

## Town of Groton

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

fstanley@townofgroton.org



## Park Commissioners

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

### Meeting Minutes

Date: October 4, 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: Matt Pisani (Boy Scout leader), Kyle Zimmer (Eagle Scout candidate),  
Suzanne Nobrega (Girl Scout Troop 66530 for Nashaway Service Unit)  
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes from July 18, 2016 and September 6, 2016

---

Evan Boucher called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Pending invoices were reviewed and approved.

### Girl Scout field use permit

Commissioners discussed the submitted field use permit request from the Girl Scouts to have a campfire at Cutler Field. The Girl Scouts will bring a fire extinguisher and notify the Groton Fire Department of their event in advance. Commissioners will require a certificate of insurance listing the Town of Groton as an additional insured. Suzanne Nobrega is already working on collecting a certificate of insurance from her organization.

Robert Flynn and Matt Pisani pointed out that the Girl Scouts could also use a portion of the Surrenden Farm land that has been set aside for scouting use. Matt Pisani said that boy scouts have used the site for some overnight camping trips, but the parking situation is not good for a lot of cars.

*Robert Flynn moved to approve the girl scout field use permit request as written pending the receipt of the certificate of insurance. Evan Boucher seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).*

### Eagle Scout project -- Kyle Zimmer

Following up on an earlier email with the Park Commission, Kyle Zimmer introduced himself and described his proposed Eagle Scout project that involves illuminating memorial flags in Groton. His first preference would be to use solar power to power the lights. He would prefer a light hanging down from the top of the flagpole. That down-light bulb, as with the up-light bulbs he has researched, appear to be durable as they are said to last for 20 years.

Robert Flynn thanked Kyle Zimmer for coming and offering to help with the lights. Kyle Zimmer was asked to add the flag at Cutler and the flag at Woitowicz by Commissioners Timothy Siok and Robert Flynn. Up-lights would be preferable from Tim Siok's perspective. Kyle Zimmer was advised to speak with Groton Electric Light (GELD) about existing lights and any recommendations for mounting or supplying the parts. Existing GELD installed lights will remain in use.

Commissioners also suggested that Kyle Zimmer speak with Veteran Affairs agent Bob Johnson regarding flag etiquette as he has deep knowledge of this topic.

Robert Flynn mentioned that he had a conversation with a person from Northeast LED who referenced long lasting LED lights that might be subsidized for the Town as they are partially funded through a grant program. Kyle Zimmer may want to look into Northeast LED in the event that is a less expensive way to buy long lasting LED lights. Matt Pisani said that they are always looking for new Eagle Scout candidate projects. Commissioners suggested one possible project -- the dugout roofs at the Town Field large baseball diamond need to be built. Also, the Hazel Grove Agricultural Association (HGAA) -- Laurie Smigelski is the Park Commission's main contact for HGAA -- may have projects for the scouts out at Hazel Grove Park.

### Update on Groton School work party

Evan Boucher reported that the work day effort went well and described the projects that the children worked on. Commissioners reviewed and signed a thank you letter to be sent to the Groton School student volunteers.

### Irrigation at Cow Pond

A possible third well head has been located by Evan Boucher. Commissioners agreed that it is worth investigating to see if there is water in that well. It could be dual shallow wells such as exists at Cutler Field.

Commissioners discussed that there would probably need to be a significant investment from the sports users down at Cow Pond if a new well is dug. Commissioners did not think that the Park Commission has the funds to pay for a deep well. Fran Stanley will draft a letter to youth sports groups (baseball, lacrosse, soccer) to convey this consensus opinion of the Park Commission.

It was observed that well contractors are currently so busy meeting high demand that no contractors are available to dig a well until November at the soonest. This contractor shortage will allow time for the Park Commission to explore its options.

### **Core Aerator**

Tim Siok says that it is beneficial to core aerate the ball fields a couple of times a year. Commissioners discussed the merits of different types of aerating equipment and whether shared use or rental equipment could defray Park Commissioner's costs further. The DPW is shopping for a core aerator and the Park Commission had previously determined that owning its own equipment to be used by the DPW employees when they have time to be assigned the work is more cost efficient than contracting out the work.

### **Evan Holofcener Memorial Skating Rink**

Robert Flynn reminded the group that it was about time to plan for the installation of the rink. The Park Commission still has a liner and boards left over from last year. Some of the original plastic supports to hold the boards in place have deteriorated, but Robert Flynn has contributed wooden supports with metal spikes to make up for the breakage. Commissioners volunteered their own labor to set up the rink.

### **Woitowicz Shed**

Tom Delaney accepted the Park Commission's request to assign DPW staff to repair the shed doors. The Park Commission will pay for the material costs and carpenter Quintin Shea will repair the shed doors.

### **Reorganizing the board**

*Robert Flynn moved to appoint Evan Boucher as Chair of the Park Commission. Timothy Siok seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).*

*Robert Flynn moved to appoint Timothy Siok as Vice Chair of the Park Commission. James Gaffney seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).*

### **Cutler Field**

Evan Boucher said that this fall the DPW plans to thin out the small trees and brush between the railroad and the street to open up the area which is expected to increase visibility and safety at the site.

Timothy Siok and James Gaffney each commented that there is increased usage of Cutler Field now that the playground has been installed and the basketball court refurbished. Timothy Siok recommends adding a trash can. Evan Boucher stated that the Town owns several spare metal benches that can be installed at Cutler provided that concrete bases can be sourced.

### **Minutes**

*Robert Flynn moved to approve the July 18, 2016 and September 6, 2016 draft minutes as written. Evan Boucher seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Kenneth Bushnell absent).*

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 7 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley