

Town of Groton

173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
Tel: 978-732-1893



Park Commissioners

Kenneth Bushnell, Chair
Evan Boucher
Anna Eliot
Timothy Siok

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2019
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Town Hall Second Floor Meeting Room
Commissioners Present: Kenneth Bushnell, Evan Boucher, Anna Eliot,
Commissioners Absent: Tim Siok
Others present: Don Black, John Kelly, Cormac Bordes

7:00 pm Chair Kenneth Bushnell, called the meeting to order.

Candidate interview – Don Black

James Gaffney resigned from the Park Commission in November 2018. An ad was published in the Groton Herald advertising the open seat. The ad, asked residents interested in becoming a Park Commissioner to apply by January 2, 2019 to be interviewed by the Commission on January 8, 2019.

Don Black submitted an interest form. Mr. Black was present at the meeting for the Commission interview.

Chair Bushnell welcomed Don Black and thanked him for his interest in the vacated Commissioner seat. He asked him why he was interested in the open seat. Mr. Black stated he was on the Park Commission years ago and is currently the Town Flag Care Taker. He stated he would like to commit time and attention to the Town Commons. He believes over the years the Commons have not been receiving much attention. He would like to organize volunteers vs. using Town funds for the upkeep of the commons.

Don Black said he would be available to attend the joint meeting on January 28, 2019 with the Select Board for the appointment and would pull papers to run for the position in the Town election.

Don Black asked Kenny Bushnell and Evan Boucher, whose terms expire in June 2019, if they intend to run for another term. Both Kenny and Evan stated they planned on pulling papers for the Town election.

Anna Eliot made a motion to support the appointment of Don Black to the open Park Commission seat. Evan Boucher seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Town Flag Care Taker Update – Don Black

Mr. Black informed the Commission that the pulley on the Firemen's Common flag pole was not working well. When the flag is lowered to half staff the POW Flag tends to get wrapped around the pulley by the wind. It is difficult to unwrap. The pulley should be replaced. The flag pole also needs to be adjusted to stand straight. Evan Boucher will assist Don in getting the flag pole to stand straight. Don told the Commission that the solar lights on certain flags in Town are not efficient. He contacted GELD about putting the electric lights back on at these flags. The Commission stated support of the change from the solar lights to the electric lights.

Baseball Fields Updates – John Kelly, Cormac Bordes

John Kelly provided the Commissioners with a packet summarizing the financial contributors to the fields and recap of the last baseball season. GD Baseball purchased two new batting cages, \$21,200, 4 new equipment sheds, \$24,532, renovated Cow Pond Shed, \$2,115, Trenching for electrical, \$2,200, Field Gator, \$6,200, PA Systems, \$1,200. Total of \$58,000 invested in 2017- 2018.

Mr. Kelly made the following requests of the Park Commission

1. Removal of truck body from Cow Pond field, there is broken glass from shattered windows. The area has become dangerous – Evan will call Tom Delaney about moving the truck.
2. Move rock barriers back into position. When the batting cages were installed the rocks were moved, cars have driven up on the field. DPW should be able to put rocks/boulders back where they were.
3. Clean Out of Town Field Garage

John Kelly said that the Springfield prep should be minimal this year. Keeping Turf on the same schedule will be fine. A little bit of edging will be needed and the infield will need to be done.

John Kelly stated the softball player numbers for the next season are low. There are 16 baseball teams.

John Kelly communicated to the Commission that the field use application for North East Baseball of Hudson, MA has been coordinated with Gorton Youth Baseball and that there are many Groton players involved in the program. This program keeps players involved in the sport and provides available instruction.

Field Use Permits

Kenneth Bushnell made a motion to approve the field use request submitted by North East Baseball for Cow Pond 2 and Cow Pond 4 from March 15- June 15, 2019 on Sundays during daylight hours. Evan Boucher seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Kenneth Bushnell made a motion to approve the field use request submitted by Groton Youth Baseball for Cow Pond and Town Field both diamonds from March 15- October 30, 2019. Evan Boucher seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

CPA application – Forge Village Park Property

The Commission reviewed the Forge Village Park Property CPA application deadlines and determined that it would be wise to put the application on hold until the next cycle. They determined that the neighborhood input and involvement is critical to the success of the application. They also stated the decision on what the end project will be, and the true cost and timeline of the project should be determined before submitting the application.

The Commission will host a Neighborhood Public Meeting scheduled of January 23, 2019 at 7pm. This meeting will be the first step in determining the details of the project.

Carol Wheeler Park

The tree that is in danger of coming down on to the Carol Wheeler Memorial Park parking lot is on the property line 0 West Main Street. Maureen wrote a letter to the owners of 0 West Main Street, stating the tree that is in danger of coming down on to the Carol Wheeler Memorial Park parking lot is and should be removed. The letter stated the Town will remove the tree if there is no written communication to the Town that there is an objection.

Park Commission Account Balances

Maureen provided the members with spreadsheets indicating the Park Commission general ledger balances as of today. The Commission reviewed the data.

Maureen provided a packet from the Town Manager, Mark Haddad consisting of the FY20 Park Commission budget he will present to the Finance Committee. He communicated that the \$25K request for Park Capital Improvements will not be granted in the upcoming FY20 budget. Mark told Maureen that Park Commission will receive the \$25K for capital improvements in FY21. The Commission discussed which capital projects the \$16K funds remaining in the budget can be utilized for. Quotes for the Minuteman Common repair/replace will be worked on and this money will likely be used on this project.

Pending Invoices

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to pay the pending invoices. Evan Boucher seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Commissioner Updates

Kenny Bushnell will follow up on the Bayberry tree removal.

Anna Eliot has been in contact with Penny Hommeyer, The Groton Garden Club. The GGC is meeting on January 18, 2019. Penny will recommend that the GGC care for the front part of Carol Wheeler Memorial Park, including the gardens around the memorial stone and the seating area. Penny will like to have official permission to do this. The Commission supports the proposal of the GGC's care for Carol Wheeler Memorial Park. Anna will communicate to Penny the permission/support.

Commissioners requested for Maureen to invite Lacrosse and Soccer to the January or February meeting.

Admin Updates

- Hazel Grove tree work has been done. Invoice submitted.
- Annual Bonfire is scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2019.
- Please review the OSRP report emailed to you. A public hearing on the report will take place on January 31, 2019, @ 7pm @ the Groton Inn.
- Spring Town Meeting deadline dates from Town Manager communicated.
- CPC public application review is February 11, 2019.
- Candidate papers will be available on February 4, 2019, due to the Clerk's office April 2, 2019.

Maureen communicated that a concern about the safety of children playing and climbing on the Cannon at the Common was received. The Land Use Department affixed a sign, stating, Do Not or Play on the Cannon, on the cannon. The Commission discussed what if anything should be done regarding the Cannon. The Cannon may not be the responsibility of the Park Commission. The Park Commission is responsible for land not items or structures on their land. The wheels do need to be repaired, replaced or removed for safety. The wheels are not holding the cannon up securely. Anna Eliot will make calls and research what Town entity the cannon belongs to. Evan Boucher will contact John Brooks and/or Peter Benedict to see if they have any knowledge about the cannon.

Minutes

Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Adjourn

Kenneth Bushnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Next regular meeting: Monday January 28, 2019