf fields. Although costly to build and needing annual maintenance, turf fields permit continual use with no resting or separating practice fields from game fields.

To increase utilization in the late fall, installation of overhead lights at Cow Pond One would be helpful for soccer.

Looking at Ledge Rock, the proposed engineering (subject of FY14 CPC application) would not be completed in time to meet the Commonwealth's PARC grant deadline. So, although the core sampling and engineering design would further define the project and bring it closer to shovel ready, the grant evaluators would not give the Town any extra credit for that work.

Gineane Haberlin raised the issue of safety concerning fast moving lacrosse balls in mixed use situations or in tightly spaced lacrosse fields. John Llodra commented that the youth and inexperience of the players scheduled for mixed use times diminishes the chances of a lacrosse ball traveling both far and fast. Lacrosse will be using Cutler and Woitowicz for practice during the week. These smaller fields also have limited parking which constrains their use on

game days. Llodra explained that lacrosse games are held on weekends and the referees are unwilling to travel to smaller fields or use smaller fields in conjunction with larger venues as the referees do not like travel time or wait time between games.

Robert Flynn asked about lacrosse's structure as an organization. John Llodra said that he just became president of lacrosse and one of his main objectives is to have the group obtain 501(c)(3) status. Gineane Haberlin noted that lacrosse submitted a certificate of insurance in advance of the meeting which was found to be acceptable by the MIIA, the Town of Groton's liability insurer.

Robert Flynn expressed disappointment in the lacrosse program's participant fees which do not cover uniforms and other gear and yet lacrosse is amassing funds beyond the annual cost of running the program.

*Jonathan Strauss moved to approve lacrosse's most recent field use permit request as submitted. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and motion carried 3:1 (Robert Flynn opposed).*

Soccer and lacrosse are the big field users in Town per Jonathan Strauss. If the middle school became available, would that be helpful. Jonathan Strauss recommends that the Park Commission pursue the school's availability, particularly for weekend play. Chris Davies commented that Soccer pays \$8,000 per year to use Larter Field in Dunstable. Larter Field charges use groups \$2,000 per field per season (Spring and Fall).

Park Commissioners approved the Cutler Field permit request for coach pitch baseball on Monday evenings. Park Commissioner approved the Cub Scout packs 11 and 12 use of Cow Pond on June 28<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and Noon.

#### Storage Building at Town Field

This building holds a variety of Park Commission equipment. DPW director Tom Delaney proposes that DPW and the Park Commission split the cost of the roof repair 50/50. Tom Delaney is collecting quotes and will report back. A rubber roof is contemplated. Plywood roof sheathing will be needed. It is an open question whether any further structural repairs will be required (i.e., rafters, braces, cross braces).

#### Christine Hanson Memorial Playground

Commissioner Kenneth Bushnell was thanked by his fellow Commissioners for installing the repair parts at the Christine Hanson Memorial Playground. One additional half clamp has been ordered to install the log roll. Kenneth Bushnell recommends that the Park Commission replace the swing seats next year. This year, many chains were replaced.

#### Replacing Flagpole at Fireman's Common

Gineane Haberlin asked for help with this project. She will draft the letter to the Historic Districts Commission. Kenneth Bushnell agreed to take the lead with the contractor and the timing issues. Commissioners agreed to purchase a 40 foot white fiberglass pole. This choice is less expensive than the aluminum and will have a shorter lead time from the factory. Most flagpoles are made to order rather than stockpiled.

#### Baseball Infield Mix Order

Kenneth Bushnell will order enough for six baseball diamonds. The use groups will distribute the material.

#### Portable Restroom Units/Unit Placement

Commissioners affirmed the numbers of units and placement as shown on the maps produced by Robert Flynn.

Utilization of \$50,000 Warrant Article Funds

So far, the Park Commission is spending on Cutler, Playground repairs, Hazel Grove, flagpole replacement and probably the Town Field shed roof. Gazebo repairs have not been done yet. The scope of the repairs and the durability of the fix given occasional vandalism there are an issue.

Hockey Rink

Gineane Haberlin plans to send a thank you note to Chris Clinton expressing the Park Commission's appreciation for the care and tending of the hockey rink over the winter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next regular monthly meeting: Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at Legion Hall.

Notes by Fran Stanley.