

Town of Groton

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Park Commissioners

Gineane Haberlin, Chair
Kenneth Bushnell
Robert Flynn
Matthew Frary

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 20, 2015
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor Lunch Room, 173 Main St., Groton
Commission attendees: Gineane Haberlin, Robert Flynn, Matthew Frary,
Others: Michelle Collette (Town Planner), Nick Marsh, Dean Marsh
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes from September 21, 2015
Draft ADA Self-Eval/Site Access Surveys for Cutler, Wheeler, Town Field and Woitowicz
O'Brien and Sons for net new playground equipment and install (\$40,000)
Shepco Incorporated quote for moving/reinstalling playground equipment (\$33,600)

Gineane Haberlin convened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Gineane Haberlin informed the group that there has been a lighting complaint for lights left on at 6 am one morning in the Cow Pond parking lot.

Update on gazebo repairs

Eagle Scout candidate Nick Marsh and his father Dean Marsh visited the Park Commissioners' meeting. Nick Marsh updated the Commissioners. He is largely done with his project. Nick Marsh shared photographs and provided the following details:

- he consulted with the Building Commissioner at the beginning and end of his work. Changes to the ramp included doubling the length from 4 feet to 8 feet and widening the ramp from 4 feet to 5 feet. There is only a half inch drop for every foot of length.
- underside of the gazebo has been thoroughly cleaned out. New PVC skirting has replaced the broken wood lattice.
- mahogany decking has been stained with Sikkens brand wood stain. Future re-applications should be done with the Sikkens brand product. Lighter colored boards on ramp should weather to similar hue over time.
- white trim repainted.
- shared advice for installing railings on the ramp should Park Commissioners decide to provide this feature. A future Eagle Scout may take on the railings as a project.

Commissioners thanked Nick Marsh for his efforts on behalf of this publicly owned structure. Gineane Haberlin asked Nick Marsh to prepare a recommended maintenance schedule as that would be helpful for the Commissioners to have in future years.

He has about \$300 left which can be gifted to the Park Commission for future repairs of the gazebo or this money could be spent on a commemorative brass plaque to be installed on one of the Smith Social Pavilion's vertical posts. Commissioners were inclined to let Nick Marsh direct the money to be donated or spent per his own choice. Nick Marsh is interested in a brass plaque and he will work on verbiage and provide Commissioners with a proof.

ADA self-evaluation/site access survey

Michelle Collette shared handouts of draft reports written by James Lyons of the Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. Michelle noted that the Town is still waiting on a few reports for certain Park Commission properties including Legion Common, Cow Pond and Groton Fairgrounds (Hazel Grove Park). Michelle Collette stressed that she is interested in receiving comments and corrections as these reports can be amended. On October 28, 2015 at 1 pm, James Lyons will be meeting to review of all the reports here at Town Hall with department personnel. Park

Commissioners are welcome to attend this meeting. The reports will be shared with the Commission on Accessibility. The Commission on Accessibility will then hold a public hearing to encourage public comment.

Commissioners reviewed draft reports with Michelle Collette. As James Lyons stated in the walk through site visits, the Building Commissioner is the Town's arbiter and interpreter of the Architectural Access Board requirements. Wheeler Park needs some landscaping and some work on accessibility, particularly the path through the park. The group agreed that the recommendations are largely modest, realistic and affordable. The recommendations in this report have to be accomplished within 5 years. Some accessible fixes will be prohibitively expensive and the Town is not required to make every public setting fully accessible because costs are taken into consideration. Commissioners thanked Michelle Collette for consulting with them on accessibility needs.

Pending Field Use Permits

There were no pending field use permits.

Pending Invoices

Pending invoices were reviewed. The Town Shed garage doors were replaced October 19, 2015 for \$1,620. The Department of Public Works agreed to pay half the cost of this maintenance expense with the Park Commission.

Robert Flynn had a question about disposing of old metal doors that were leftover from the Town Shed new garage door install. Department of Public Works will be asked to scrap the old doors which may have nominal value for any metal content.

Robert Flynn questioned how GELD is set up with respect to monitoring electricity consumption. If electrical consumption can be tracked and flagged when use is heavy, then Park Commissioners can use this alert to monitor pump status of the irrigation wells.

Gineane Haberlin announced that rain sensors have been installed on all the ball fields' irrigation equipment. Winterization has been done for Cutler Field's irrigation system.

Fran Stanley shared Sean Eldridge's request for core aeration of the football field at Cow Pond. Commissioners agreed that it would be beneficial to have all fields receive core aeration this fall. The operator of the machinery needs to be skilled in order to avoid damaging irrigation sprinkler heads. Department of Public Works employees who mow are familiar with the sprinkler head placements. Any other operators would need to have the sprinkler heads flagged.

Commissions directed that the portable restrooms can be pulled from Woitowicz and Cutler now. For soccer, pull portable restrooms after November 9th, when the season ends. Season end for football is variable, but after soccer.

Review of submitted proposals for planned playground work

Gineane Haberlin shared estimates for playgrounds. Two excavating companies were asked to submit estimates, but declined to do so for moving the old Prescott School play equipment and reinstalling it at Cutler. The third business, Shepco Incorporated (principal Gary Shepherd), submitted a quote for \$33,600. Gary Shepherd has had previous experience installing playground equipment which may have provided him with the knowledge base and confidence to submit this estimate. The Shepco Incorporated quote does not include the new swing banks (approximately \$4k cost) or playground wood chips and bumper surround (approximately another \$4k cost). If Park Commissioners choose to re-use the old Prescott School equipment, then the total amount spent to get a usable playground will be around \$41,000 and that total may head closer to \$50,000.

She said that O'Brien & Sons, Inc. has quoted a new playground at Cutler for \$40,000 installed at prevailing wages for a price which is \$7k more than the cost to move ten year old play equipment from Prescott School to Cutler. The RFP notes that the project can be purchased and installed off the state list purchasing contract (CommBids) MHEC B14. Projects quoted from the state list do not require three estimates because the state's purchasing contract requirements are designed to get competitive prices for towns and cities.

Gineane Haberlin is gathering a quote for a swing bank for Cow Pond (six swings) and a canopy for Christine Hanson Memorial Playground. Estimate from O'Brien to put in a new playground was collected based on Kenneth Bushnell's advice from last month's meeting.

Robert Flynn said that he expected parents to want playgrounds to be built at Cow Pond too since so many people use the Cow Pond facilities. The Cow Pond swing bank would be sited near the Soccer Pavilion. Tom Delaney offered to demolish the existing Cutler playground which will make way/room for the new playground to be installed.

Robert Flynn expressed surprise at the pace of the review and did not want to be asked to vote on the project when he was just seeing the proposal tonight and there is only a single new playground estimate. Robert Flynn questioned the investment of playground funds at quiet Cutler Field instead of at the busy Cow Pond location.

Park Commissioners in attendance agreed that net new for a lower price is better for the Town than spending most probably the same or more money on moving old playground equipment to be dug up and reinstalled.

Commissioners discussed the fact that past budgets have included requests for capital improvement monies to be made available for Cutler, Cow Pond and other properties. Commissioners recalled that Dawn Priest came in about a year ago to request an appropriate swing to be installed to make Cutler Field playground accessible to her child and Commissioners supported that request.

Commissioners discussed the fact that the present playground at Cutler is in a deteriorated condition with few to no wood chips and bent arms on the teeter totters. The present condition may present a safety hazard.

Matthew Frary moved to accept the O'Brien proposal for a new installed playground for \$40,000. Gineane Haberlin seconded and the motion carried 2:1 (Robert Flynn against, Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Gineane Haberlin moved to accept the September 21, 2015 minutes as written. Matthew Frary seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Gineane Haberlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. Matthew Frary seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Next meeting: Monday, November 2, 2015 at 7 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley.