



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

**Groton Park Commission**  
**Tuesday April 9, 2019**  
**Town Hall First Floor**  
**173 Main Street, Groton, MA**  
**Meeting Room, 7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Kenneth Bushnell, Anna Eliot, Donald Black, Timothy Siok  
**Member Absent:** Evan Boucher  
**Others in attendance:** Jon Strauss, Bob Ordemann, Rick Muehlke, Natalie Greene, Suzanne Goehringer, Robert O'Rourke, Maureen Adema, Admin. Asst.

**7:00 pm – Meeting called to order**

**Mass Bay Girls Lacrosse League Jamboree Field Use Applications**

There was no one present at the meeting to speak with the Commission about the 6 field use request applications from Mass Bay Girls Lacrosse for a Lacrosse jamboree scheduled for June 14, 15 and 16, 2019. Maureen informed the Commissioners that she sent an email on March 6<sup>th</sup> to Christine Habermann applicant, asking for Mass Bay Lax to contact the GD Youth Lax and GD Youth Soccer to work out field use conflicts and to confirm a meeting with the Park Commission on either April 9<sup>th</sup> or May 7<sup>th</sup>. Maureen stated she did not receive a response from the applicant nor did she receive confirmation of that the GD Youth Lax or GD Youth Soccer had been contacted.

The Commission asked Maureen to inform Mass Bay Girls Lacrosse League that the field use permits cannot be approved until there has been communication with GD Lax and GD Soccer about field sharing and a discussion about Jamboree with the Park Commission.

**Dog Rules and Etiquette on Trails and Parks – Bob Ordemann**

Mr. Ordemann, a member of the Groton Trails Committee was present to ask the Commission for collaboration in enforcing the dog rules and etiquette in the Town of Groton. He believes education is what is needed to have the issues regarding improper dog behavior corrected. The Commission reviewed the Town's by-laws regarding dog etiquette. He told the Commission that there has been a concern about dogs being a nuisance on the Town trails and the Park properties. There have been reports of dogs approaching individuals who do not desire to be approached, along with reports of dog bites. Mr. Ordemann stated many owners do not keep their

dogs on leashes. Dog owners should use common sense when in public, an example of common sense is keeping their dogs out of the streams. And the dog owners should always clean up after their dogs.

Kenny Bushnell stated that the Park Commission has had complaints in the pasts about dogs not being cleaned up after. He walked Town Field last spring after an email complaint. He found the field to be fine.

Anna Eliot stated individuals on the trails should be comfortable speaking with a dog owner when approached by a dog when not desired and if he/she is witnessing inappropriate dog/dog owner behavior.

Kenny Bushnell stated the Park Commission could look into posting signs at Park properties stating rules and policies about dogs using the properties. There is a Town Dog Officer for bad situations.

Mr. Ordemann will send a write up clarifying the Five Common Sense Guidelines on Dog Etiquette proposed by the trail committee to Maureen for the Commission to review at the next meeting to, assist with the possible signage. Mr. Ordemann stated that he looked into the towns of Concord and Stow's dog etiquette to unsure that what is being asked is reasonable.

### **Fireworks Celebration Discussion – Bill Bono**

Mr. Bono stopped into Town Hall last month and asked to be on the Park Commission agenda to discuss the Groton Fireworks Celebration. Mr. Bono was interested in being a vendor for the event. Mr. Bono did not attend the meeting.

Don Black informed the Commission that he is on the Celebrations Committee and will handle inquiries such as this, under the umbrella of Celebration business. He confirmed that his email and phone number can be given to anyone interested in discussing Groton Celebrations business. Maureen will look into making business cards for Don for this purpose.

### **Friends of the Tree Warden – Natalie Greene, Suzanne Goehringer**

Ms. Greene and Ms. Goehringer informed the Commission that the Friends of the Tree Warden will host an Arbor Day Event on April 27<sup>th</sup> to honor Lola, the K-9 Officer for her dedicated service to Groton with a plaque and a pink stellar dogwood bush at Charles Gordon Common. Ms. Greene passed out a mock up of the plaque to the Commissioners. The plaque will be located in the area where a large tree has recently been removed.

The spring planting will also include a Pacific Brilliance Pin Oak at the First Parish Church Common, a replacement of a dead Magnolia with an Oxydendron Arboretum at Sawyer/Memorial Common and two Nyssa Sylvatica at Lawrence field, one behind the rock wall and one behind the bleachers.

Tom Delaney, Town Tree Warden will provide the man power for the planting/work.

Rick Muehlke, Grounds Keeper for the First Parish Church asked to be involved in the plantings at the Common. The Friends would also like to do a planting of Dawn Redwoods behind the tall Canadian Hemlocks to the west of the gazebo on the Lawrence fields. The Canadian Hemlocks aren't looking good. Tom Delaney suggested planting a couple of Sugar Maples behind the wall at the entrance to the library. The planting would not be close to the basketball court because more hard scape is planned in this area.

Ms. Goehringer informed the Park Commission that she is doing research on the Town Commons. She is researching names and dates, basic history.

***Don Black made a motion to accept the gift of the plantings from the Friends of the Tree Warden for Charles Gordon Common, First Parish Church Common, Sawyer/Memorial Common and Lawrence Field. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 0.***

***Don Black made a motion to approve and accept the memorial stone for Lola the K9-Officer to be placed on Charles Gordon Common on Arbor Day, April 27, 2019. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 0.***

### **The Groton School Community Day of Service – Robert O’Rourke**

Rob O’Rourke was present to discuss the service day scheduled for Saturday; May 18, 2019. He told the Commission that he had about 20 students assigned to work the Park Properties on this day.

Tim Siok will again be the Park representative for the Day of Service.

The Commissioners discussed the work that the students could possibly do for the Park properties. It was decided that the students would do a clean-up at the Town Playground, they will add 15 yards of playground wood chips to the play structure area and refill the sandbox with 25 bags/1 pallet of sandbox sand. There are also areas that need raking and weeding, that the students can attend to.

The Park Commission will provide the wood chips and sandbox sand and tools like wheel barrels, rakes and shovels. Mr. O’Rourke/Groton School will provide hats, work gloves and bug spray for the students. Tim suggested; they have poison wash available.

The Park Commission thanked Mr. O’Rourke for his and the students service to Groton, and stated they look forward to seeing him again in the fall. The fall work will likely be at Cutler Field and/or Carol Wheeler Memorial Park.

### **First Parish Church – Rick Muehlke, Blgs & Grounds Committee**

Mr. Muehlke acknowledged receipt of the response to the First Parish Church’s letter of February 7, 2019. Mr. Muehlke asked to be put on the Park Commission’s agenda to discuss a proposal for the Common in front of the church via email on April 2, 2019.

Mr. Muehlke provided the Commissioners with an aerial view of the Common and photo of the desired granite benches proposed, stating the benches would match the granite posts on the existing fence. All also reviewed the hand drawn plans for the trees and benches received in the correspondence of February 7, 2019.

Kenny Bushnell asked where the funds from the project would come from. Mr. Muehlke thought the project could be funded through the Park Commission budget. Kenny stated that the Park Commission had a limited budget and did not have money for the project.

Don Black informed all about a 2005 ruling from the Town where the Select Board at request of the First Parish Church removed the flag pole and American Flag on the Common sighting the view of the First Parish Church shall not change from how the Church was photographed for the May 1942 Life magazine photo. Don had a copy of the magazine/photo. Don said because of this ruling, benches should not be allowed to be added to this site. The proposed plan would change the view. Don also stated the addition of benches would create the need for trash cans and additional maintenance. Anna Eliot stated the issue on the flag removal was settled, with the flag pole and flag being removed and the ruling did not need to be considered regarding the proposal before the Commission. Anna, along with Tim Siok thought the project had merit but the Park Commission would not be able to fund the project. Kenny Bushnell told Mr. Muehlke if he planned to move further on the subject the HDC will need to be inform/involved in the project.

### **Woitowicz Trees**

Tim Ross, 25 Bayberry, contacted the Land Use Department on March 22<sup>th</sup> requesting the Park Commission meeting minutes of the December 12, 2018 and March 18 2019 be emailed to him. Mr. Ross was invited to attend tonight’s meeting. He was not present. The matter of the tree removal in closed. Any further inquiry would be forwarded to Tom Delaney, DPW Director, Tree Warden.

### **Field Use Request**

***Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve the field use request for the Groton Pickup Softball Games at Cow Pond 3, Sundays, 9am to 11am starting on May 5 – November 19, 2019. Tim Siok seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 0***

***Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve the field use request for the Annual Neighborhood Egg Hunt at Cutler Field on Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 11am to 1pm. Tim Siok seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 0.***

***Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve the field use request for GD Lacrosse U11 Supplemental Games at Cow Pond on Saturdays, April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Tim Siok seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 0.***

***Kenny Bushnell made a motion to approve the field use request for a birthday party, at Christine Hanson Memorial Playground on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 1pm, Rain date May 26<sup>th</sup> hosted by Groton resident Lauren Frisch with the understanding that the event will not close the playground to other users. The applicant will be responsible for trash removal. Tim Siok seconded. Motion passed 4 to 0.***

### **Field Opening Report**

Kenny Bushnell stated the playing fields are all open. All vendor deliveries received on time. The fields look good and the seasonal maintenance and treatments have been started.

### **Park Commission Meeting Day, Week and Time Discussion**

The Commissioners discussed different options for the most workable Park Commission meeting day of week, week of month, time of and location of meeting.

***Kenny Bushnell made a motion for the Park Commission to continue to meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm for 2019 on the scheduled dates of May 7<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup>, September 10<sup>th</sup> October 8<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 0.***

Note there is no meeting scheduled in November 2019. The Commission will discuss again in the fall for the 2020 meetings.

### **Invoices and GL Account Balance Review**

***Tim Siok made a motion to pay the April invoices in the amount of \$10,191.25. Kenny Bushnell seconded. The motion passed 4 to 0.***

There was a discussion about the end of the fiscal year approaching. The Park Commission has approximately \$21,000.00 left to spend by June 30, 2019.

### **Commissioners Updates**

***Don Black informed the Commissioners he has taken action on Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Sawyer Common. The Memorial will recognize and honor service of individuals from the Town. He will also work on replacement of the missing bronze Charles Gordon Memorial Stone. The Park Commission will not pay for these items as Don has other resources for payment.***

***Kenny Bushnell stated the Town Field fence rails were painted last week. The paint was purchased at Moison's. Moison has the green paint for Park Properties labeled in their system as "park green".***

*Don Black updated the members on the repairs of the granite posts and rails at Minuteman Common. Don requested three quotes for the work, one from Garside, Westford, one from Townsend Memorials, Townsend, MA and one from Leominster Lunenburg. He received two quotes. One for \$375 and one for \$260. Townsend Memorials was the best quote t \$260.*

**Don Black made a motion to accept the quote of \$260 from Townsend Memorials, Townsend, MA for repair/replacement of the granite posts and rails at Minuteman Common. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 0.**

#### **Admin Updates**

- Evan Boucher decided not to run for re-election as a Park Commissioner, creating an open seat on the Commission.
- Triangle Portable Services was informed that the Park Commission will continue with their service. The other Porta Potty venders were contacted and thanked for the bids and interest in being the Town's porta potty vender.

#### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

***Don Black made a motion to accept the minutes of December 4, 2018, January 8, 2019, January 28, 2019, March 5, 2019 and March 18, 2019. Tim Siok seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 0.***

**Kenneth Bushnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. Tim Siok seconded. Motion passed 4 to 0.**

#### **Next meetings**

**May 7, 2019**

**June 11, 2019**