

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: March 20, 2017
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis St., Groton, MA
Commissioners present: Kenneth Bushnell, Timothy Siok, and Evan Boucher
Visitor: Dinesh Maricherla (TechProCC), Ashish Dwivedi (Boston Warriors Cricket Club)
Handouts: Agenda, Mead Tree cost estimate, cricket pitch photographs

Evan Boucher called the meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.

Field Use Permits

All approved field use permit request are conditioned on the receipt of a valid certificate of insurance that lists the Town of Groton as additional insured.

Evan Boucher moved to approve the U12 travel team baseball request for use of Cow Pond diamond 1 as written. Timothy Siok seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Robert Flynn and James Gaffney absent).

Kenneth Bushnell moved to approve the Jonathan Gilmour Memorial bike ride request for use of Legion Common as a water stop for a May 13, 2017 bicycle ride as written. Timothy Siok seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Robert Flynn and James Gaffney absent).

Timothy Siok has communicated with cricket representatives since the March 7th meeting. The location of the cricket pitch on Cutler Field was discussed. Photographs of an installed cricket pitch – roughly 8 yards by 24 yards -- have been shared with the Commission.

Dinesh Maricherla (TechProCC) said that if his group can use Cutler field, then that would satisfy their field needs such that Saturday use of Woitowicz field is not needed. Ashish Dwivedi (Boston Warriors Cricket Club) spoke up for his team's needs. His team is also focusing on Cutler field as Cutler field is the one location where Commissions have been open to discussing installation of a cricket pitch.

The two cricket groups' proposed time of use do not conflict. The TechProCC team practices and plays on Saturday and Sunday mornings 8 am to noon. The Boston Warriors Cricket Club practices and plays on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from noon until 6 pm.

The cricket groups would use their private funds to install the cricket pitch. If approved, they would use their own contractor to install the cricket pitch. These use groups would like to install four inches of concrete (plus base) to be covered by artificial grass material (astro-turf) with two slots to hold the wickets. Rerouting of irrigation lines in the pitch area is an anticipated need and the use group would need to pay for that cost. The use groups said that the wicket slots would not impede other field uses as dirt can fill in the slots when cricket is not playing. Other users of Cutler could also run over the installed pitch as the astro turf provides a slight cushion to the subsurface hard base.

Both cricket representatives agreed have their groups pay for the removal of the cricket pitch in the future if needed. Park Commissioners were appreciative of the offer, but it was noted this offer is not enforceable.

Timothy Siok commented that the cricket pitch may look less invasive if the astro turf is installed on top of a starpack base (gravel and stone dust). Evan Boucher stated that the use groups and their contractor must allow Park Commission direction with respect to the means of construction. For example, any loam removed would need to be retained by the Park Commission. Also, track pads may be required to protect the field from the wheels and

treads of construction equipment. Commissioners first vote on approving request for cricket groups to use Cutler field with the final decision of type of cricket pitch – concrete or starpack – to be made later. Commissioners can decide on type of pitch at the April 4 meeting if needed.

Evan Boucher moved to approve the TechProCC cricket request for use of Cutler field on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 am to 12 noon from May 21, 2017 to September 30, 2017 and to approve the Boston Warriors cricket request for use of Cutler field on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 6 pm from April 22, 2017 to September 30, 2017 except for May 13, 2017 and May 20, 2017. Timothy Siok seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Robert Flynn and James Gaffney absent).

Town Field tree work

Commissioners reviewed the Mead Tree cost estimate for removing the large Spruce tree by crane in addition to two Maple trees that have a significant quantity of dead and dying branches. The Commissioners agreed that the two Maple trees do need to come down. This meeting was convened out of the Commissioners' regular monthly cycle to consider whether the large Spruce needs to be removed as soon as is practicable. Based on the arborist's advice and others who have viewed the uplifted earth around the root base of the Spruce, Commissioners agreed that this large tree needs to be removed as it may create a hazard to Town Field or abutters' property if the tree falls down.

Evan Boucher said that GELD may be able to split the charge for the crane (\$1,800 for a day) if GELD has other tree work done on the same day by Mead Tree. Both GELD and the Park Commission would reduce their costs in this way. So, there is a possibility that the total invoice from Mead Tree may be \$3,100 instead of \$4,000 depending on GELD's actions. Commissioners have asked for a copy of the abutter John Kelly's survey to confirm that the large Spruce tree is on public land. Evan Boucher will notify abutter Lawrence Academy of the planned tree work on the day of by calling their grounds representative (Carl).

The Park Commission will not be charged for the removal of the non-chipped wood from the two Maple trees. Mead Tree's estimate presumes cutting of the two Maples, chipping the smaller branches and leaving the rest of the wood on site. Kenneth Bushnell volunteered to remove the remaining wood.

Evan Boucher moved to approve Mead Tree's cost estimate to remove the large Spruce tree and two Maple trees at the Town Field as described in the cost estimate for a total cost not to exceed \$4,000. Timothy Siok seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Robert Flynn and James Gaffney absent).

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley