

Town of Groton

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Park Commissioners

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017
Time: 7 pm
Location: Legion Hall, 75 Hollis Street, Groton, MA
Commissioners: Robert Flynn, Kenneth Bushnell, Timothy Siok
Others: Saifadam Pathan "Saif" (Blue Bees), Madhusudan Yedida "Madhu" (Blue Bees), Kerry Strauss
Handouts: agenda, June 12, 2017 draft minutes

Kenneth Bushnell called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Review Pending Invoices

Robert Flynn asked for a closer look at a Hazel Grove electric bill that has had elevated charges since March 2017. Fran Stanley will contact HGAA.

Invoices approved this evening will fully expend the fiscal year 2017 general expenses budget. Any July invoices will be paid out of the fiscal year 2018 general expenses budget. Other expenses that can be paid out of capital improvements funds will be paid out of first the 2016 monies and afterwards the 2017 monies.

Fran Stanley asked if commissioners are interested in requesting additional warrant article funds for capital improvements. By the end of fiscal year 2018, it is expected that most or the entirety of the present capital improvements monies will be spend on pending projects. Commissioners expressed interest and will consider whether a request should be made at a Fall Town Meeting or a Spring Town Meeting.

Review Pending Field Use Permits

Robert Flynn moved to extend the temporary permit granted by the chair to Groton Dunstable Crusaders, a baseball team for 14 to 15 year olds, to a full permit. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Evan Boucher and James Gaffney absent).

One of the Town Field basketball court rims is bent and its net is shredded. Commissioners agreed that it would be good to purchase extra basketball rims and nets to have on hand when replacements are needed. Kenneth Bushnell has the contact information for an athletic supplies vendor who is on the state bid list. Kenneth Bushnell will research these purchases. These supplies can be paid for by the gift fund for the basketball courts.

Review Draft Minutes

Robert Flynn moved to approve the June 12, 2017 draft minutes as corrected. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Evan Boucher and James Gaffney absent).

Cricket Clinic for Children

Saifadam Pathan "Saif" and Madhusudan Yedida "Madhu" are representatives of the pick-up cricket group that calls itself Blue Bees. Saif and Madhu spoke with the commissioners regarding their interest in sponsoring a free cricket clinic to be held in August for children ages 8 to 15. Blue Bees will use a soft ball, provide any needed other supplies, and plan to give participants an introduction to the history of the sport. Children will not need to arrive with any special gear or clothing.

Commissioners welcomed the idea and will site the clinic at a Town Field location. Parents and caregivers will be expected to remain with children who are participating in the clinic. The clinic will start about 9 am and run two to three hours. Saif and Madhu will write up a flyer. James Gaffney will be the group's contact person and he will help promote the event on the "Talk about Groton" list-serv and Groton's Facebook page.

Kenneth Bushnell moved to sponsor a one day cricket clinic in August. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Evan Boucher and James Gaffney absent).

CPC Update from Liaison

Project to Dig Deep Well at Cow Pond

Tim Siok pitched the Cow Pond deep well to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Tim Siok will write a letter to help establish that the deep well is an eligible project for CPC funding.

Tim Siok reported that the CPC has projected that they may not even accept applications considering the fact that the CPC has already committed to spending funds in the next fiscal year and the state match is low this year. Even if the deep well is eligible for CPC funds, the full cost of the project may not be available for a grant. Tim Siok suggested spreading out the project between CPC, lacrosse, soccer, baseball. There is a chance that use group contributions may be sufficient to dig the well outside of public funding. The Park Commission could pay for adjusting the sprinkler heads and other ancillary expenses needed to work with the new well's output.

The commissioners discussed the fact that obtaining sufficient water to make the Cow Pond ball fields playable is a priority. The safety improvements project will require significant funding even if accomplished in stages. The Cow Pond safety improvements project may need to be deferred as a "down the road kind of project" until available CPC funds are replenished.

Installation of CPC Signs at Cutler and Town Field

Tim Siok announced CPC wants to put up signs at each of its funded properties. For the Cutler basketball court and the Town Field basketball court, Tim Siok asked Commissioners if they will grant permission for the CPC signs to be installed. The Historic Districts Commission will need to be asked permission for the Town Field signage.

Robert Flynn moved to give the Community Preservation Committee permission to hang signs announcing the use of CPC funding in those projects. Kenneth Bushnell seconded and the motion carried 3:0 (Evan Boucher and James Gaffney absent).

Capital Improvements

- John Kelly is lining up a fencing contractor to install supports for the Town Field dugout roofs.
- Tim Siok will contact Tom Delaney and ask if DPW staff can run an aerator if the Park Commission purchases its own machine. Tim Siok will also inquire about whether Tom Delaney would prefer one kind of machine over another for the efficient use of his staff.
- Kenneth Bushnell will work on gathering estimates for the granite post and rail fencing at Town Field.
- Robert Flynn will continue to work on the acquisition of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).
- Kerry Strauss is interested in having the brush between Cutler Field and Townsend Road cleared out to improve visibility of the Cutler Field parking lot. Since this strip of land adjacent to Townsend Road is owned by the M.B.T.A., the Park Commission is not in a position to provide permission to clear the brush.

Field Use Permit Policies

Commissioners agreed to defer action on this matter until it can be worked on by the full commission.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. Minutes by Fran Stanley.