

## 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: December 7, 2015  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis St., Groton, MA  
Commissioners present: Gineane Haberlin, Robert Flynn, Matthew Frary, Kenneth Bushnell  
Visitors present: Audrey Bryce, Alberta Erickson, Jon Strauss  
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes from November 16, 2015

---

Gineane Haberlin called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Pending invoices were reviewed. There were no pending field use permits to review.

#### **Minuteman Common: possible tree donation by Alberta Erickson**

Alberta Erickson and Audrey Bryce are both long time members of the Groton Women's Club. The Groton Women's Club has put up garlands and strung lights along the Main Street side of Minuteman Common this year. The Groton Women's Club has done such decorating activities for the past ten years. In past years, GELD has hung holiday lights in the large deciduous tree that was located towards the bottom center of the common. GELD's lighting decorations were placed at the request of the Groton Women's Club. That tree died and the Park Commission paid for the tree to be removed this summer.

Alberta Erickson asked Commissioners to reconsider their November decision not to accept the tree that she would like to donate to be planted in Minuteman Common. The tree that Alberta Erickson has in mind is an evergreen that she received from Harlan Fitch. That tree has been growing on her property and is now 23 feet tall. Alberta Erickson would like to donate – absorbing all costs of digging up, moving and transplanting the tree to the common. She would pay for removal of the tree if it did not survive the transplant. She would like a plaque placed near the tree in honor of Harlan Fitch who was very involved in Groton and who was a parishioner of the nearby First Parish Church of Groton. She said that she has been in contact with leadership at First Parish Church who are not opposed to a new tree so long as the view of the church is not obstructed. Presumably, the evergreen would be large enough to be decorated with holiday lights by the Groton Women's Club if it were moved to the common.

Commissioners noted that Historic Districts Commission approval would be needed, that the viewscape of the First Parish Church across the common would need to be preserved. There is a flagpole in the front right side of the common. The group discussed whether there is room for an evergreen to be placed in a way that does not obstruct views on the left side of the common near the Main Street and Lowell Road intersection. There may be room if other trees in that corner that might be unhealthy and need to be removed were in fact removed. The Park Commissioners rely on the tree warden and arborists to advise on such matters. The Commissioners agreed to revisit the matter in the spring when tree contractor Mead Tree could be consulted regarding pruning and tree health on this common.

#### **CPC Application for Renovation of Middle School Track**

Jon Strauss described the proposed renovation of the paved track located behind the Florence Roche Elementary School. The school grounds including the track are owned by the Town of Groton. The Town of Groton leases this property to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. Both the Town of Groton and the regional school district are supportive of the renovation plans. Based on one prevailing wage estimate that Jon Strauss received, the existing track could be repaved and then covered with a glued down surface for about \$150,000. This project is strictly for the repair of the track and not the infield.

Jon Strauss stated that at some point in the next few months, he will ask the Park Commission to write a letter in support of this CPC proposal. Commissioners were supportive of the plan. No objections or reservations were voiced. A refurbished track would be a benefit to the Town of Groton, a benefit to the regional school district and improve safety.

Jon Strauss said that he intends to meet with Town of Dunstable officials to gain support for the project. A number of Dunstable residents will accompany Jon Strauss to those meetings so that Dunstable will make sure to hear from its constituents. The Park Commission will be ready to submit a letter of support when the time comes.

### **Budget**

Gineane Haberlin reported on her meeting with the first budget review group. She said that she based all of the Park Commission's budget requests on safety issues for its properties which is largely how the Commission has viewed its funding priorities in recent years. The budget review group was supportive of the proposed engineering study for Cow Pond parking lot improvements. It was recommended that the Park Commission apply for CPC funds to pay for the Cow Pond walking track project.

Gineane Haberlin reported that it was recently learned that the Country Club will no longer be sharing in the costs of a core aerator because it was found that the hard and rocky surfaces on the golf course have a tendency to break down the core aerator machinery. This was a recent discovery. The Country Club will contract out that cost in future so that it does not break its own equipment. The purchase of a core aerator still makes financial sense even if the equipment is used only on Park Commission properties.

### **Dog Policy Signage on Park Commission properties**

No use group representatives attended this evening. The Park Commissioners can act now or defer to a later time. The Commissioners discussed and decided that they wanted to act now along the following lines: contact all field use groups to ask or direct that use group 'no dogs' signs be removed, (2) explain the Commission's current policy on dogs on Park Commission properties, and (3) remind the use groups that they are not to add to or vary these policies in any way.

### **Ice Rink**

Tom Delaney did make a DPW commitment to clear the Legion Common ice rink of snow this winter, but cautioned that clearing the rink will not be the highest priority task for his crews after a snow storm. The Park Commissioners were appreciative of this help as it is apt to make the ice rink more available to residents this winter. Kenneth Bushnell will collect the ice rink materials that have been stored in the Cutler Field shed.

### **Town Shed**

The DPW cleaned out the Town Field shed which will make room for storing the Hazel Grove tractor there in the off season.

### **Groton Fairgrounds/Hazel Grove**

The lease for management of this property will end in the spring. The Park Commission can decide to recommend that the lease be renewed and this lease would not need to be put out for bids or requests for proposals. If the Park Commission recommends renewal, then it can recommend a new lease term as well. That lease term could be more than a year. The Park Commissioners agreed to discuss this matter at their January 11, 2016 meeting.

### **Woitowicz Field**

Robert Flynn noticed a large blue-tarped square on the edge of Woitowicz field. This may be a stack of lacrosse nets. Robert Flynn will investigate this further and report back to the group.

*Matthew Frary moved to approve the November 16, 2015 minutes as written. Gineane Haberlin seconded and the motion carried 4:0.*

*Gineane Haberlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Matthew Frary seconded and the motion carried 4:0.*

Next meeting: Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley