

## Town of Groton

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 1, 2019  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Town Hall First Floor Conference Room  
**Commissioners Present:** Tim Siok, Donald Black, Anna Eliot, Ken Bushnell  
**Commissioners Absent:** Jon Strauss  
**Others Present:** Nik Gualco, OPRP, Donna Nowak, Garden Club, Penny Hommeyer, Garden Club  
Maureen Adema, Admin. Asst.

---

**7:00pm**

**Chair Tim Siok called the October 1, 2019 Park Commission Meeting to order**

**7:00pm**

### **Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP) – Park Property Condition Report**

Nik Gualco, Town Conservation Agent and the Open Space Recreation Plan Administrator provided the Commissioners with the report indicating the Town-owned Parcels overseen by the Park Commission. The OSRP has been meeting since the summer of 2018, preparing the 170 report that will go to the State at the end of October. Anna Eliot has been the Park Commission representative on the committee. The state wants to know where Town owned property is located, how it is funded, how it was obtained and what department/commission/board in Town oversees the property, and if the property leased. The group reviewed the report listing the 27 parcels, noting that the Park Properties often have one than one facility/recreation area on any given parcel. Each listing is rated on condition, *fair, good, very good, undeveloped*. After reviewing the report, the Commissioner added and changed below information.

- Change Evan Holofcener “Ice Rink” to Park and Memorial.
- Add Stone Bench to Ice Rink improvements
- Change rink condition to good from very good, and permanent to weather dependent.
- Lawrence Field – break out the fields, basketball court, baseball field

Nik will update the spread sheet with what was discussed. He is happy with the report and is looking forward to submitting it. Nik asked if the Commission would be interested in submitting a letter of support to the State for the report. A letter allows the opportunity to have input on the report. Nik will provide the Commission with examples of letters from other Town groups supporting the OSRP as a tool to assist in writing a support letter. The Commissioners will incorporate the recognition of the field use user groups, DPW and volunteers for the Park Commission. The letter is due to Nik on October 15, 2019.

The Commission will use this report for it own purposes. Adding a user group column would be useful to identified who uses what.

Garden Club members Donna Nowak and Penny Hommeyer provided the Commission with a list of the gardens under the charge of the Park Commission that have been cared for by the Garden Club over the last year. The list consisted of Blue Star Memorial at Sawyer Common, Carol Wheeler Park, Firemen’s Common, Four Corners, Hanson Family Memorial, Hollis Street traffic island, Prescott Common, Police Department, Fire Station and Groton Center and West Groton Village.

Ms. Nowak expressed her happiness with the partnership the Commission and thanked them for the opportunity to work on the Town’s gardens. She stated the Garden Club appreciates the mulch donated every year by the Park Commission. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the work of the Garden Club. The Park Commission recognizes the Garden Club provides the Town with a great service.

### **Field Use Request Applications**

- **Cow Pond Field – Cub Scout Pack 12**

A field use application request was received from Eric Binder to use Cutler Field on Friday, October 18, 2019, from 7pm to midnight for a Cub Scout Pack 12 meeting. Mr. Binder was not present to speak to the request. The request is an annual request. Insurance is on file. There are no conflicts with the requested date, time or field.

**Ken Bushnell made motion to grant a Field Use Permit to Cub Scout Pack 12 to use Cutler Field on October 18, 2019, from 7pm to midnight for a pack meeting. Don Black seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 0.**

### **Park Property Tree Work**

Don Black reported he still has not heard from Dave Mead Tree Service, regarding the Park Property tree work. He made another attempt recently to contact him. Don did meet with George Brackett and viewed the trees at Carol Wheeler Park, Town Field, and Cow Pond Field that the Park Commission would like to have removed. Don did not have George look at trees at Woitowicz because Mr. Ross, 25 Bayberry is working on the removal of those trees. The Commission would like to have Mr. Brackett submit a quote for the tree work, stating cost and work dates to be reviewed/discussed at the next meeting. Don will contact Mr. Brackett to get a quote for the work.

### **CPC Application**

Maureen stated Jon Strauss submitted the first two-page project summary CPA application for the Park Commission. The CPC will be reviewing submittals in the upcoming weeks at their regular scheduled meetings to make determination on what application will move on in the application process.

### **Park Properties Dog Policy and Signage**

The Commission briefly discussed *Dogs on Park Properties* policy. Don stated there were lots of dogs at Grotonfest. Kenny really believes that there is no dog issue at the fields, understanding Jeff Ohringer, Cow Pond Field would like it if dogs were not allowed at the field. Tim thought if dogs were not allowed at the fields, residents would be asking for a Groton dog park. Anna stated a well thought out policy with signage at the fields should be discussed and followed through on. She believes dogs should not be on the fields, dogs with owners in viewing areas are fine. It was decided to table the discussion, and work on/discuss a change in policy January 2020.

### **Invasive Species Trees on Park Property**

Tim Siok said there are not lot of trees on the Park Properties that meet the criteria Adam Burnett was looking for to be treated. There is a hemlock at Town Field that could be treated. Tim will get in touch with Mr. Burnett about the tree treatment for the hemlock at Town Field.

### **Park Invoices**

Park Commission invoices were reviewed and approved.

**Tim Siok made a motion to approve and sign the October 2019 Park Commission invoices in the amount of \$1,156.73. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 0.**

### **Turf Unlimited invoice update**

Maureen contacted Turf Unlimited to communicate the Commission's the decision to pay the outstanding Turf Unlimited invoice discussed at the last meeting on the condition that the invoice is resubmitted to reflect the amount of \$66.50 that the Commission agreed to be responsible for. Turf Unlimited was agreeable to the terms. Maureen and the new rep for Turf Unlimited have developed a working relationship that is beneficial to both parties. Tim Siok stated the emails he was cc'ed on with Turf Unlimited indicated they understood they were accountable to the error in their invoicing on the past due/unpaid invoice.

### **Commissioner's Input/Updates**

#### **Ken Bushnell**

- Kenny said he received a call from Jeff Ohringer about the shallow well at Cow Pond Field/Soccer field being very dry, and he was concerned about watering the fields. Kenny contacted Kurt Dawson to look at the well. Kenny said the Commission looked into sharing/using the football well at the soccer fields, but the cost to have the well used on the soccer fields was too high. At some point the shallow well for soccer will have to be addressed. Kenny will reach out to Kurt Dawson for an update.

**Tim Siok**

- The Groton School Community Service Day went very well, the event was earlier today. Tim and Don worked with the Groton School students at Legion Hall, Charles Gordon Memorial, Firemen's' Common and Town Field Playground. The students raked, weeded and cleaned up the properties. Don told the students a history on the properties. Don learned that the 20 plus students in the group were from all over the world. The properties look great. The weather wasn't as good as the earlier event, but not too bad.

**Don Black**

- Don told the Commissioners that the door at the Waitowicz shed is gone. The door hole is boarded up. A repair is needed. There is not anything much in the shed, the user groups do not use the shed for equipment storage much anymore.
- Don received the proofs for the Cow Pond Field signs. The signs are ordered.
- Thomas Onishi's Eagle Scout project for Minuteman Common is moving ahead. The work will be done in phases starting at Rt. 40 and Main Street in the upcoming weeks.

**Anna Eliot**

- Anna asked the Commissioners if they were aware of the write up in the Groton Herald about the use of CPC funds. Anna would like the Commissioners to help educate residents on the positive aptitudes of CPC funds and the good, the Town has received from the funding it provides.

**Admin. Updates:**

- Received a call from Groton Police about the lights not coming on at Town Field. This might be because power was out. Don Black looked at the breakers and will follow up. Tim Siok stated that the lights were not on tonight. If needed Tim MacGregor will be contacted to work on the light issue.
- Next meetings are budget meetings. The GELD meeting room is booked for Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm and Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm to 7pm.
- Town Meeting should be done in one night, budget information will be coming from the Town Manager's office after Town Meeting.

**Don Black moved to approval the minutes of September 24, 2019. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 0.**

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019