

## Town of Groton

173 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450  
Tel: 978-732-1893  
Fax: 978-448-1115

fstanley@townofgroton.org



## Park Commissioners

Gineane Haberlin, Chair  
Kenneth Bushnell  
Robert Flynn  
Matthew Frary  
Jonathan Strauss

### Meeting Minutes

Date: June 4, 2014  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Legion Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 75 Hollis Street, Groton  
Commission attendees: Gineane Haberlin, Matthew Frary, Jonathan Strauss, Robert Flynn  
Other attendees: Steve Naboichek (Body by Nabo, LLC field use permit applicant),  
Robin Babin (dog training field use permit applicant), Bob Johnson (Veterans Agent)  
Handouts: Agenda

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

### Field Use Permit Requests

Gineane Haberlin asked Steve Naboichek to describe his intended use of the Cow Pond fields. Gineane Haberlin noted that the Park Commissioners arranged for the Commonwealth's Inspector General's office to be contacted regarding the permissibility of the Park Commission allowing use of its properties by a for profit entity. Using the example of a typical field use permit, the Inspector General's representative stated that the Park Commission's granting of a permit would not violate the provisions of Massachusetts General Law 30B. Steve Naboichek's business Body by Nabo, LLC runs a sports conditioning camp for local athletes at the high school. He said that he would just need green space and minimal equipment. Last year, his business ran the program and it was popular. Steve Naboichek commented that his business charges a fraction of the cost that a Groton athlete's family may pay for a similar program run by out of town outfits such as Athlete's Edge. Jonathan Strauss arrived to the meeting during Steve Naboichek's presentation.

*Matthew Frary moved to approve the Body by Nabo LLC use of Cow Pond as described in the submitted field use permit application. Robert Flynn seconded and motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).*

Robin Babin spoke about the Wednesday morning use of Cutler Field and the Cutler Field basketball court that she and her two friends have requested. This permit request concerns use of Park property for dog obedience training. Commissioners, in the ensuing discussion, were concerned about how their authority over Park properties intersects with the Town's dogs on leash bylaw. The conclusion was to allow use for now and revisit the question in the fall regarding the Commissioners' ability to allow any off leash use of its properties. Jonathan Strauss commented that the Commissioners have a responsibility to consider reasonable areas of concern for any proposed use.

The Commissioners also approved the use of the parking lot at Cutler Field for overnight parking related to a one time only graduation party at a nearby residence. Fran Stanley will scan the approved permit and send it to the Groton Police Department for their information.

### Community Preservation Committee: Liaison and possible recreation projects

The Commissioners continued their last meeting discussion about which Park Commissioner might represent Park Commission interests on the CPC. Jonathan Strauss had expressed interest, but he declined the position, deferring instead to newly elected commissioner Matthew Frary.

*Jonathan Strauss moved for the Park Commission to appoint Matthew Frary to the Park Commission liaison position on the Community Preservation Committee. Gineane Haberlin seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary abstained and Kenneth Bushnell absent).*

Jonathan Strauss mentioned a possible CPC project to resurface the asphalt running track at the Groton Dunstable middle school. The track is in relatively poor shape. It was constructed about 40 years ago and may not have received any maintenance since that time.

### Various

#### **FY14 Remainder Budget**

Jonathan Strauss showed an invoice for \$3,600 in charges from Landworks Landscaping. This invoice represents extra landscaping work done on the Town Field baseball diamonds and the baseball diamonds at Cow Pond. This invoice represents work that is above and beyond the financial commitment made by Commissioners to pay for infield mix to be delivered to these two locations. If there is a FY14 remainder, then any amount that the Park Commission could pick up would be helpful to the baseball use group. The commissioners agreed to hold the invoice and see how the remainder of committed expenses works through the annual Park budget.

#### **Memorial Day expenses**

Bob Johnson joined the meeting briefly to discuss pending invoice he submitted on behalf of the American Legion post for reimbursement for Memorial Day flowers, wreaths and ribbons. The Commissioners agreed to authorize payment out of the dedicated Commemorations and Celebrations line item (600-692-0100). They asked for Bob Johnson or another American Legion representative to preview future expenses for the Commissioners even if the expenses are in keeping with prior years and the customary charges.

#### **Dugouts**

Baseball use group would like to roof the dugouts behind the library at Town Field. T.J. Rivett spoke with Jonathan Strauss about the project. Fran Stanley will explore the level of input the Historic District Commission may want to have over this project.

#### **Signage**

The Commissioners would like to have useful signs installed at many of its properties but especially the ball fields where public may need direction to find assigned field space. The Commissioners present agreed that Kenneth Bushnell would do a good job on the sign project. The Groton sign committee, which administers the Chapter 196 bylaw, has a form for proposed signs. That form is available on the Town website.

#### **Shed Roof at Town Field**

Repair of shed roof will cost over \$5,000 and so collecting three estimates is the recommended practice before the Park Commissioners and DPW Director select a contractor. Jeff Corey, Cosgrove Roofing and Daniels Roofing are expected to submit estimates. Some contractors have seen the exterior of the shed roof only and need access to the interior in order to assess the extent of needed repairs.

### Elect Chair

The Commissioners discussed leadership positions on the commission and agreed to select Gineane Haberlin for chair and wait on the position of vice chair until a full board is present for the conversation. Jonathan Strauss complimented Gineane Haberlin on the large amount of work that she does outside of monthly meetings in order to fulfill the role of chair. For example, the Commissioners remarked on the fact that the Park Commission has an executable budget which distinguishes it from most other Town committees, works with a lot of volunteers and all of the above takes a lot of time.

*Jonathan Strauss moved to nominate Gineane Haberlin as Chair of the Park Commission for the year. Robert Flynn seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Gineane Haberlin abstained, Kenneth Bushnell absent).*

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm. Notes by Fran Stanley.

Next regular monthly meeting: Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at Legion Hall.