



TOWN OF GROTON
173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450
(978) 448-1109

Minutes
Groton Park Commission
Tuesday, December 4, 2018
Town Hall 2nd floor lunch room 7:00 PM

Members Present: Kenneth Bushnell, Anna Eliot, Timothy Siok
Members Absent: Evan Boucher
Others in attendance: Tim Ross, Jeffrey Ohringer

7:00 pm Meeting called to order

1. Tim Ross, 25 Bayberry, thanked Kenny Bushnell for the quick removal of the tree that fell into his yard from a lightening strike on September 6, 2018. He provided photos of down tree and branches in his backyard. Mr. Ross expressed concerns about the remainder of the tree and other trees that border his property. He is concerned that the winter weather will bring the tree down.

Mr. Ross had a few questions for the Commission:

- Mr. Ross was wondering if the Town's insurance would allow for reimbursement of his homeowner's insurance deductible. (\$1,000)
The Commission stated they could not provide a definite answer to the question and directed Mr. Ross to the Town Manager's office.
- Proposed timeline from the remainder of the removal to be done.
Kenny Bushnell will contact Mead Tree to arrange the tree removal.
- Could he include 3 to 4 of the adjoining trees to be removed at the same time. The trees that Mead Tree recommended be removed.
The Commission did not think this would be a problem. Kenny Bushnell did not think it would be a problem to have all the trees cut and removed at the same time. He stated January is the best time to have trees removed. Kenny will coordinate with Mead Tree and Landscaping to have the work done in January.

Mr. Ross provided a quote from Mead Tree and Landscape. The quote was for \$6,950.00, it included 7 to 8 trees that Mr. Ross would pay for.

2. **Cow Pond Field Care and Maintenance – Jeffrey Ohringer**

Mr. Ohringer is a volunteer caretaker for Cow Pond Field. He attended the meeting to update the Commission on the condition of the field and what has been done and what needs to be done at the property.

Mr. Ohringer stated it has been a rough season for the fields. The amount of rain had taken a toll on the fields. He was concerned about not doing a late fall seeding. He asked for that decision to be reconsidered. Mr. Ohringer also asked the Park Commissioners to address the buildings at Cow Pond Field. He said he has been asking for the buildings to be addressed for the last couple of years. The pumphouse doors do not close and the ramp is falling apart. The trim on all the buildings is rotted.

He would also like trees along the fence removed because they are dead and shedding branches creating hazards.

3. **Field Use Permit Requests**

There were no field use permits applications submitted for this meeting.

Don Black notified Maureen that the Annual Bonfire change has been changed to Friday, January 11, 2019 from 5pm to 8pm. He requested an amendment be made to the permit.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve the date change for the Annual Bonfire to January 11, 2019 between the hours of 5pm – 8pm. Tim Siok seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 0.

4. **Carol Wheeler Memorial Park – Tree Removal**

Groton Conservation Commission, Agent Nik Gualco and Maureen discussed sending a letter to the owners of 0 West Main Street, the property that abuts Carol Wheeler Memorial Park where the tree in question that hangs over the Carol Wheeler Memorial Park parking lot. The tree in question may be on this property. The letter will state that the Park Commission and the Conservation Commission feel the tree should be removed due to safety concerns. The letter is to serve as notice, if there no response is received from the owner of 0 West Main Street within 20 days, the tree will be removed by the Town.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to send a letter to 0 West Main Street stating the tree that overhangs the Carol Wheeler Memorial Park has been deemed dangerous and will be removed within 20 days of the letter being sent if there is no response from the owners of 0 West Main Street. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

5. **2020 Budget Meeting – Update**

Anna and Maureen attended the Town budget meeting on November 28, 2018.

The Committee did not ask many questions and was agreeable to the Park Commission's request for FY20. Select Board Member John Giger did request that he be notified about the completion of the field light change out now that Groton is a Green Community.

6. **CPC application-**

The Park Commission CPC for the Forge Village Park Property application has been submitted. The application is seeking \$40,000 in funds. Anna and Evan attended the CPC meeting on November 26, 2019 for verbal feedback. Tim recused himself from the CPC board for the Park Commission application due to being a Park Commissioner. The deadline for the complete draft proposal is January 14, 2019. A Public Hearing advertised in the Groton Herald and a mailing to abutters must take place. Wednesday, January 23, 2019 has been decided as an agreeable date. Maureen will work on scheduling the meeting. Public Hearing for CPC application is February 11, 2019. Final application is due on March 11, 2019.

7. Open Commissioner Seat

The Groton Herald will have an ad advertising the open seat in December, running for two weeks. The Town website should also have a notice regarding the vacancy. All interested residents will need to submit an interest form to the Town Manager's office on or by January 2, 2019. Plan to be interviewed by the Park Commission at the regular monthly meeting on January 8, 2019 and be available for the appointment on January 28, 2019 at a joint meeting with the Select Board.

8. Field User Group Meeting

The field user group meeting invites will be sent in 2019. The purpose of having the user groups in to meet is to discuss shared maintenance and care of the fields, issues with conflicting schedules, and possible user fees.

9. Review pending invoices -

The Commissioners reviewed the pending invoices.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve and pay pending invoices. Anna Eliot seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

10. Admin Updates

- Hazel Grove Tree work scheduled for December 12 and 13
- Winterizing of Park Properties complete
- Town Report started
- Another call about lights on all night at Town Field – Maureen will call Tim MacGregor to take care of/look at.

11. Minutes

Tim Siok made a motion to accept the minutes of November 13, 2018. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

12. Adjourn

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

**Next meetings
January 8, 2019**