

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 18, 2015
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Legion Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, 75 Hollis Street, Groton
Commission attendees: Gineane Haberlin, Robert Flynn, Kenneth Bushnell
Visitors: Bob Mullins (Youth Lacrosse), Jim Gmiener (Youth Soccer), Tom Delaney (DPW Director)
Handouts: Agenda, May 18, 2015 draft minutes

Gineane Haberlin opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Topic of improvements to parking areas at Cow Pond was introduced while Tom Delaney and representatives of youth soccer and youth lacrosse are present and available to participate in the discussion. Could parking areas be designated with separate marked entrance and exit? It is a long way to go one way. A conception drawing of parking lots could be done and would need to be done by an engineer to create flow in the parking area. Grade may be too steep for paving as it would create water runoff problems at the bottom of the hill. What is the maximum grade without retaining wall? Answer is 2:1. There is enough room for two sides for parking. To dig out and build a retaining wall may be a \$100,000 job so that is not the current plan. There may be sufficient space to just improve what is there without retaining walls. Signage might help to direct baseball, soccer and football.

Entrance the baseball field driveway needs to be regraded. Rob Flynn will contact Bob Pine and try to walk it with him. Tom Delaney will contact Dan Wolfe. Site plan review by the Planning Board will probably be needed. Football/baseball parking lot needs to be regraded and may not need any new material. Park Commission is happy to pay for materials. Tom Delaney offered to use his department's new paver to place a small apron of asphalt at the entrance to the baseball field driveway. This will improve the road surface and decrease the amount of runoff that erodes the driveway.

Other work at Cow Pond. Beyond parking area and lighting, Cow Pond baseball needs irrigation (two fields).

Cutler field fencing needs repairs. Town Field large diamond back stop and dugouts need fencing work.

For lighting, Rob clarified that both sides of the pole need matching lights. Soccer uses the lights in the fall season. Without a lit field, it is practically impossible to schedule make up games in the fall. Lacrosse's wish list is for very high fencing or netting against the woods.

Gineane Haberlin suggested that that the Park Commission might build a low maintenance shed to house pump house, and allow for multi team storage. A unified maintenance closet. Need locked rooms inside it. It might appear as a three bay garage. The pump house may be 21 years old. Tom Delaney suggested that a space needs survey go out. A shed, a metal storage building, a bubble structure, or even a Reeds Ferry shed.

Bob Mullins said that the lacrosse board is concerned that they have a fiduciary duty to spend lacrosse dollars just on lacrosse as these are not playing fields but are other improvements. Group discussed how Park Commission is trying to have the fields allow multi uses such as walking paths, swing sets, and other amenities that serve the whole family and not just the ball sports playing children in the family. Time line is to have a plan in hand for the next CPC round in the fall. This may be a phased project. A request is in for a capital improvement for one half of the \$140,000 project was put in for FY2017. There can be gift fund set up for the walking track and a linked donate button can be put on the Town website.

May 18, 2015

Page 2 of 2

Tom Delaney suggested looking at DCR grants or information for parks trails.

Fran Stanley was asked to check the costs for Waste Not to supply dumpsters. The dumpsters will need to be locked so that only Cow Pond trash is collected in these receptacles. As part of Town's infrastructure, Commissioners agreed to provide a dumpster for soccer and another dumpster for baseball's use. Starting August 1st, Park Commission will pick up the dumpster infrastructure for Cow Pond as well as two 90 gallon trash cans to be put out for Woitowicz and Cutler.

Dogs on Park Commission fields. Park Commission needs to follow the local bylaw so that dogs must be leashed, but commissioners wonder if the Park Commission can absolutely prohibit dogs from its fields. Gineane Haberlin will ask for a Town Counsel ruling.

Portable restrooms at Cow Pond. Idea was offered to build bump outs into the fence so that children have to access the porta pottie from the inside of the fence. Excellent safety idea that if implemented would allow children to use portable restrooms more independently without encountering car traffic or any people who are not part of the organized team.

Bob Mullins said that the old baseball foul pole in the Woitowicz backfield is still there. Group discussed how to get pole removed so that children don't run into it. How do you improve the field at Cutler? Continually improve with with loam, irrigation and fertilization. It needs a good ½ inch top dressing because the field has a fair amount of sand. DPW has additional top soil on hand to be distributed across Cutler Field as needed.

Removal of white test bore tubes at Cutler is desired. Ask George Barringer regarding removal of these elements that were leftover from previous testing for a West Groton community septic.

Rob Flynn recommends some tree work (cutting back branches) from trees damaged by the storm that are adjacent to Cow Pond fields. Also, there is a place at the Field of Dreams corridor where trees are encroaching on the field. Group agreed that a clean-up of the perimeter at Cow Pond was advisable.

Cleaning trash from around the Town Shed can be done when dumpster is delivered in July. Gineane Haberlin went in front of the Conservation Commission. She learned that vegetative invasive species can be removed with hand tools only. No power equipment without going through the RDA process with the Conservation Commission.

Weed whacking needed along the fences every so often at Cow Pond and Town Field.

Bob Mullins asked about School Committee progress on having Groton help with the GDRSD middle school fields. That conversation is in its initial stages.

Rob Flynn asked about getting Board of Health signs put up regarding ticks and mosquitos. If the Groton Board of Health approves it, then Park Commission will pay for the signs.

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the April 6, 2015 minutes as written. Robert Flynn seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary and Jonathan Strauss absent).

Town Field fencing repairs around the baseball diamond discussed. The estimate needs to be for prevailing wages.

The Cow Pond baseball irrigation extension needs a well test for volume and flow rate. Kurt Dawson has estimated installation of irrigation for \$4,500 per field for the two fields back in January. Turf Unlimited and was invited to submit a quote as they were not interested. Dan from Lawn Solutions (formerly part of Turf Unlimited) will be asked for an estimate.

An eagle scout might repair the Cow Pond outbuildings that all have rot.

Kenny Bushnell moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 pm. Rob Flynn seconded and motion carried 3:0.

Next meeting: Monday, June 15th at 7 pm. Notes by Fran Stanley.