

TOWN OF GROTON

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



Park Commissioners

Donald Black, Chair
Anna Eliot, Vice Chair
Gail Chalmers
Kenneth Bushnell

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 16, 2020
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Commissioners Present: Donald Black, Anna Eliot, Kenneth Bushnell, Gail Chalmers
Others Present: Cormac Bordes, John Giger, Matt Kruger, The Groton Channel, Kara Cruikshank- Admin. Asst. And other interested parties.

7:00 P.M Chairman Donald Black called the meeting to order.

Elect a Vice Chairman

Mr. Black stated we need to elect a Vice Chairman.

Gail Chalmers made a motion to elect Anna Eliot as Vice Chairman. Kenny Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 3-0. Ms. Eliot abstained.

Congratulations to commissioner Gail Chalmers on her 3year term election.

Commissioner Assignments

Mr. Black assigned each commissioner an assignment to oversee and they each agreed to their duties.

Commissioner Chalmers- Ms. Chalmers will oversee the playgrounds, basketball courts and old burying grounds.

Commissioner Bushell- Mr. Bushnell will oversee the 4 playing fields in town.

Commissioner Eliot- Ms. Eliot was assigned safety and sanitation, the Hazel Grove Park Liaison and CPC representative for parks.

Chair Donald Black – Mr. Black will be in charge of flags and commons and any general duties that come before parks on a daily basis.

Review our re-opening of fields position

Mr. Black stated that the fields are getting minimal use. The basketball courts seem to be an issue. A lot of kids at Cutler. Smith Pavilion gets a lot of use. Ms. Chalmers had noticed there are kids playing lacrosse on the fields Mr. Black inquired to Mr. Bushnell about who does the initial grooming of the field. Mr. Bushnell said that he usually hires someone but he can get it at town field and groom it. Mr. Black said he has a volunteer to take care of the fields. Major league field will need some help.

Review our Field Use Policy Form

The Park Commissioners reviewed the field use policy form. Ms. Eliot said the field use policy form should be signed by the leader. Mr. Black said coaches, players and parents should all sign the form. Mr. Black wanted to discuss the Hold Harmless Agreement. Ms. Eliot questioned if this is consistent with other towns and country clubs and if it came from softball. Mr. Black agreed. Mr. Bushnell asked if we have talked to Town Counsel yet? Cormac Bordes from Babe Ruth baseball said they came up with a COVID form. Matt Krueger from NE baseball said they are writing a waiver. Mr. Black advised that we are in a budget freeze so if parents of baseball can supply their own hand sanitizers. Also, he suggested for the kids to wear batting gloves.

Field Use Requests

1. **Smith Social Pavilion** -June 23, 2020- 10:00 PM- 1:00 PM

Anna made a motion to approve the Field use request. Mr. Bushnell seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 4-0.

2. **Cormac Bordes from GDYB**- Using all Cow Pond diamonds and Town Field.
Used for practices at the start of phase 2.

Ms. Eliot made a motion to approve field use permit for GDYB. Mr. Bushnell seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 4-0.

3. **Matt Krueger from NE Baseball** -Cow Pond -12U games and practices-Sundays 10 am July 5th – August 16th. Tournament July 18th-19th,2020.
Babe Ruth Field- Practices Babe Ruth-July 18 and 19th, 2020. 8:00 am-8:00 pm
Mr. Krueger stated he will work around the town schedule.

Cormac and Matt agreed to work out the scheduled together to prevent overlapping.

Mr. Bushnell made a motion to approve NE baseball field use permit. Ms. Eliot Seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 4-0.

4. **Jeffrey Dries-men's pickup league**- Cow Pond Field 3- May 3- October to early November
(weather dependent) Every Sunday 9:00 am- 11:00 am

Mr. Bushnell made a motion to approve field use permit from Jeff Dries. Ms. Chalmers seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 4-0.

Review Pump Estimates for Woitowicz Field

Reliable Pump- The worst-case scenario it will be \$7,630.00 to replace the pump and repair one of the extensions lines.

Skilling's- Skilling's would do service call. Can't labor charge 1200 to 2000 and under misc. items for the extension lines.

Both companies were close in price.

Mr. Bushnell made a motion to use Reliable Pump. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 4-0.

Review our Position on basketball courts and playground

Ms. Eliot made a motion to open playgrounds and basketball courts under the following conditions:

- No more than 10 persons on the court at any one time.
- Carry in, carry out policy for balls.
- Wipe balls frequently with disinfectant.
- Respect playtime of others in the event more than 10 people on the premises.
- Social distancing on sidelines.

Mr. Bushnell seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Black made a motion to keep the playground closed till the end of phase 2. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously 4-0.

Update on the tree removal from town field.

Mr. Black explained the highway, LA, and Dave Mead cut up the old beach tree and cedar tree and it is now gone. The tree at the entrance way to the playground is also removed.

Discuss repairs to structure damaged from the storm at Cow Pond

The pavilion has been disassembled and will be rebuilt and the snack shack will be re pinned to the foundation and the fence will be repaired all under insurance.

Signs at Minuteman Common

There is a grandfathered sign, bulletin board that reads Black Lives Matter. The commissioners agreed to leave the sign alone.

There is a temporary sign that is attached to the grandfathered sign. It is in violation of the By Laws. Ms. Eliot advised any signs that are taken down or on the ground to be taken behind the town hall.

Park Commissioner Updates

Mr. Black- The Park Commission does have an open vacancy.

Approve invoices

GELD invoice totaling in \$393.33.

Meeting adjourn at 8:29 PM. **Respectfully submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Land Use Administrative Assistant**

Date approved: August 19, 2020