

## Town of Groton

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## Park Commissioners

Gineane Haberlin, Chair  
Kenneth Bushnell  
Robert Flynn  
Matthew Frary

### Meeting Minutes

Date: May 2, 2016  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis St., Groton, MA  
Commissioners present: Gineane Haberlin, Robert Flynn, Kenneth Bushnell, Matthew Frary  
Also in attendance: Tom Delaney (DPW Director), Keith Richardson (Organic Plant Magic), Tim Siok, Paul Garcia, Evan Boucher, Vanessa Abraham (Library Director), Groton Public Library trustees – Mark Gerath, Jane Allen, Nancy Wilder, Marilyn Dabritz, Barbara Lamont, Kristen Von Campe, David Zeiler  
Handouts: Agenda, James Gmeiner letter of April 11, 2016

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Gineane Haberlin called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Pending invoices were reviewed and approved.

### Playground Road Safety Concerns

Gineane Haberlin moved the Playground Road agenda item to the head of the list of items to address in this evening's meeting. She noted that this is a valuable road for library use, but not a public road. We need to be aware of liability and safety issues. The work being done on the road and Town Field basketball court has resulted in hours of attention paid to the traffic patterns on Playground Road. Speed, type of vehicles and volume of traffic exiting onto Main Street from Playground Road has been a problem.

Jane Allen called the meeting of the library trustees to order.

Gineane Haberlin and others have seen cars use Playground Road as a cut through from Broadmeadow Road to Main Street sometimes traveling at about 30 miles per hour. Evan Bouche noticed some heavy triaxle trucks are using the cut through. Tom Delaney (DPW Director) commented that truck traffic is not allowed on this road.

Tom Delaney said that he has seen multiple maps over the years and understood that it is owned by the Town up to the Christine Hanson Memorial Playground parking lot. Speed bumps and other traffic calming are a possibility. Rob Flynn thought that Playground Road was Town owned all the way up to Route 119/Main Street. Tom Delaney observed that regardless of ownership, the present use of Playground Road is a safety concern.

Mark Gerath said that if Playground road is closed thereby putting increased pressure on the two way portion of Broadmeadow to the library, then the road needs to be widened to accommodate extra traffic. He said that as it is now, that stretch of Broadmeadow is more narrow than is optimal.

Gineane Haberlin said that she wants police input about safety. Police may be limited in enforcement because it is not a public way. Dave Simon (Zeiler?) asked if the police can cite someone for reckless driving. Can police be granted permission to patrol the street? These are questions for the GPD.

Jane Allen cited a prior study of Groton Public Library use that there are 7,000 people entering the library through the lower entrance each month. People also stop by the library and drop off books and do not go in and so these people are not counted in the study.

Evan Boucher said that he has been working on and off on the basketball court at Town Field with the DPW for two months and he has seen a lot of traffic on Playground Road. Matthew Frary says he likes the idea of speed bumps to slow traffic.

When Broadmeadow was closed to two-way traffic from Main Street, Jane Allen said, the road sign on Playground Road was erected. Tom Delaney stated that the road is not wide enough to be a town road. If it is made public way, then the Town might lose certain controls over it such as setting speed limits.

Nancy Wilder, library trustee, said that she has experienced local traffic enforcement of an officer stopping her vehicle to ask what she was doing on this road as it is not a through way. When she reported that she was conducting library trustee business, then the officer allowed her to continue on her way.

How can traffic safety be improved? Explore speed bumps. Group agreed that Jane Allen and Gineane Haberlin will meet with Police Chief Donald Palma to explore enforcement and other safety options.

### **Park Commission Positions**

Matthew Frary announced that he is resigning after this meeting as he is moving out of Groton in the near future. Gineane Haberlin will take Matthew Frary's place on the park liaison position on the Community Preservation Committee. There is a year remaining on Matthew Frary's Park Commission term. Anyone appointed to that position would serve for a year before needing to run for election. Counting Matthew Frary's position, there will be three seats available on the Commission. Two positions will appear on the ballot on May 17 as blanks where interested parties can write-in candidate names. Gineane Haberlin observed that there are three people in the audience who are interested:

- Evan Boucher, is also interested in one of the open positions on the Park Commission. He said he has been a lifelong resident and has been on the fire department.
- Tim Siok, pronounced /shook/, is interested in one of the open positions on the Park Commission. He has done landscaping and he is interested in fields.
- Paul Garcia is also interested in one of the open positions on the Park Commission. He moved here from Arizona a few years ago and has three children.

Robert Flynn said that he has not taken out papers to run for re-election but he is deliberating on whether to write in his name and choose to serve another term on the Park Commission in this way.

Matthew Frary is the applicant for the current CPC project to renovate the Town Field and Cutler Field basketball courts. The Groton Park Commission does not manage this project. The Town Field basketball court is mid construction and moving along well. The Cutler Field court is a more straightforward project. Gineane Haberlin will step in for Matthew Frary on the remaining CPC project responsibilities when he needs to end his involvement.

### **Organic Fertilization of Park Commission Ball Fields**

Resident Kevin Richardson addressed the Commissioners regarding organic fertilizer (water soluble organic fertilizer). His liquid product is shelf stable for two years rather than the zero shelf life for compost tea which must always be made up fresh. If you have the microbes which break down your fertilizer product, then the organic fertilizer does work.

The fertilizer is not a pesticide and it is a gray area about whether a license is needed to apply the product. He sells the product and not the labor to apply it. Asked about grubs, Kevin said that we have products for grub control. The grass needs to stay high for organic. The use groups tend to want closely cut grass to improve game play in games like baseball and soccer. The Department of Public Works cuts the grass at height of 2 to 2.5 inches in the summer. High grass can help to out compete the weeds. Tim Siok noted that some athletic grass seed is designed for 2 to 2.5 inch height.

### **Memorial Day Expenses**

Memorial Day parade expenses projected by Bob Johnson in a letter to the Park Commission.

*Matthew Frary moved to approve the Memorial Day expenditures totaling \$464.00 that were proposed by Bob Johnson. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 4:0.*

### **Field Use Permits**

Commissioners reviewed a pending field use permit for use of Woitowicz for a church picnic on August 20, 2016. Use of a tent was anticipated.

*Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the GH moved to approve. MF seconded with reminder to call BOH.*

### **Minuteman Common Rails**

More Douglas Fir rails are needed (lengths of 10s, 12s and maybe some 16s) to fill in around fencing gaps on Minuteman Common. John Smigelski's fabricated hardware will allow those new rails to be attached to the granite posts. Rail order may need to wait for start of new budget year on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Country Club Tennis Courts**

Country Club raised idea of getting Park Commission help to convert 4 tennis courts to 1 basketball court and 2 tennis courts which might allow for camps for children in the summer. Commissioners discussed whether they might work with the Country Club to help them do a CPA application for the conversion and leave it to the Country Club to do the maintenance plan. Robert Flynn asked does the Park Commission want the jurisdiction over the Country Club tennis court area. The Commission can ask for a Board of Selectmen review of the matter.

### **Woitowicz Tennis Court and Parking Lot**

Gineane Haberlin asked whether Commission could improve safety by improving parking and traffic flow at the Woitowicz Field on Forge Village Road. Specifically, could the present tennis court be converted to a turnaround parking lot with increased parking spaces. Robert Flynn asked how that parking lot could be paved and how could we get this done. Conversation with DPW attendees moved to the benefit of recycled asphalt chippings. For example, Off Prescott Street has this surface. Tom Delaney noted that it must be laid thick but otherwise it is similar to regular asphalt except for the pothole repairs being more difficult to accomplish.

Is the parking so bad at Woitowicz that we want to remove an existing amenity of the Woitowicz tennis court? This is Matthew Frary and Kenneth Bushnell's question. None of the Commissioners wanted to remove amenities if the situation can be avoided. The parking issues at Woitowicz will be further explored in future.

### **Town Field Basketball Court Update**

An electrician is meeting with Matt Frary tomorrow after 5 pm. There is a line for an old bubbler that once ran to the baseball field. Tom Delaney asked if the Commissioners would approve of him installing the underground infrastructure for a freeze proof water fountain to be situated near the future handicapped parking space. Cost would be negligible now and substantially reduce future costs of adding a water fountain. Commissioners agreed with Tom Delaney's proposal for the underground infrastructure.

The newly built water drainage moves water runoff away from the basketball court. Now water will be directed near a berm with two catch basins then carrying the water further away from the road and the basketball court.

Tom Delaney stated that the existing stone walls along Playground Road are in poor shape. Gineane Haberlin stated that if the stone walls are removed, then head in parking could be probably be accommodated along Playground Road. Tom Delaney observed that the lower library parking lot has an HDC approved rail fence at the bottom of the parking lot that might be a model for the fencing that can replace the present stone walls.

New business: per Robert Flynn, youth baseball is building storage units at Cow Pond to replace current dilapidated and unsightly storage units. Commissioners are not opposed to the upgrade. A building permit may be needed. Robert Flynn said that Nashoba Tech is doing the work.

Nashoba Tech may be asked to do the Town Field dugout roofs if an Eagle Scout candidate does not take up this project in the fall. Matthew Frary mentioned that the Historic Districts Commission (HDC) wants to be involved in the choice of dugout roofing shingle.

Fran Stanley will bring draft meeting minutes for March and May to the June meeting.

*Gineane Haberlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. Matthew Frary seconded and the motion carried 4:0.*

Next meeting: Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7 pm. Notes by Fran Stanley