

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
Gail Chalmers

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 2, 2020
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Commissioners Present: Tim Siok, Donald Black, Anna Eliot, Kenneth Bushnell, Gail Chalmers
Others Present: Cormac Bordes, John Giger, Christie Bliss, Matt Kruger, Jeff O'Hringer
The Groton Channel, Kara Cruikshank- Admin. Asst. And other interested parties.

7:00 P.M Tim Siok called the meeting to order.

Discuss and Vote on Opening of the Fields/Parks

Mr. Siok said the opening of the green space is the matter of discussion and he would like to explore the costs to see if it is feasible. Mr. Black suggested to open all of the playing fields for transitory use only. 10 people or less, social distancing, everyone must wear masks and no contact sports. Mr. Black would like to omit porta potties and hand sanitizer at this time. The commissioners agreed that signage is prevalent and to spell out the guidelines. Basketball courts and play structures will need to have temporary orange tape to show that they are still closed at this time.

Cormac Bordes was present to represent GYBL. Mr. Bordes would like to have clarification specific guidance on what they can do on the fields. Mr. Black clarifies that transitory means non-contact/competitive sports. Ms. Eliot stated you would be responsible for monitoring no games and limiting it groups of 10 children or less. Mr. Black encouraged Mr. Bordes to fill out a field use permit application. Ms. Eliot recommended limiting the length of time down at the fields. Mr. Siok stated there must be guidelines from baseball on practices and games. Matt Krueger was present to represent NE baseball. Mr. Krueger said they started preparing for smaller group practices. NE baseball provides each player a helmet and they do not share bats. They have discussed distancing the kids as much as possible, discussed the empire behind the pitcher, and coaches wearing masks. Phase 2 they are allowed to practice and phase 3 they can start games. They are allowed to go down in groups of 10 or less and kids can wear masks. If coaches are included in the 10 count- is unclear and at the mercy of the Governor. July 1st to mid-August is what they are preparing to do this year. Mr. Bordes stated their season, this year, for tee-ball to Babe Ruth will be a summer season, starting around phase 3. Christie Bliss was present representing the co-op softball league. Ms. Bliss said phase 3 for them will be games. In Groton there will not be a high school softball team. She said it's imperative for softball to play in a structured, clinic environment to keep the kids playing. Mr. Bushnell stated the softball fields are at the schools. Mr. Siok said he suggested Cutler as a softball field

in the past and suggested to fill out a field use permit application, as well. Jeff O'Hringer was present from softball. He stated there are no summer leagues and on hold. There are no plans of practicing but they are in the process of applications for the fall. The kids could not play with a mask, as it is a hazard while running.

Don Black made a motion to open all playing fields, Tuesday, June 9, 2020, transitory use only. They will forgo the use of porta potties and trash, put signage in place, limiting it to 10 people or less and exercise social distancing. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discuss Failed well pump at Woitowitz Field

Mr. Bushnell said there is a failed pump at Woitowitz Field. The failed well pump estimate from Turf Unlimited is \$6,100.

Mr. Siok said he was advised to take out of the capital funding and will ask for approval from Town Manager, Mark Haddad. Mr. Black stated he would call Skillings for an estimate, as well.

Tree Removal at Town Field

Mr. Siok stated we have a large beach tree down at Town Field. Mr. Bushnell said he got a quote from Dave Mead and it will be \$1500 for removal. There are 3 trees that need removal.

Kenny Bushnell made a motion to hire Dave Mead to clean up the trees at Town Field upon Mr. Haddad's approval. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Tim Siok- Mr. Siok made an announcement that it was his last meeting. All of the commissioners thanked Mr. Siok for his time and he will be missed.

Invoices

GELD invoice- Totaled \$252.51
Turf Unlimited - \$5,137.18

May Invoices totaled \$5,389.69.

Tim made a motion to approve the May invoices in total of \$5,137.18. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Minutes

Anna Eliot made one correction to the May 5th minutes. Admin, Kara Cruikshank said she will make the correction to the minutes from May 5, 2020.

Don Black made a motion to approve the minutes with Anna Eliot's one correction from May 5. Anna Eliot seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 5-0.

Anna Eliot made a motion to approve the minutes from May 19th. Gail Chalmers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Reorganization of the Board

Gail made a motion for Don Black to step into the chair position. Anna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Land Use Administrative Assistant
Date approved: July 7, 2020**