

**TOWN OF GROTON**

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



**Park Commissioners**

Tim Siok, Chair  
Donald Black  
Kenneth Bushnell  
Anna Eliot

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 4, 2020  
**Time:** 5 p.m.  
**Location:** First Floor Meeting Room  
**Commissioners Present:** Tim Siok, Donald Black, Anna Eliot, Kenneth Bushnell  
**Others Present:** Other interested parties, Kara Cruikshank, Admin. Asst.

---

**5:05 P.M** Tim Siok called the meeting to order

### Workshop on Capital Planning

Donald Black explained that the Park Commission should have a 5year Capital plan. Chair Tim Siok thought the last time they had a plan, was in May, 5 years ago.

Based on the 2019 Park Commission Projects that were proposed, 5 items are still ongoing or completed and the other items received little or no attention. Tim said to cross off Cow Pond Brook Rd signage. Don updated everyone that Minuteman Common is coming along by the Eagle Scouts. The WW1 Cannon Restoration is a CPA project but it is on the Parks property, that's why it's on list of projects.

**Tim Siok made a motion to cross off the skate park. Donald Black seconded. Anna agreed.**

Woitowicz Tennis Court was on the list of projects, as well. The Commission members were listing potential ideas that could take place there. Tim asked if they should redo the tennis court and add a pickleball court? Anna stated there were a few pickleball courts in Town so maybe we should wait and see if they were utilized. Tim suggested to take down the tennis net and put in a basketball court. A backboard would be useful for Lacrosse as well.

Anna Eliot would like to explore and get input this year about putting in a Sanitary Facility at Cow Pond Brook. Next fall, the Park Commission could apply for the design for the Spring Town Meeting of 2021 and then apply for the design specs in the fall of 2021. Chair Siok stated step one, let's find out the interest.

Commissioner, Kenneth Bushnell arrived at 5:25PM

The Park Commissioners discussed possibly putting in a gravel walking path around the perimeter at Cow Pond. Mr. Black suggested it could be an expansion of Annas project in year two. Anna thought improving the parking lot should be involved as well.

The Park Commission had a successful workshop and came with a 5 year Capital Plan

### **5 year Capital Plan**

- **Year 1-** Complete the list of projects remaining and rebuilding the stonewall at Town Field
- **Year 2-**Woitowicz Field design and Tennis Court construction. At Cutler Field, change of the light to timing
- **Year 3-** Apply for funds for the Sanitary Facility Center at Cow Pond
- **Year 4-** Baseball renovation at Town Field- level, tear up and redo irrigation
- **Year 5-** Continuance of construction of the Cow Pond Sanitary Facility and possible Walking Trail around the perimeter at Cow Pond

Chair Tim Siok stated this was the end of the Workshop. Don Black made a motion at 5:45PM to complete the workshop. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

### **Park Commission Vacancy Interview**

**Gail Chalmers was present to Interview for the Park Commission Vacancy.**

Donald Black made a motion to fill the Park Commission Vacancy. Tim Siok Seconded the motion.

Gail introduced herself and explained she is involved with the Senior Center and she works at Rivercourt per diem. She believes it is important to give back to the community. She explained Rivercourt takes up 2 to 10 hours per week. Gail stated she will be running for a three year term in the Spring. Gail would be a great fit, Mr. Black exclaimed. She could become a full time Park Commissioner.

Don made a motion to meet in joint session with the Select Board to consider making an appt. to fill a vacancy on the Park Commission until the Spring 2020 Election. Kenny seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

### **GD Lacrosse Field Use Permits Requests**

**Chris Clinton was present on behalf of Groton Dunstable Lacrosse**

Chris attended the meeting to discuss potential issues with Cutler and Woitowicz Fields. Chris explained Cutler Field has a hole in the shed and Woitowicz needs new doors. He also explained some conflict with Men's Softball at the Cow Pond fields. Applicant did ask if the grass could be cut a little lower at Woitowicz field.

Chris inquired about putting up a 10 ft by 12 ft long cement rebound wall at Woitowicz basketball court and they would help fund as well. Chris asked if he could be put on the March 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda with a presentation about a potential rebound wall. The Park Commissioners agreed.

**Ken Buschnell made a motion to approve the following listed Lacrosse field use requests. Don Black Seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

- **GD Youth Lacrosse Program- Cow Pond 5 and Cow Pond 6** - Spring opening of Fields – June 19th, 2020. Monday, Wednesday practices: 6pm-7:30pm. Friday Evenings, Saturday and Sunday -All day
- **GD Youth Lacrosse Program- Cutler Field** -Spring Field opening thru June 19, 2020. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30 pm-7pm, Sundays – All Day
- **Groton Lacrosse Program- Sgt. Woitowicz Field**- Spring Field opening thru June 19. 2020. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4 pm-7:30 pm. All day Sundays

### **Chompers Goatscaping**

Charlene is the President and Founder of Chompers Goatscaping, located in Pepperell, MA. Charlene spoke to the Commission in hopes that they would utilize her services to clear the Town's sports fields as opposed to pesticides, especially where the children play. She has 6 goats that clear poison ivy, poison oak, thorns etc. Don Black stated the perimeter of the fields is what we would like cleaned up and asked if the herd could take care of this? Chair Tim said the fields have areas beyond sending a person in to clear. Mr. Black inquired the cost for a week. It all depends on the square footage and vegetation, Charlene said. Kenneth Buschnell said we will call Chompers Goatscaping during growing season.

### **GDYBL Field Permit Use Requests**

**Bruce Bottamini, Jeff Larsen and Cormac Bordes attended on behalf of GDYBL**

Bruce provided the Park Commission a 2020" to do list" for the Town fields. One item on the list was to edge and groom infields and rebuild pitching mounds. Ken stated the point of contact is John Kelly from New England Turf for this inquiry. Ken asked him to get an estimate from them and we will be able to tell you what the Park Commission can help pay. Another item was to service the field groomer. There is a groomer in the garage, Chair Siok stated we will have it serviced. Bruce Bottamini asked who is in charge of mowing the fields? Kenny Buschnell stated the DPW. Bruce explained the fields were not aerated after soccer used them.

Anna Eliot explained to Bruce Bottamini that the Park Commission is exploring sanitary facilities, storage, first aid and concession stand as a three or four year plan. She asked GDYBL if they would support this? Bruce wanted to know if it will be shared by soccer and baseball. Anna said it would be one central shack, and it is all part of the planning.

In regards to a small tractor for Library Field, Bruce said you can buy a new cub cadet, at Military discount, for \$1,500. Tim Siok suggested the Park Commission could split the cost of the mower.

- **Groton Town Field Big Diamond – Baseball-April 1, 2020- August 1, 2020  
Sundays 9AM to 8 PM**

**Ken made a motion to approve Field Use Permit listed below for GDYBL. Tim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.**

**Jeff Wall attended on behalf of The River Rats**

- **River Rats Field Permit Use Request -Cow Pond Baseball Fields, Town Field, Cutler Fields, Field Behind MS south-** April through October. Weekdays late afternoons/early evening. Weekend mornings/afternoons/ early evenings.

Jeff explained that the River Rats play on Sundays. Commissioner Bushnell explained that the Town teams play on Sundays as well. Because Jeff is not a Town resident, Ken suggested to have Pete Coronin, a Town resident, re-submit the permit request with his name on it. The Park Commissioners would like the River Rats to put the exact days and times, under the period to be used. Jeff said they needed to submit their schedule on February 14<sup>th</sup> , then he can get the schedule to re-submit for the March meeting with the specific days and times.

**Town Commons**

Commissioner Donald Black and Select Board member Becky Pine met and came up with an outline for the Policy Name for naming Memorial Parks, Commons, Fields, Gardens, and Structures on Town Property. Administrator, Kara Cruikshank, printed copies for each Commission member to review. There is no deadline.

**Park Commission Invoices**

January 2020, Park Commission invoices amounted to \$2,750.11

Tim Siok made a motion to approve all invoices for the last month. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Anna Eliot moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 7, 2020 as presented. Tim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Land Use Administrative Assistant  
Date approved: May 5, 2020**