

## Town of Groton

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## Park Commissioners

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

### Meeting Minutes

Date: April 13, 2017  
Time: 7 pm  
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis St., Groton, MA  
Commissioners present: Robert Flynn, Evan Boucher, James Gaffney, Timothy Siok, Kenneth Bushnell  
Others: Jon Strauss, Christine Hooper, Jeff Ohringer, Ashish Dwivedi, Tom Delaney  
Handouts: Agenda, email from Boston Warriors Cricket, two approved cricket permits at Cutler

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Evan Boucher called meeting to order at 7 pm. Evan Boucher stated expectations for a meeting that is conducted civilly. He provided a brief overview of Park Commission's oversight of the fields and the field use permit process.

Kenneth Bushnell said that we are in uncharted waters with a proposed out of town permit use. Discussion covered the fact that sports are growing and for profit organizations are looking for field space.

*Robert Flynn moved to rescind TechProCC and Boston Warriors Cricket Club permits. Kenneth Bushnell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

In the discussion, Robert Flynn said that he wanted to rescind the permits because past practice is that these permits are not approved. Ashish Dwivedi said that we have a town resident who has joined our group. And the resident may invite some Groton School students to participate as well.

Speaking for Boston Warriors Cricket Group, Ashish Dwivedi stated that TechProCC no longer wants a permit once the decision was made not to allow a concrete based pitch. So they have withdrawn their permit.

Evan Boucher noted that the Park Commissioners have followed past policy. We had one field left. Boston Warriors went for a site walk with Timothy Siok and thought that it could work. The cricket balls are 85 to 90 yards away and not being hit in the direction of the Cutler Field playground. Evan Boucher stated that Boston Warriors did everything we asked. It's not moral to go back when you have in good faith done what the Park Commission asked. The Park Commission may want to focus more on its process, but it would be rude not to accommodate these gentlemen.

Jon Strauss said that you have to be careful here. What is compelling for him was that the cricket use would prevent casual resident use for the entire weekend for the entire year.

Ashish says that he does not have other field space. Their club has been in existence for 9 years and if they do not obtain a field, then their club will be disbanded. They do not play on long weekends. They need 8 weekend days over 4 months. They will know what dates they are hosting for by the end of April. The Commissioners invited the Boston Warriors Cricket Club to re-apply and specifically describe their requested use.

Christine Hooper said we do use Cutler a good deal and we want use. However, since a permit has been issued, it feels right to allow that use. She wants the dates and times tightened up. She stated that she agreed with Evan that the approved permit holder should be allowed to go forward. She does not want a cricket pitch installed. Taxpayers should get the right to use the field.

Jeff Ohringer said that he has asked for youth soccer requests for years. And he requested from dawn to dusk and the Park Commission asked him to be more specific. Jeff Ohringer says that youth soccer may want to use Cutler in the fall, starting in September this year.

Tom Delaney saw another cricket group playing pick up at Town Field for two years and saw no usage damage. A cricket representative commented that his team does not use cleats, only sneakers that are low impact on the fields.

Tom Delaney also stated that there is no mechanism set up to charge for the fields, but that doesn't mean that this mechanism could not be set up. Historically, the use groups paid to help create the fields and no one wanted to

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charge them twice. Jeff Ohringer said we are talking money and direction of money. For Cow Pond, youth soccer has spent thousands of dollars on the field and continues to do so.

Keith Hooper asked about the cricket pitch which was then described. Evan Boucher stated that he recommended that no changes be made to the pitch this year and for the cricket club to put its energies instead in a clinic which Ashish's group had expressed interest in providing at some point in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 7 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley