

## Town of Groton

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## Park Commissioners

Kenneth Bushnell, Chair  
Evan Boucher  
Anna Eliot  
James Gaffney  
TimSiok

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** June 5, 2018  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Town Hall Second Floor – Meeting Room  
**Commissioners Present:** Kenneth Bushnell, Evan Boucher, Anna Eliot, James Gaffney, Tim Siok  
**Others present:** Greg Fishbone

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**Chair Kenny Bushnell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.**

### **Pending invoices**

Pending invoices were reviewed and signed.

***Kenneth Bushnell moved to approve and pay pending invoices. Evan Boucher seconded. Motion carried 4 in favor 1 abstain 0 not in favor.***

**The Commission discussed paying the invoice from Dr. Mulch. The garden club asked the Park Commission to pay the invoice. The Park Commission has paid for the mulch at the request of the Garden Club for mulch used at Town sites over the past few years.**

**Kenny Bushnell made a motion to pay the Dr. Mulch invoice in the amount of \$126 for the mulch used by the Garden Club for the spring 2018 Town gardening projects. Tim Siok seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

### **Basketball Court Discussion**

Greg Fishbone, an abutter to the basketball courts recounted his experience and concerns regarding the lights and late night games and activities at the Town basketball courts. He stated that the light timers appear not to be working and the lights are on all night. He also stated that he and his family have been subject to inappropriate language and music from individuals using the courts late at night.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Fishbone to contact the Police Department if there is inappropriate use of the courts such as drinking or other activities. And asked if he would email Maureen in the Land Use office when the lights do not appear to be in working order. The lights should automatically turn off at 10pm. The Commission stated that the Town electrician has been to the courts at least 3 times since the fall. One inspection resulted in the timer being repaired; one inspection resulted in re-setting of the timer. Evan Boucher will contact the Town electrician to inspect again.

The Commission will take action on installing signs at the courts, stating hours of use and basic rules. The Park Commission can determine the times of use, although neighborhood input is encouraged and welcome.

### **Field Use Applications**

The Commission reviewed the field use applications submitted for approval:

1. Baseball Clinic – Town Field, Large Diamond
2. Basketball Court – 3 on 3 Basket Tournament

Logan Gillis (not present) of Next Level Athlete, LLC submitted a Field Use Application requesting the use of the Town Field, Large Diamond for the week of July 9 – July 13, 2018. He plans on running a Baseball Clinic for High School Players. He plans on charging \$150 per player. He wants to advertise the clinic. He plans on using the gym at Lawrence Academy for the strength training part of his clinic.

The Commission discussed the application and determined that it falls into a “gray area” in meeting the requirements for the use of Groton fields. Because the organization is not based in Groton, there is no data on how many Groton

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high schoolers would be participating in the clinic, or if there could be an arrangement for discounted fee for Groton participates the Commission did not approve the Field Use request.

The Commission spoke to the fact that the field use policies need to be review and clearer policies need to be put into place for the use of the fields. The Park Commission will work on its policies and procedures in the upcoming year.

Catania Oils, Brian Desjardins submitted a Field Use request to use the Basketball Court on Saturday, June 30, 2018 for a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament from 12pm to 5pm for a Loaves & Fishes Fundraiser.

The Commissioners did not see any issues or concerns with granting the request.

**Kenny Bushnell made a motion to grant the Field Use request to Catania Oils, Brian Desjardins for use of the Town Basketball Court on Saturday, June 30, 2018 for a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Loaves and Fishes Fundraiser. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

#### **Unexpended Special Articles – Park Properties FY17**

The Park Commission has a balance of \$36,335.02 from Park Field Improvement Articles. The Accounting Office informed the Commission they would need to request to encumbrance the balance to FY2019 in writing to their office with an explanation on how and when the funds will be used, if the Commission intends to spend the funds on Park projects. The memo/information is due to the Town Accountant on June 8, 2018.

The Commissioners had a discussion about the unused funds. The Commission decided to request the Parks Field Improvements Article's remaining balance of \$36,335.02 be encumbrance to FY2019 for the following park improvement projects:

- Signage for the Basketball Court and Playing Fields – summer 2018
- Fence replacement or repair for playground – Summer 2018
- Legion Hall Walkway – Summer/Fall 2018
- Bench on Legion Hall Walkway in memory of Michael Roberts – Summer/Fall 2018
- Tennis Courts replacement or repair- Summer/Fall 2018

#### **Admin. Updates**

- Don Black replaced many of the field flags and town flags for prior to the Memorial Day weekend.
- Groton School Field Day was postponed to 6-8-18 because of the weather.
- Mitrano rates will increase by 10%.
- Commissioners signed a prepare Thank You addressed to the Garden Club for the gift of trees and shrubs planted at the Hanson Playground.
- All vendors have been contacted ensure there will not be any outstanding payments at the end of the fiscal year. All invoices must be paid by June 30, 2018.

**Kenny Bushnell made a motion to accept the minutes of March 6, 2018 and May 8, 2018. James Gaffney seconded. Motion carried 4 in favor, 1 abstain, 0 not in favor.**

#### **Open Space and Rec Plan- OSRP**

The Open Space and Rec Plan kick off meeting is Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. The Conservation Commission is hosting the kick with presenting the timeline and mission of the project. The OSRP is requesting a Park Commissioner to sit on the committee.

The Commission did not have current member available to attend the kick-off meeting, so Maureen Admin. Asst will attend, along with Anna Eliot, who is running unopposed by seat vacated by Robert Flynn.

Winterizing for the fields is complete.

After Town elections when new board is in place, a discussion will occur regarding Park Commission representative for OSRP and CPC.

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**Evan Boucher nominated Ken Bushnell for Park Commission, Chair for a year term. Vote 5 to 0 in favor.**

**Ken Bushnell nominated Anna Eliot for the Park Commission representative on the Open Space and Recreation Plan advisory committee until OSRP is completed. Vote 5 to 0 in favor.**

**James Gaffney nominated Tim Siok for the Park Commission representative on the Conservation Preservation Commission (CPC) for a one year term. Vote 5 to 0 in favor.**

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, August 7, 2018

***Kenny Bushnell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. Anna Eliot seconded. Motion carried 5:0.***

Minutes by Maureen Adema