

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: February 1, 2016
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis St., Groton, MA
Commissioners present: Gineane Haberlin, Robert Flynn, Kenneth Bushnell
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes December 7, 2015

Gineane Haberlin called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Draft minutes were reviewed.

Kenneth Bushnell moved to approve the December 7, 2015 minutes as written. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary absent).

Pending invoices were reviewed. Commissioners discussed the successive un-negotiated charges that keep appearing on the E.L. Harvey invoices (fuel charges, rental charges).

Gineane Haberlin moved to have the Park Commission cancel the Cow Pond Brook Field waste service with E.L. Harvey and ask E.L. Harvey to remove its two yard container. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary absent).

Commissioners discussed fact that the next closest contractor in price to E.L. Harvey had been Mitrano Removal. Several in the meeting recalled good service provided by Mitrano Removal in past dumpster rentals.

Gineane Haberlin moved to have Mitrano Removal start as the new contractor for waste service at Cow Pond Brook Field and to have them deliver a two yard container for Soccer and a ten yard container for Baseball. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary absent).

Pending field use permits were reviewed. Commissioners approved the Groton Wellness bike ride request and the Zoo New England bike ride request. Each requester had run successful events on Park Commission properties in the past. Each group will provide certificates of insurance.

Commissioners reviewed the two carnival requests put forward by the Groton Police Patrolman's Association. Commissioners were concerned that the carnival equipment and transportation for the same would be likely to damage any grass field and its irrigation system. That was the main concern. Also, the April timing would find a wet field and the May timing would conflict with the baseball season. Commissioners denied these requests and wondered if the NEBS parking lot or the middle school parking lot could be made to work.

Commissioners reviewed a draft letter of support for the CPC project to repair the GDRMS track and approved the letter.

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the draft letter to be sent from the Park Commission to the Community Preservation Committee in support of the project to repair the Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School running track. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary absent).

The Hazel Grove Agricultural Association (HGAA) has the management lease for Hazel Grove also known as Groton Fairgrounds. The HGAA lease renewal was discussed. The HGAA has requested a 5 year lease term as this can help them to obtain financing. Commissioners can suggest any term of years with 5 years or shorter being the expectation.

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the Hazel Grove Agricultural Association's lease renewal or extension for a five (5) year term with all other lease terms to remain the same. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary absent).

Six businesses submitted proposals for a new playground at Cutler Field. The equipment would be purchased off the state list which ensures a competitive price. Playground chips are not available on the state list. Some businesses separated or broke out the playground chips portion [That is also a discrete task that volunteer labor can install if funds are tight]. The O'Brien quote total includes playground chips. Installation would be done at prevailing wages rates. State procurement laws dictate that installation costs cannot exceed \$10,000 or the whole thing would need to be bid out. Since the Park Commission has limited funds to spend on a new playground regardless, businesses were asked to stay under the \$10,000 labor cost limit and quote as much playground as could be safely purchased and installed on site with those budget parameters.

<u>Proposals received</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
1. O'Brien (Landscape Structures)	\$40,472
2. Marturano Recreation Co. (Game Time)	\$34,979.26
3. Site Specifics	\$34,037.36
4. ChildScapes	\$39,800
5. Premier Park & Play	\$39,967
6. Ultiplay – option 1	\$40,437
7. Ultiplay – option 2	\$40,432

Gineane Haberlin reminded the commissioners that they do not need to vote on the preferred proposal tonight. Instead, they may want to winnow the options and vote at the March 7th meeting. So long as a vendor is selected before Spring Town Meeting in April, then the Park Commission will be ready to go forward with the new playground immediately after Spring Town Meeting.

Commissioners appeared to prefer the playground equipment sold by O'Brien and Game Time. Groton already has Landscape Structures equipment (sold by O'Brien) at its Christine Hanson Memorial Playground. Kenneth Bushnell views both Landscape Structures and Game Time as quality equipment. The Premier structures were more numerous than some proposals but the play stations did not seem as impressive or fun as some of the other vendor's offerings. The quotes with merry go round equipment were not preferred as older children sometimes accidentally knock younger children off merry go rounds and the subsidence of playground chips can create a slipping hazard for feet sliding under the merry go round.

The Game Time proposal includes the landscaping fabric but not the playground chips. If one subtracts playground chips from the quotes, then O'Brien and Game Time pricings is comparable. Commissioners did not vote but were leaning toward O'Brien (Landscape Structures) and Marturano Recreation Company (Game Time).

Commissioners looked at the remaining budget now that the Park Commission is half way through the fiscal year. The budget is also about 50% spent. Gineane Haberlin observed that the budget will be tight as drought and irrigation issues in first half of fiscal year have taken a toll on the budget. Kenneth Bushnell suggested that budget permitting; lumber should be purchased for completion of the Town Field dugout roofs.

Turf Unlimited submitted proposals for fertilization and irrigation that matched the company's pricing for the past two fiscal years. Commissioners expressed satisfaction with Turf Unlimited as a vendor and expect to continue using them for fertilization and irrigation.

Fran Stanley was directed to invite use groups to submit field use permits for spring ball field use. Use group representatives should be invited to attend the March 7th meeting to assist with the Park Commission's review of submitted applications.

Gineane Haberlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Matthew Frary absent).

Next meeting: Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley