



TOWN OF GROTON
Groton Park Commission
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Town Hall
First Floor Meeting Room 7:00 PM
Minutes

Members Present: Kenneth Bushnell, Anna Eliot, Donald Black
Members Absent: Timothy Siok, Evan Boucher

Others in attendance: Alex Menard, Chris Menard, Vijayesh Hassan, Zachary Goss,
Maureen Adema, Admin. Asst.

7:00 pm Chair Bushnell called the meeting to order
Reviewed the agenda – Stated some items may be taken out of order

Cannon Removal and Repair – Don Black

Don Black updated the Commission regarding the cannon at Legion Common. The cannon is “used” by young children attending the Boutwell school as a play structure. The safety of the cannon is a concern. Back a few months the Land Use Department was notified about condition of the cannon’s wheels and the possibility of it overturning because of its condition and children playing on it. There was a sign put on the cannon indicating that the cannon should not be played on. The sign is no longer there. The safety concern of the cannon falling over causing injury is great. Don had a conversation with Bob Johnson the Town’s Veteran Agent determining that the cannon was a “Gift of Deed” from the US Army 100 years ago when the Lawrence W. Gay Post was dedicated. Don spoke with Town Manager Mark Haddad on February 14th determining that the cannon should be removed from the common and placed in a safe place until it can be restored. Earl Carter will store the cannon and research wheelwrights, with the hope of finding an individual who would be able to repair/replace the wheels. Don will work with DPW on relocating the cannon, as soon as the ground is no longer frozen. Commission agreed with the plan regarding the cannon at Legion Common.

Eagle Scout Alex Menard stated he was attending tonight’s meeting in order to complete requirements for his Eagle Scout Badge. He reviewed the agenda online and thought the topics of tonight’s meeting would help him achieve the government/debate aspects of the badge.

7:15 pm

Cricket Program Proposal – Vijayesh Hassan

Mr. Hassan introduced himself. He is an executive at the Mass State Cricket League. He would like to bring Cricket to Groton. He has worked with towns such as Acton, Lexington, Lowell, and Ashland to build the infrastructure and program to train children in the sport of Cricket. The season is normally from April to late September/October. Many play on Sundays, all day. Mr. Hassan provided the Commission with a packet providing a description and photos of the typical

playing fields. He stated that there are as many as of 700 Cricket players that play each week in Massachusetts. The sport is more popular than ever.

Cricket is a bat and ball game, played between two teams, played on a Cricket field. The most important part of the field is called a pitch that is 66 feet in length and up to 12 feet in width.

There are 6 sticks that the game is played in-between. The ball is a hard leather ball. The field/ground is normally oval in shape.

Commissioners Questions and Comments

- *The field user groups for the Town use the fields to complete capacity from April to November. The fields are used mainly by the youth sport groups, consisting of townspeople. Fees are not charged.*
- *Have you thought about developing a youth program through the schools?*
- *Is there a special surface needed for the “pitch”? Yes, should be concrete – so the ball will bounce. 400ft round, 200ft on each side of the round, no upkeep.*
- *What are you asking for in regard to field use? Four teams, May – September – play Saturday and Sunday starting at 11:30, ending at sundown, Practice 3 to 4 weekday evenings.*
- *Building the infrastructure for Cricket would be a challenge.*
- *We could look into utilizing an unused Park Property, modeling the agreement with Hazel Grove.*
- *Are you proposing a children’s league or man’s league? An adult league*
- *The program first should start with a youth program, with Groton youth as participants. Contacting the Groton Schools, and the private schools in town is recommended place to start in Groton.*

Woitowicz Park Property FY20 CPC application – discussion postponed to next meeting

Park Properties Light Change Out – discussion postponed to next meeting

8:00 pm

Porta Potty Proposal – Zachary Goss

Zach Goss, President, Instant Portables, Inc. requested to meet with the Park Commission to discuss the Town Porta Potty business. Instant Portables is a new porta potty business located in Dunstable. Mr. Goss submitted a quote to the Commission for the Town porta potty business. The Commission reviewed the quote with Mr. Goss. The quote was for all park properties, 9 standard units @ \$80.00 each and 5 ADA units @ 140.00 each. The Commission confirmed with Mr. Goss that he could have all properties set up by April 1st, the day the fields open. The Commission asked if Instant Portables was able to handle special events for the Town such as the Fireworks Celebration. Mr. Goss said he had “extra” inventory and an order can be filled in a day or two lead time.

The Commission will discuss and make decision on vender before the start of the season.

Open Space Recreation Plan – Anne Eliot

Anna Eliot spoke to the Commission about the final draft of the Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP). The draft was presented to the public on January 31, 2019 at a meeting held at the Groton Inn. The OSRP report was emailed to the Commissioners to read/review, she stated it is important to read/review it. The Select Board is currently reviewing the final draft. The final

draft will be on the Town Warrant for Town approval. Anna stated concerns about the report's lack of determining and designating land for purposeful uses for the town's people. Along with the lack of having a return on the purchase of land for open space, Don Black said the Town does lose tax revenue when a taxable lot is purchased by the Town for open space. Anna stated she is a conservationist but the Town should be looking at purchasing land for all recreation purposes not only for activities like hiking and snowshoeing. These activities are great but there are many other rec activities/uses that should be considered. Anna questioned how the town land can be used/realized to the best use. Are there ways to benefit from revenues? Can land be used for affordable housing? The Park Commission should change the current thinking and managing of properties to benefit more/all residents.

Bayberry/Woitowicz Trees

Tim Ross, 25 Bayberry, sent an email to the Park Commission stating that Mead Tree & Landscape removed trees on his property 25 Bayberry Road on February 19th. He stated that the trees abutting his property on Woitowicz Field were not removed because Dave Mead was not instructed by the Town to remove the trees. Mr. Ross believed the discussion last fall ended with the decision to remove the abutting tree(s).

Kenny spoke with Dave Mead about the tree removal work. Dave Mead told Kenny the tree that Mr. Ross wants removed is "okay" and does not need to be removed.

The Commission reviewed the emails and paperwork from the fall meeting. Kenny will contact Tim Ross and work things out with him tomorrow.

Anna went to the sight last fall and reviewed the damage. Don will go look at the sight and review the sight from the Park side.

Field Use Permit Requests

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to accept the one-day field use request for the Town's Gazebo for the Groton Community School for the annual school picnic on May 31, 2019, 4:30 to 7:00 pm, Rain Date June 7, 2019. Don Black seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

Anna Eliot made a motion to accept the field use request from the U14 Youth Baseball Groton River Rats Baseball for use of Town Field Big Diamond from April 1 through August 1, 2019 on Saturdays 9am to 8pm. Don Black seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to accept the field use request from GD Youth Lacrosse for Cutler Field from April 1 – June 16, 2019, all day Sunday, and Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 5:30 to 7pm. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to accept the field use requests from GS Soccer for practices and games at Cow Pond A, B, C, and D from March 25 – June 29, 2019, Sunday and Saturday 7:30am to 8:00 pm and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 4:30 to 8:30pm. Don Black seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to accept the field use requests from GDHS Ultimate Frisbee Team for Cutler Field and Woitowicz Field for practices and games from March 30 – June 5, 2019, Saturdays 10am to 12 noon and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3 to 5pm. Don Black seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to accept the one-day field use request from the GDHS Ultimate Frisbee Team to use Cutler Field on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 10am to 2pm. Don Black seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

The field use requests for Mass Bay Girls Lacrosse were not approved. The Commission would like a representative from Mass Bay Girls to attend the next Park meeting to discuss the requests. Maureen will email the rep tomorrow to make the request to attend the meeting.

DPW Facility demo/renovation of structures at Cow Pond

Thursday, February 21, 2019 a public hearing was held regarding the DPW facility improvements on Cow Pond Brook Rd.

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.

Minutes Review and Approval - next meeting

Commissioner Updates/Comments

The Commission discussed a plan of action to hire/make a decision on a vendor for Porta Potty service for the Park Properties and Town Events for the upcoming season.

Maureen will create a questionnaire asking about service, costs, business references etc. After the Commission's approval, Maureen will email/mail to the current vendor, tonight's presenter and two other local porta potty vendors. A meeting will be held to discuss and make a decision on the vendor for this upcoming season.

Don Black made a motion to hold a Park Commission meeting on Monday, March 18th at 5pm to discuss and make a decision on the Town's Porta Potty vendor for the upcoming field use season and Town events. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Anna Eliot contacted JT Garside for a quote on the granite post replacement at Minute Man Common. She has not heard back. Don Black said he can take over the work that needs to be done at Minute Man Common. He will make calls to get the work done. The Commissioners supported Don's taking the work and care on at Minute Man Common.

Admin Updates/Commission Mail

- The Garden Club officially took over the Carol Wheeler Memorial
- Prescott Playground – inquiry about ownership
 - Town/Select Board- Maureen will email response
- GD Youth Soccer has not responded to request to attend a meeting
- The large tree that fell during Monday's storm on Minuteman Common was cleared away by the Town's DPW. The tree damaged a few rails and one granite post on the fence.
 - Don will work having repairs done
- Rob O'Rourke from Groton Community School will attend April meeting to discuss the May 18, 2019, Community Day of Service. – Park Property for the work will need to be determined.
- Inquiry from the Westwood Swing Band about the Groton Summer Concert
 - No longer exists – could contact Dunstable – Maureen will email response

- Received an email from the Trail Committee asking for input on Groton Bylaws/ Dog Rules and Etiquette on the Trails.
 - The Groton Bylaws/Dog Rules and Etiquette on the Trails will be an agenda item at the next regular meeting. The Trails Committee will be invited to the meeting. – Maureen will contact Paul Funch with meeting date and time.
- Request from Tom Delaney, Director DPW, to write a support letter to the CPC for Fitch's Bridge Wall Repair.
 - Commission supports the project.

Anna Eliot made a motion to write a letter of support to the CPC for the Tom Delaney's DPW Director's application for the Fitch's Bridge Wall Repair Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Maureen will write letter and submit to CPC.

- Request from Michael Knight, GD Schools Business Director, to write a support letter to the CPC for the Track Repair/Restoration Project.
 - Don Black questioned if the request for the support letter was valid. He attended a CPC meeting where there was a discussion about the merits of the project meeting the requirements for CPC funds. Maureen will contact Michael Knight, GD Schools Business Director to verify the application is moving forward. If so, the Commission is in support of the project.

Don Black made a motion to write a letter of support pending verification of application meeting the CPC requirements for the GD Schools CPC application for relining and resurfacing the Groton High School Track. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Maureen will write letter and submit to CPC, if application is valid.

Adjourn

Anna Eliot made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 pm. Donald Black seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0.

**Next meetings
March 18, 2019
April 9, 2019**