

Town of Groton

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Park Commissioners

Kenneth Bushnell, Chair
Evan Boucher
Anna Eliot
James Gaffney
Timothy Siok

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 10, 2018
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Town Hall First Floor – Small Meeting Room
Commissioners Present: Kenneth Bushnell, Evan Boucher, Anna Eliot,
Commissioners Absent: James Gaffney, Tim Siok
Others present: Tom Sommer, Peggy House, Doug House

Chair Kenny Bushnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Chair Bushnell asked the residents from the Cutler Field neighborhood to speak to their experiences, concerns and issues regarding activities at Cutler Field/Basketball

Cutler Field Discussion

Mr. Somme, resident of the Cutler Field neighborhood, stated he is not happy with the lights being on all night at the Cutler Field basketball courts.

The lights are not only a bother, but are a waste of electrical resource when on all night through the winter months when the fields and courts cannot be used. This past spring there were a number of nights when there were crowds of young men playing hoops, playing loud music and making noise into the am hours. There has been trash left on the court, fields and in the neighborhood after these incidents. These incidents have continued and became more frequent during the last month. Mr. Sommer contacted the police on June 13, 2018 because of a loud boom and heavy smoke coming from Cutler Field. This incident was determined to be the lighting off of fireworks. Mr. Sommer provided the Commission with photos of trash on the property and a photo of the lights being on after 11:30 pm. Mr. Sommer has communicated to the Park Commission and Select Board about his concerns and frustration with the on goings at Cutler Field. He would like to have the lights turned off at a reasonable time and the nuisance activity to stop.

Mr. and Mrs. House, abutters to Cutler Field, agreed with the statements from Mr. Sommer. They told the Commission that fireworks have been shot over their home, creating a safety issue and property damage issue. Mr. and Mrs. House do not believe the individuals using the courts are kids, they believe the individuals on the court at night may be the third shift workers from a nearby company. They have been bothered by the loud music and noise and stated it is unacceptable that they are kept awake late into the night, especially on weekdays.

Commission Comments

- The Commission asked that the Police are contacted for the noise/music issues.
- Please contact the police when there is a disturbance at the field such as the fireworks.
- The lights will need to be rewired in order to be placed on a timer, and lit from dusk to dawn.
- There is a flag pole on the site that is required to be lit. The flag lighting will have to be considered when changing the lighting at Cutler Field.
- We will have a trash can placed on the site near the basketball court by the end of the week.
- Evan Boucher stated he asked the Groton Police Department about any calls/reports at Cutler Field. He also asked the police to patrol the area more frequently.

Action Plan

- a. Maureen will have a trash can delivered to Cutler Field tomorrow. It will be placed close to the basketball court.

- b. Post sign with the policies and rules for the basketball court and field. Kenny Bushnell will work on sign mock up with a sign vendor for look and language. Maureen will inquire what steps are needed to have sign put on Town property
- c. Evan will contact GELD and the Town electrician to address the lights staying on all night. The lights will be changed out to a timer. The lights will automatically shut off by 10 pm. He believes the lighting will have to be completely rewired.

Pending invoices

Pending invoices were reviewed and signed.

Kenneth Bushnell moved to approve and pay pending invoices. Evan Boucher seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Field Use Applications

The Commission reviewed the field use applications submitted for approval:

1. High School Girls Summer Soccer League – Cow Pond Field

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve the Field Use application for the High School Girls Summer Soccer League for the dates of July 10 – August 7, 2018, with the dates of 7/10, 7/12, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31 and 8/7/18 for games. Evan Boucher seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

2. Girls Basketball – 3rd to 6th grade Basketball Court Town Field

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve the Field Use application for the Girls Basketball 3rd to 6th grade on Thursday nights, 6pm to 8pm, June 28 – August 31, 2018. Evan Boucher seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

3. Farm to Brew Event – Groton Historical Society

Field Use application withdrawn. Event will be held at the Williams Barn

Open Space and Rec Plan- OSRP

Anna Eliot reported that the OSRP thinks it would be worthwhile for the Town to look into/consider/explore developing a full time/true Town department for the work and responsibilities for the Park Commission/Conservation Commission. The OSRP asked Anna to get feedback and input from the Park Commissioners on the idea. The Park Commissioners were open to the idea. There would need to be a public forum scheduled to hear from the Town residents. The Commission would need to reach out to all user groups of the fields for input, along with speaking to the DPW director. The Commission would need to identify what is needed, along with developing policies, labor schedules and maintenance schedules. The needs would need to be organized in a plan that consists of budget/cost, man hours, things that are done and things that should be done and things that the Commission would like to be done. Anna would report back to the OSRP that Commission is in support of exploring a full time/true Town department for the work and responsibilities for the Park Commission.

Town Field Fence-

Kenny Bushnell spoke with Wan Fence, a contractor, to repair/replacement the Town Field fence. The quote for the work is roughly \$3000 for labor and \$200 for the 15 sections of fence. He will get a firm quote and start date this coming week.

Capital Improvement Projects:

Discussion postponed to next meeting.

Admin. Updates

- Basketball backboard was installed on June 28th by the Groton DPW.
- The watering at the fields has been addressed

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- FY18 is closed.
- Gazebo beehive has been taken care of.
- Fireworks Celebration – Porta Potties delivery confirmed
- Fall Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting timeline and dates communicated,

Anna Eliot made a motion to approve the minutes from June 5, 2018 as written. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Kenny Bushnell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Anna Eliot seconded. Motion carried 3:0.

Minutes by Maureen Adema