

Town of Groton

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Park Commissioners

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 25, 2014
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Legion Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 75 Hollis Street, Groton
Commission attendees: Gineane Haberlin, Jonathan Strauss, Kenneth Bushnell
Handouts: Agenda, June 16, 2014 draft minutes

Gineane Haberlin called meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Pending invoices were reviewed. Commissioners will set aside \$500 from FY14 budget to cover the P.C. Myette invoice, but will not approve the invoice for payment until some follow up is had with the vendor regarding the scope of work and price for the work performed. A Dawson Landscaping irrigation invoice was approved for payment. This invoice included several trips out to repair sprinkler heads.

Commissioners reviewed minutes.

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the June 25, 2014 minutes as drafted. Jonathan Strauss seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Robert Flynn and Matthew Frary absent).

Kenneth Bushnell reported that the lacrosse use group will take care of the creases at Cow Pond fields. The creases are 5 to 6 areas of no grass and dug out earth. If top soil is needed, the DPW can deliver top soil at no charge to Park Commission from its store of surplus topsoil removed from Cutler Field this spring. Also, Gineane Haberlin reminded the group that the Town owns a slice seeder so cost to the Park Commission and/or lacrosse use group may be limited to purchase of seed.

Commissioners discussed proposed summer concert series to be held at the gazebo. Commissioners will facilitate the production by co-sponsoring and allowing use of the gazebo at Town Field provided that field use applicant Main Street Café agrees to list Park Commission as co-sponsor in its advertising/promotion of the series. With co-sponsorship by the Park Commission, the applicant does not need to provide a certificate of insurance as the Town's liability insurance policy will extend to cover these events. Gineane Haberlin will follow up with Bob Wright, Main Street Café owner, on the details.

Jonathan Strauss moved to approve the use of the gazebo for summer concert series as described in the submitted field use permit application and to co-sponsor the concert series. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Robert Flynn and Matthew Frary absent).

Commissioners looked at remaining budget in both FY14 and the Town Warrant article allocation of \$50,000. Commissioners expect an invoice to come in for \$4,000 for Hazel Grove fencing. About \$3,000 in shed roof repairs have been allocated and approved. Work has not yet been done.

Kenneth Bushnell reported on work he has done to define scope of work for fencing at Cow Pond 2 and 3 baseball fields. Those baseball fields have incomplete dugouts and an extension of fencing is needed for safety of players and bystanders. At this time of year, fencing contractions are busy. This trade works regionally so Kenneth Bushnell asked for estimates from contractors as far away as Vermont in addition to Massachusetts businesses. The scope of work at Cow Pond 2 and 3 is about 200 feet of 6 foot high fencing. The lowest prices ran from \$5 to 6,000. Premier Fence had the most competitive pricing at \$5,116.87. The labor of digging holes in rocky soils and pouring concrete footings are part of the job and contribute to the costs. Kenneth Bushnell shared two estimates he received. A third

vendor, Vermont Recreational, was contacted, but did not submit an estimate/work proposal. Kenneth Bushnell said that Park Commission may want to look at the Shade Foundation to inquire about grants to pay for dugout roofing [Update: no grants available from the Shade Foundation as their mission has changed from shade grant making to skin cancer awareness].

Commissioners discussed fact that additional fencing is needed at Cutler, Woitowicz and Town Field. Park Commission does not have the funds to pay for all the fencing that could be quoted and it is unclear whether pooling projects will yield more economical pricing.

At Woitowicz, Gineane Haberlin wondered whether the parking area could be expanded if the tennis court were removed. A parking lot expansion may allow for better parking lot traffic flow if there is a loop to enter parking lot near present site of the tennis court and then have cars drive around and exit the parking lot at the present entrance. Would need to gain enough parking to serve usage needs of lacrosse (present use group); otherwise even expanded parking might still leave the area suitable for practice only.

Gineane Haberlin moved to accept the Premier Fence proposal for \$5,114.87. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Robert Flynn and Matthew Frary absent).

Gineane Haberlin updated the group on the HGAA efforts to re-do the electrical at the red barn out at Hazel Grove. The HGAA expects to start a recurring revenue stream when it starts boarding horses. Completed electrical is needed at the red barn in order to make the property ready for boarding horses. The electrical work is expected to cost \$6,300. Commissioners understood that updating the electrical service to the red barn was a needed improvement to the site. Any contributions that the Park Commission could make toward this total amount would be helpful. The HGAA may take out a loan to fund this cost. A financial contribution outside of HGAA would be helpful for the amount and terms of the loan's repayment. Gineane Haberlin announced that she would abstain from votes on such funding. Jonathan Strauss stated that there was no point in helping the HGAA this far and not working to get them over the finish line. A \$1,000 contribution was discussed.

Upcoming Meetings: Park Commission Wednesday, July 9th at 7 pm
CPC Monday, July 14th at 7 pm

Notes by Fran Stanley.