

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, Sept 5, 2017
Time: 7 pm
Location: Town Hall, Selectmen Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA
Commissioners: Robert Flynn, Kenneth Bushnell, Evan Boucher, James Gaffney
Others: Chris Davey (GD Youth Soccer), Kyle Zimmer (Eagle Scout candidate), Andrew Davis
Handouts: Agenda, July 11, 2017 draft minutes

Kenneth Bushnell called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Review Pending Field Use Permits

Commissioners agreed to extend the temporary permits issued to Groton Dunstable Youth Soccer to the duration requested for use of Cutler Field and Cow Pond Fields A, B, C, and football practice areas.

Commissioners granted field use permit to Groton Dunstable Youth Lacrosse for times and dates requested for use of Woitowicz Field.

Flag Lighting Project by Kyle Zimmer

Commissioners and Kyle Zimmer discussed his project. Kyle Zimmer had excess funds and would like to create a gift fund to be used by the Park Commission for future repair of the solar lighting units that he installed at a number of Park Commission flag poles. Kyle Zimmer gave the Park Commissioners a check for \$550.

Christine Hanson Memorial Playground

Andrew Davis spoke with Commissioners about his experience with children's playgrounds and his concern that there may not be sufficient padding under the play structures to meet current requirements. In the discussion, Kenneth Bushnell observed that the marked surface line on the support posts may not be an accurate reflection of the actual depth of mulch cover because a visual inspection of the finished grade does not reveal the support post footing depth and the portion of that depth that is concrete. The mulch depth is calculated as the measurement of the space between the top of the concrete and the finished grade.

Commissioners are planning a volunteer student work event with the Groton School for September 11th. Andrew Davis can help at this event and the Commissioners will ask the students to spread mulch (twice tumbled, approved kind) at his direction. James Gaffney will also attend as the Park Commission representative. Evan Bouche will order a mulch deliver from Dirt Doctors and drop off a wheelbarrow and a few rakes and shovels for use by the students. Commissioners redirected the Groton School students from other prospective projects in order to put attention to this playground.

Review Draft Minutes

Kenneth Bushnell moved to approve the July 11, 2017 draft minutes. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Timothy Siok absent).

Cricket Clinic for Children

Robert Flynn attended and said that Timothy Siok was also there. He said that few children attended, but that the children involved seem to have fun and the event ran well as organized by the hosting Blue Bees. He added that this weekend in August is particularly quiet because so many families are taking summer vacations.

Old Burying Ground Tree Work

Two estimates from tree contractors were received for removal of the dead red Pine tree. Mead Tree's estimate was for \$1,600 and Nicol Woodworks' estimate was for \$2,600. Both contractors have reputations for doing careful and quality work. David Nicol has removed trees in the Old Burying Ground in the past. David Mead has performed a number of contract jobs for the Park Commission in recent years. The price difference between the two quotes seems to be explained by David Nicol's plan to do the tree work entirely by hand. The David Mead quote described a work method that makes use machinery on the single narrow road that runs through the cemetery. Commissioners decided to use the contractor with the lower estimate.

Kenneth Bushnell moved to select Mead Tree to remove the tree at a cost of \$1,600. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Timothy Siok absent).

Capital Improvements

- John Kelly will find a contractor to install supports for the Town Field dugout roofs.
- Two estimates are expected to be collected soon for granite post and rail fencing at Town Field and repair of the stone wall.
- Robert Flynn will continue to work on the acquisition of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).
- Firemen's Common memorial marker: Still looking for the Charles C. Gordon Square bronze memorial marker that was accidentally knocked down several years ago. The marker, if it can be located, will be reinstalled on Firemen's Common.
- Commissioners will await Old Burying Ground Commission guidance on how to address the repair or replacement of the Sussana Kemp Parkar headstone.

Kenneth Bushnell moved to have the Park Commission to spend up to \$9,000 provided that the item is on the state list for the purchase of an aerator that is or is similar to a Lesco stand-on aerator. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Timothy Siok absent).

Kenneth Bushnell moved to have the Park Commission spend up to \$500 on basketball rims and nets using a state list vendor. Robert Flynn seconded and the motion carried 4:0 (Timothy Siok absent).

Field Use Permit Policies

Commissioners agreed to defer action on this matter until it can be worked on by the full commission. Commissioners expressed interest in using software that would provide easy reference for details of use groups' practice and game schedules. Also, they considered whether it was time to institute fees for field use.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Minutes by Fran Stanley.