



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

Minutes

**Groton Park Commission**  
**Wednesday, January 23, 2019**  
**Town Hall First Floor**  
**Meeting Room, 7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Kenneth Bushnell, Evan Boucher, Anna Eliot, Timothy Siok

**Members Absent:**

**Others in attendance:** James Baker, Joseph Horvath, George Snell  
Maureen Adema, Admin. Asst.

**7:00 pm**

**Chair Kenneth Bushnell read into the record the Public Meeting Notice**

***The Groton Park Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday January 23, 2019, at 7 PM at Groton Town Hall, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450, to consider changes/ improvements to the Forge Village Park Commission Property. The property is located at Forge Village Road, Groton, MA, Map ID 135-54-0. Members of the public are invited to attend.***

Kenny Bushnell thanked the public for attending the meeting and asked that everyone sign in.

Kenny explained that tonight was the first neighbor input meeting to find out what the neighbors and residents would like regarding improvements/changes to the Park Commission tennis court property located at Forge Village Road.

Kenny stated the court is in really bad shape and not useable. He questioned if anyone had recently used the courts. He stated he feels that a Basketball Court would be used if constructed in place of the tennis court. He said the Basketball and Playground combo park properties throughout the Town have been serving the Town well.

Kenny asked for the Commissioners to share their thoughts.

**Commissioner comments**

Evan Boucher stated a Basketball Court and Playground would be great but wanted to know what the neighborhood would like and would use. There are lots of options for recreation properties. He also believed the tennis court was not being used because the condition of the court is really bad.

He noted playground equipment is expensive and the installation cannot be done by DPW, the State mandates the playgrounds are installed by certificated installers.

Tim Siok thinks looking into dual fields, a location where both Basketball and Tennis can use the same location utilizing technology for the equipment needed for both sports would be worth it. He also wants to be sure that what is done at the location is what will be best for the neighborhood and used by the neighborhood.

Anna Eliot stated that the Commission submitted an application for CPC funds but has put it on hold with the intent to resubmit in the next cycle. She said there is work that is needed to be done for the application to be complete. The first step is meeting with the neighborhood for input and involvement. Also needed are quotes from contractors, design plans and a meeting with the DPW Director, Tom Delaney, asking for his input and possible support for the project.

Kenny opened the discussion to the abutters in attendance.

#### **Abutters comments**

- Happy to hear that the tennis court is out going to become another lacrosse field. Although things are fine now, in the past lacrosse had pretty much taken over the neighborhood.
- If the site remains a tennis court it could allow the parking lot to be improved/renovated.
- Moving the fence back would improve the parking lot/make it more defined.
- The neighborhood's original families have been there since the 1990's. The children are now grown – the change over to new families is only beginning.
- If the tennis courts were changed to be a playground the siblings of the lacrosse players would use it.
- Never sees anyone using the court.
- It would be beneficial to have the fence moved back to claim back the road.
- Questioned why the Baseball Diamond is unused? Sad it is over grown
- Questioned if lighting would be part of the improvement?
- Questioned how the new project would look from the street? Would it be visual from the road?
- The trees surrounding the court would need attention.

The abutters were informed that the Park Commission meets monthly, at the Town Hall in the first-floor meeting room, on the first Tuesday of the month. The Forge Village Project will likely be an agenda item at most meetings in the upcoming year.

#### **Action Items**

- Tom Delaney will be invited to the April 2019 meeting to discuss the Forge Village Road Project.
- Will discuss/develop an action plan for the CPC application.

**Anna Eliot made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Tim Siok seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 0.**

**Next meetings  
January 28, 2019  
March 5, 2019**