

Town of Groton

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Park Commissioners

Gineane Haberlin, Chair
Evan Boucher, Interim Vice Chair
Kenneth Bushnell
Robert Flynn

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 6, 2016
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis St., Groton, MA
Commissioners present: Gineane Haberlin, Robert Flynn, Evan Boucher
Also in attendance: Tim Siok, Jay Saboliauskas, Kurt Dawson, Douglas Gray, Jeff Ohringer, Fred Correia
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes from May 2, 2016 and March 7, 2016

Gineane Haberlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Pending invoices were reviewed and approved. Kurt Dawson was asked to submit his business invoice for work to start up irrigation at Cow Pond.

Field Use Permits

Commissioners reviewed a request for use of Woitowicz Field by an over 40 lacrosse team, known as Groton Ancient Warriors. Douglas Gray represented their team and noted that the team also requests access to the Park Commission shed that is on site. A certificate of insurance has already been provided. The team uses the existing nets that are left there by youth lacrosse. About half of the Groton Ancient Warriors teammates are parents of children who are playing in the youth lacrosse league. The Commissioners' concern is that the Park Commission has its equipment in the storage shed and does not want unauthorized tinkering with the irrigation equipment. Once access to the shed is obtained by the Park Commission, then Commissioners will be in contact with Douglas Gray about access to the shed.

Fran Stanley was asked to add Evan Boucher's name to the Park Commission's accounts at Moison Hardware and Moore's Lumber. Matthew Frary's name will be removed from the supply stores' list of authorized signers.

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve use of Woitowicz by the Groton Ancient Warriors team as referenced in the field use permit request. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 3:0. (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Jay Saboliauskas was on hand to speak to Mark Keegan's basketball field use permit request. Commissioners agreed to defer action on both basketball permit requests until the Town Field court is completed.

Commissioners reviewed the Town's field use permit request for use of Town Field on July 8, 2016 for fireworks. The Town of Groton's liability policy will supply insurance for the event. The basketball court will probably be completed by July 8, 2016. Commissioners discussed fireworks event particulars and expectation of crowds in attendance. The Commissioners asked for a letter to be sent to Executive Assistant Dawn Dunbar noting that vehicles and food service equipment cannot be sited on the basketball court. Use of chairs is acceptable. Further, the Park Commission does not intend to pay for the event portable restrooms this year. The 2017 budget was not planned with this cost in mind.

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the fireworks field use permit request as written. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Commissioners reviewed the Grotonfest field use permit request for use of Legion Common from September 22, 2016 to September 25, 2016. Commissioners discussed past years' difficulties securing the required certificate of insurance in a timely manner.

Robert Flynn moved to approve the Grotonfest field use permit with a pending receipt of a certificate of insurance with the contingency that if a certificate of insurance is not received by close of business on Monday, August 1, 2016 then the field use permit is no longer valid. Gineane Haberlin seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Kurt Dawson of Dawson Irrigation came in at Gineane Haberlin's request and reported that the water levels at Cow Pond are lower at the start of this season than they were at the start of the season in 2015. At Cow Pond, there is a shallow well that serves a lot of youth soccer areas and an artesian well originally donated by youth football that irrigates other portions of Cow Pond.

All Park Commission irrigation now has rain sensors so Cow Pond will not be wasting water during a rainfall. Also, Kurt Dawson in consultation with the Water Department decided to wait on the start-up of irrigation. Whitney Well which draws from Cow Pond's same water table was down significantly this spring. Evan Boucher noted that the four new residential houses just up the road on Cow Pond each had an artesian well drilled. Jeff Ohringer who is a very regular presence at Cow Pond was in attendance to participate in the discussion as well. Once soccer wraps up, then the DPW will raise the grass height when mowing which is preserving of the fields.

Robert Flynn asked if we could deepen the present shallow well? The current depth is 10 to 12 feet. The current Cow Pond shallow well pump has a heat sensor to have it shut off if it overheats. Stavos is a Littleton shallow well expert. He has tools that will measure certain shallow well features. Commissioners agreed that it would be good to collect three quotes and define a preferred scope of work. Robert Flynn knows of two businesses. He will try to find a third name. The current plan is to address subject at the next meeting. Wash Wells from Derry, NH is one name.

Gineane Haberlin recommends involving Water Superintendent Tom Orcutt for consult at the next meeting.

Turf Unlimited does irrigation at Cutler and Woitowicz and fertilization at all the Park Commission ball fields. The core aerator will be able to come online this summer when purchased after July 1st.

Jeff Ohringer asked about when it rains hard who shuts down the field and who kicks the users off the fields if the fields appear to be at risk from use. It is the Park Commissioners' call. Gineane Haberlin invited people to reach out to Commissioners if there is a question. Group discussed alert to all the use groups about how we know you like to play in the rain but can you be mindful of the health of the fields which receive heavy use. Use groups could be reminded to notify Park Commissioners if you see damage to the fields.

Gineane Haberlin introduced Tim Siok who is interested in being appointed to the empty seat on the Park Commission. Tim Siok expressed interest previously but was not able to be a write in candidate in the May elections because he was not yet a registered voter. Gineane Haberlin explained that the Park Commission seats are elected so anyone recommended by the Park Commission and appointed by the Board of Selectmen would need to be willing to run at the next local election. Questions were raised about the appointment process. The process will be clarified but at a minimum the Park Commissioners can expect future joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on this matter.

On Friday, the Gazebo was reserved and the electricity was not turned on. Evan Boucher updated the group about steps he took to ensure that power was restored quickly and safely. Robert Flynn contacted Evan Boucher to alert him to the issue. The power was cut as a result of the basketball court work and the Park Commission needed to get the power back on. Fortunately, electrician Tim MacGregor came out with minimal notice and did the work in order to get power back on. Because the gazebo power is fed through the access point at the basketball court, the MacGregor invoice will be submitted to the CPC as a basketball court project expense.

Evan Boucher said going forward that the public and other Commissioners are welcome to address Park Commission matters with him as he is a Park Commissioner, but please do not ask him to presume upon his work connections simply because he works for the Town of Groton full time as a DPW employee. As it turned out, the DPW's work at the basketball courts at Town Field is complete. Other contractors are doing the remaining pieces.

Gineane Haberlin informed the group that the DPW has restored the pipes for one water fountain at the basketball court and has some pipes in place for an additional water fountain near the playground and as well as another one headed in the other direction near the baseball dugouts. DPW bought a water fountain with a standard bubbler, dog station, and bottle filler. The water fountain fixture cost about \$5,000. Is the Park Commission willing to pay half of this cost out of its warrant article monies for park improvements (not the general budget).

Gineane Haberlin moved to have the Park Commission pay for half of the cost of the Town Field water fountain with the monies used to be drawn from the park improvements warrant article money. Evan Boucher seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Now that Town Meeting approved funding for Cow Pond parking lot engineering study, Robert Flynn will contact Bob Pine. Expected cost is \$5,000. Can the Waitowicz parking lot study be added to Bob Pine's scope of work? The fencing for Cow Pond bump outs at Cow Pond, Waitowicz and repair of fencing at Cutler can be done after July 1st too. Commissioners want to improve traffic flow at Waitowicz without removing the existing tennis court.

Gineane Haberlin was approached by resident who wants to improve the Waitowicz tennis court. She recommended that the repairs be paid for via a CPC application. She will work with that person to explain the application requirements.

The Commissioners reviewed draft minutes from past Park Commission meetings.

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the May 2, 2016 draft minutes as submitted. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Gineane Haberlin moved to approve the March 7, 2016 draft minutes as submitted. Evan Boucher seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Gineane Haberlin asked for Commissioners to appoint a vice chair in the event she is not available at various times this summer. Robert Flynn asked for board reorganization. Gineane Haberlin agreed to put that on the agenda for the next meeting (July 18th). She asked for the assignment of the Park Commission's liaison to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to be re-evaluated at that meeting. She has been filling in after Matthew Frary's departure but would be happy to have another Commissioner serve in this role.

After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to appoint Evan Boucher as the Interim Vice Chair until the Park Commission's July 18 meeting when all leadership roles will be assessed.

New business: Robert Flynn and Fred Correia are organizing a ceremony on June 7, 2016 to honor William Waitowicz who was a marine killed in Afghanistan five years ago. The ceremony will be held at Waitowicz Field and Robert Flynn will be bringing some of the Park Commission's new U.S. flags and Marine Corps service flags in case they are needed tomorrow.

Gineane Haberlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Next meeting: Monday, July 18, 2016 at 7 pm. Notes by Fran Stanley