

Town of Groton

173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
Tel: 978-732-1893
Fax: 978-448-1115

fstanley@townofgroton.org



Park Commissioners

Evan Boucher, Interim Vice Chair
Kenneth Bushnell
Robert Flynn
James Gaffney
Timothy Siok

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 6, 2016
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis St., Groton, MA
Commissioners present: Robert Flynn, Evan Boucher, James Gaffney, Timothy Siok
Also in attendance: Laurie Smigelski (HGAA), Bob Mullins (Youth Lacrosse), Jeff Ohringer (Youth Soccer), Kalpesh Badolwala (Adult Cricket), Anna Eliot (Selectman)
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes from July 18, 2016

Evan Boucher called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Hazel Grove Agricultural Association

Laurie Smigelski, past Park Commissioner and current head of the Hazel Grove Agricultural Association (HGAA), addressed the Commissioners regarding planned improvements to the racing track surface at the Groton Fairgrounds. The track surface for training harness racers is stone dust and presently encroached by weeds and grass on both sides of the track. Ideally, the track should be 40 to 45 feet wide. HGAA plans to broaden the track to its prior width and replace the stone dust. Down the line, the HGAA plans to work on improving the deteriorated barn known as the Exhibition Hall.

Presently, there are 14 Standardbred horses boarded on site. In addition, HGAA charges \$50 annual membership for equestrian use of the Hazel Grove Park.

Robert Flynn moved to accept Laurie Smigelski's recommendation for track improvements and barn improvements at the Hazel Grove Park. Evan Boucher seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Pending Field Use Permits

Kalpesh Badolwala described the cricket tournament that he has planned to hold on Town Field. These players are adults. He is not a resident but a couple of his players are Groton residents. Commissioners noted a conflict with another requested use for Town Field. Kalpesh Badolwala said that he is open to using Cutler Field instead of Town Field. He noted that for cricket play, the grass needs to be mown close to the ground. Commissioners thought that this would not be a problem given the mowing schedule for the DPW.

Robert Flynn moved to approve use of Cutler Field for the proposed cricket event contingent on receipt of a certificate of insurance. Evan Boucher seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Commissioners reviewed other pending field use permits for youth lacrosse's use of Woitowicz, youth baseball's use of Town Field and Cow Pond baseball diamonds, youth soccer's use of Cow Pond. All of these requesters will need to provide a certificate of insurance listing the Town of Groton as additional insured. None of the uses are conflicting.

Evan Boucher moved to approve the above-listed, unconflicting, pending field use permits as submitted provided that certificates of insurance are received. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Reorganization and Meeting Times for the Park Commission

Reorganization was deferred to a time when the full commission is in attendance. Commissioners designated Timothy Siok to be the Park Commission's liaison to the Community Preservation Committee. Commissioners decided to meet the first Tuesday of every month.

Woitowicz Shed

Bob Mullins reported that dry rot is present on the double doors to the shed but that the shed itself is in decent shape. Handyman repairs discussed. Commissioners asked Fran Stanley to email Tom Delaney to request DPW labor to repair and reinforce the shed doors. Park Commission will pay for the building material costs, perhaps using its Moore's Lumber account. The group discussed that the latch probably needs to be attached with bolts to make the lock more secure. Also, the double door could be barred from the inside with "U" brackets holding a sturdy 2 x 4.

Jeff Ohringer said that the soccer concession stand shed has rotted trim and needs PVC/composite material. Commissioners discussed need for a field walk of its properties to collect list of needed repairs so that the Commissioners can then prioritize those repairs. The Cow Pond concession stand repair will be deferred until that time. Jeff Ohringer commented that Tom Delaney offered to cut vines and trees behind the Cow Pond pump house.

Cow Pond Parking Area

Cow Pond parking area design to improve safety will need to allow for draining and possibly paving along the soccer side of the fields. Group discussion highlighted that existing conditions present a super tough problem to address in order to create useable as well as safe parking. One-way flow of traffic is preferred.

Cow Pond Irrigation

Jeff Ohringer said that youth soccer has moved 90 percent of its operations to Larter Field in Dunstable as the stressed Cow Pond fields cannot tolerate heavy use. Turf Unlimited, the fertilization contractor, noted that the more use of the dormant fields, then the less that the grass will come back and the more will have to be spent to bring the turf fields back.

Jeff Ohringer got 4 estimates from well contractors. Robert Flynn collected information from Skillings that the deep well at Cow Pond was 980 feet deep gets 22 gallons per minute. It was fracked once. 40 gallons per minute is the yield from the Cow Pond shallow well which was dug in the 1980s. This shallow well has gone dry 3 times since then, the last two times in 2015 and 2016.

Evan Boucher commented that improving the shallow well may be expensive as it requires removal of lots of material due to the fact that the soil is so finely ground at Cow Pond.

Bob Mullins said that in his view a deep well would be advantageous to the Cow Pond fields. Robert Flynn said that one well drilling method is drilling with an auger rather than fracking.

Commissioners decided to approach the Board of Health and further explore whether an improvement to the shallow well might be feasible. Robert Flynn has a contractor to consult about locating the best place to dig and also a method of drilling with augers that are known as 'environmental' wells. Commissioners want to know if alternatives to a deep well are truly feasible before committing to a fix.

Dawson Irrigation invoice discussed and the football irrigation schedules at Cow Pond. Commissioners decided to secure the deep well pump house to prevent unauthorized access to the irrigation schedules that have resulted in the football field being watered in the mid afternoon and the pump working many hours a day to meet the heavy scheduled use.

Groton School Work Day

James Gaffney moved to approve purchase of several mulching forks and 20 yards of certified playground chips to be applied to the Christine Hanson Memorial Playground at Town Field. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).

Commissioners discussed signage at Town Field court to remind of appropriate language, and that rollerblades, skateboards and bicycles should stay off the court.

September 6, 2016

Page 3 of 3

Ryan Palmer floated the idea of building a street hockey rink in Town. Also, a rehabilitation of the tennis court at Woitowicz could be a future CPC project. Robert Flynn said that the turf field for GDRSD may be coming before the CPC for engineering and design funding soon.

Meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley