



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

Minutes

**Groton Park Commission**  
**Tuesday May 7, 2019**  
**Town Hall First Floor**  
**173 Main Street, Groton, MA**  
**Meeting Room, 5:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Kenneth Bushnell, Anna Eliot, Donald Black, Timothy Siok  
**Member Absent:** Evan Boucher  
**Others in attendance:** Tom Orcutt, Mike Bertram  
Maureen Adema, Admin. Asst.

**5:30 pm – Meeting called to order**

**Cow Pond Field resident concerns discussion**

The Commission received an email from Groton resident Justin Frazier, forwarded from Tom Delaney, DWP Director dated April 17, 2019, regarding signage for the Town baseball and soccer fields. Maureen contacted Mr. Frazier notifying him that the Park Commission was meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> and Cow Pond Field signage will be on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Frazier did not think he would be able to attend, but thought maybe some neighbors would attend. The Park Commission was copied on Tom Delaney's email response to Mr. Frazier regarding other issues of concern on Cow Pond Road. The Commissioners were in receipt of both emails.

Don Black contacted Mr. Frazier last week and met him for a site walk on Cow Pond Road on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> about 3pm. Don stated that there were a number of issues of concern. Don noted that the speed of many drivers on the road is well above the speed limit. There are a great number of vehicles using the road even at 3pm on a Saturday. A traffic study might be beneficial. Police presence on weekends would be helpful in stopping speeders.

Don took photos on the site visit and shared them with the Commission. The photos showed the location of a poorly placed sandwich board, ill-suited for identifying the fields. He also had a photo of the green field directional sign on a white post that is difficult to read and too far up the road to be useful for direction. Don identified a spot on the road where he believes the post sign should be located. He identified the location to be near/close the turtle crossing sign.

After a discussion of the situation all agreed that the relocation of the sign would be a good temporary solution for this season, revisiting the signage in the fall for a permanent solution.

***Anna Eliot made a motion to request that the DPW relocate the existing directional white post, green top sign on Cow Pond Road up the road about 150 feet in the vicinity of the turtle crossing sign as a temporary solution to the signage concerns at Cow Pond Road fields with the intent to revisit in the fall. Kenneth Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 0.***

Maureen will send an email to Tom Delaney to request the relocation of the sign. Maureen will also contact Justin Frazier to communicate the action plan determined at tonight's meeting.

### **Dog Rules and Etiquette on Trails and Parks**

The Commissioners reviewed the Dog Rules and Etiquette/Common Sense rules and policies emailed to the group after the last meeting from Bob Ordemann. The Commissioners discussed the topic. Anna and Tim stated that they have seen dogs running free at Town Field, and approaching individuals. Kenny stated that the Park Commission follows the Town By-laws regarding dogs, but has no problem supporting the Common Sense rules in the write up provided. He said if there is a major event/issue the Police and/or Dog Officer should be contacted. Tim wants the Commission to follow through with signage at the Park Property stating behavior with a dog when using the fields. Anna would like to be sure/clear about how to direct people if assistance is needed and/or how to report an event if necessary. One or more Commissioners will try to attend a Police Chief coffee to discuss the matter. Maureen will share the coffee meeting schedule when she receives it. Kenny stated he believes this write up does not intend to change the Town by-laws. He thinks the major issues are the trails.

### **The Groton School Community Day of Service – May 18, 2019, 9:30am to 11:00 am**

Rob O'Rourke sent an email to Tim and Maureen confirming the Groton Community School will host the Spring Community Service Day on May 18, 2019 at the Town Playground from 9:30am to 11:00 am. The email stated that there will be between 20 to 25 students. Rob will have the students transported to the site and provide them with working gloves. Tim told the Commission he has a conflict on May 18<sup>th</sup> but will order the supplies and get the needed tools and equipment to the site in the morning for the event. Kenny and Don said they will attend the event in Tim's absence. Maureen will email Rob tomorrow with the update and Kenny's and Don's contact information. The Park Commission will order/pay for about 20 yards of playground wood chips to be installed in 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.

### **Main Street/Old Ayer Road, Indian Hill Music piping/venting – Mike Bertram, Over All Directional Drilling, LLC**

Mike Bertram from Over All Directional Drilling, LLC has been hired by Indian Hill Music/Gary Shephard to run piping/utility access from Peabody Road to Old Ayer Road/The Indian Hill Music site. Mr. Bertram did not have plans with him to show the proposed location of the work. He said he is at a fact-finding point in the project, hoping to be able to use the abandoned pipe that is under Main Street. Don Black told the Commission, he met with Mike last week and understood the proposed work/ plans at this point was for locating the old piping to determine if the Over All Directional can use for its purposes. Over All Directional will test the pipe's use ability by sending material through the pipe, determining clearance. The Over All Directional work is partially governed by the Park Commission due to the work on the Common.

Tom Orcutt, Water and Sewer Director, offered to assist the Commission in the understanding of the proposed work by drawing a diagram on the white board the location of the two proposed location options for digging a test pit to find the pipe and where the abandon pipe runs up Main Street. The test pit is used to test usability of the pipe. Tom also stated the pipe is about 5ft below ground. At this point Tom did not have any issues with the plans.

Anna asked Mr. Bertram if he had knowledge of the plan to reconfigure the “triangle” the test pits are proposed to be dug. Mr. Bertram stated he had not heard that the property/road was going to be reconfigured. Anna encouraged that Mr. Bertram talk to the Town/Planning Board and Indian Hill Music about the plan to change the site. Additionally, Anna asked when the work would be done. Mr. Bertram stated in dry weather, mid-summer July or August.

Mr. Bertram told the Commission he will be meeting with HDC and Conservation Commission about the proposed project.

Mr. Bertram stated he hopes the plan discussed tonight is successful. If not, he will return with new plan seeking approval on how to get utility access to the Indian Hill Music site.

The Commission discussed the two location options for the test pit. Tom Orcutt stated he believed the Water and Sewer Department could easily identify the cut off capped pipe. He thought the location closest to the road would work for the test pit. Tim also stated this location would have the least disturbance and might be covered over with the reconfiguration of the property. Kenny confirmed that there were no trees or scrubs that would need to be removed. Don stated the merits of the top/higher location for the test pit.

***Anna Eliot made a motion to allow a test pit to dug in the Common (Park Triangle) at the location, closest to the road as demonstrated on the white board sketch causing as little disturbances as possible, and restoring and repairing site to its original state. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 0.***

### **Woitowicz Trees**

Tim Ross, 25 Bayberry, contacted the Park Commission/Land Use Department on Monday, May 6, 2019 via email. He was invited to attend tonight’s meeting and confirmed via email and phone call that he would be in attendance. Mr. Ross called during the meeting stating he would not be attending. Mr. Ross’s email of May 6, 2019 was read into the record. Don Black made a site visit Woitowicz Field, where he photographed the field, trees, branches, fence, stone wall and water pipe. The Commissioners discussed email and photos determining that no new information has been presented to change the position of the Commission. The matter is closed. The Park Commission will not approve any additional work at Woitowicz Field.

Kenny stated the Mead Tree stated the tree is not in immediate need of being taken down. Tom Delaney, Town Tree Warden has reviewed the tree determining it is alive and has no danger of dying or falling down.

### **Field Use Request**

There were no field use request applications.

Mass Bay State Lacrosse pulled the field use request application for the Girls Lacrosse Jamboree.

Groton Dunstable JV Baseball contacted the Park Commission via email to request baseball field. There has not been a response to the request of the field use application.

### **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 will look at capital money at next meeting. The Commission will be sure to not have work done/invoiced the last week of June 2019.

*The invoice received from G. Tompkins Painting could not be processed due to not having a date on the invoice and date of work and location of work. Kenny will ask vendor for a new invoice.*

### **Commissioners Updates**

Tim Siok- Pickleball

Tim provided the Commission will hand out *What is pickleball exactly?*

Tim was approached by a Groton resident who believes a pickleball court/location would be an asset to the Town. Tim thought resurfacing an unused tennis court would be easy and little cost to bring pickleball to Groton. Pickleball is a fast-growing sport. Anna thought that adding pickleball, CPC application the Commission is seeking for the basketball and tennis court at Woitowicz made sense. Tim agreed a multi-purpose court would be very beneficial. But he thought a pickleball court project could be a project the Park Commission could move on pretty quickly. Either way, getting quotes on how much it would cost to resurface a tennis court would be necessary. Kenny said he could get estimate for resurfacing.

Anna Eliot stated she has heard from residents that the Park Properties look very good this year.

Tim agreed the fields are in excellent shape. The spring rain has made the fields green.

Don Black would like to run as a write in candidate in the Town election for the 3-year open seat on the Park Commission. He pulled papers for the one-year vacated seat because he believed both Commissioners up for re-election in 2019 planned on running for their seats. He will speak with the Town Clerk to confirm he can take this action of being a write in candidate for the 3-year seat, resign from the 1-year seat. with the Commission and Select Board pointing someone to the 1-year seat, with that individual running for seat in May 2020.

Kenny Bushnell brought forth an estimate for fence work to be done at Minuteman Common. The quote stated there are 44 sections of fence, 3 railings in total, 11 of the sections are damaged or missing. The estimate is to sand the existing rails with 2 coats for Arborcost solid color stain. And in addition, to finish new cedar fence, railing 2 finish coats using Ben Moore Arborcost solid color stain match to existing. The Estimate is for \$2,400.00.

The Commissioners discussed the project. Kenny said that there are replacement railings in the Highway garage. Don stated that the Boy Scouts could replace the rails as a project. Anna stated the missing and damaged rails should not be taken care of before the painting is done.

Everyone agreed the work needs to be done. Anna thought the quote was unclear about the additional work being included or not. Clarification is needed.

***Anna Eliot made a motion to move forward with the quote from G. Tompkins Paintings, Dunstable, MA after verification that the whole job, 44 sections will be sanded and stained with two coats of Arborcoat stain for \$2,400.00. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 0.***

#### **Admin updates and discussions**

- There have not been any issues with field use groups sharing fields this season.
- Website photos  
*Commissioners would like to do a group photo vs the headshots.*
- Maureen provide a photo for a proposed Gazebo to be installed at Hazel Grove Fairgrounds. The Gazebo would like to provide for shade lost due to the removal of trees this winter. The Hazel Grove Commission has not yet approved the structure. The Town will be notified if approved and a building permit will be submitted.  
*The Park Commission would like to discuss and approved location before building permit is issued.*
- A resident made a complaint about the lights at Cutler Field being on pass the designated time. *The Commission will talk about the light replacement action plan after the Town elections*

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

***Don Black made a motion to accept the minutes as amended of April 9, 2019. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 0.***

***Don Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Anna Eliot seconded. Motion passed 4 to 0.***

**Next meetings  
June 11, 2019**