

TOWN OF GROTON

Park Commission
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Park Commissioners

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Commissioners Present: Donald Black, Anna Eliot, Kenny Bushnell and Gail Chalmers
Others Present: Kara Cruikshank- Administrative Assistant

Donald Black called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

1. Nomination and Election of Officers

The Commissioners had a brief discussion and agreed to keep the positions of the officers as they are.

*Upon a motion by A. Eliot, Seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:
Voted to keep the line officers in the same positions as they currently are.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, KB, GC, DB)*

2. Budget update

D. Black updated the Commission that the budget is \$37,613.26 and the expenditures for May totaled \$10,588. The forecasted expenditures for the month of June are as follows:

1. Turf unlimited- \$635
2. Startup cost for Cutler Field-\$866
3. Waster Not \$135
4. Regional Restrooms- \$675
5. Shaw- \$140
6. Vermont Tennis-\$3,087
7. Smith Pavilion-\$600
8. Infield Clay- \$350

D. Black stated that T. Delaney approached him regarding the Park Commission's budget and questioned if the Commission would consider funding a new lawn mower for the HWD. T. Delaney commented that a majority of their work is mowing the Park Commissions playing fields. The new mower would cost \$13,954. After calculating the listed expenditures there would be a remaining \$4,700 in the budget.

D. Black then brought two additional items to the Commissioner's attention. There are two burned out bulbs located at the Town Field and after checking with GELD an out of state order would need to be placed. Each bulb cost \$24; it would be beneficial to purchase all eight bulbs to save in future shipping costs. Next, a few residents have contacted the Park Commission regarding the lack of sand in the

sandbox located at the Christine Hanson Playground. D. Black stated that the playground would require one yard of play sand. Moison Ace Hardware has agreed to discount each bag that is bought bringing the total to \$475.

D. Black suggested holding a second meeting in June to encumber any funds or expenses that the Commission encounters before the end of the fiscal year.

3. Cow Pond Well Update

D. Black stated that the BOH issued the permit and the labor has been approved. Northeast Water Wells will be providing the well rig.

4. Play Sand for Christine Hanson Playground

D. Black reiterated that the sandbox needs more play sand, Moisons agreed to deliver the sand and a few parents have volunteered to help with the installation.

*Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was:
Voted to approve a sum not to exceed \$575.00 for the installation of play sand.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, KB, GC, DB)*

K. Bushnell questioned if the playground needs any additional mulch. D. Black commented that while working at the playground he would rake the mulch and fill in underneath the swings.

5. Update on Repairs to Cutler BB Court

The cracks have been repaired and the Park Commission has not received the invoice.

6. Lighting replacement at Town Field Basketball Court

Two lights have burned out at the Basketball Court. D. Black believes that the Park Commission should pay \$290 to replace all eight bulbs.

Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was: Voted to
approve the expenditure of \$290.00 to replace the eight bulbs at the Town Field Basketball Court,
GELD will install them.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, KB, GC, DB)

7. Update on Basketball hoop repair at Town Field

D. Black updated that the parts were in and due to the inclement weather, they were not able to complete the work. They will try again later this week.

8. Update on naming Sawyer Way at Veterans Memorial Common

The request was brought to M. Haddad and he agreed with the Committee on naming the road Sawyer Way. The next step is receiving approval by the Select Board.

9. Update on Roof repair Smith Pavilion

D. Black stated that the repair on the roof is underway and would be completed this week. K. Bushnell suggested that the Smith Pavilion could use a fresh coat of paint and the Eagle Scouts may be interested in volunteering their time. D. Black was in favor of the suggestion and noted that the Park Commission would provide the paint. He also commented that Tim MacGregor came out and repaired an electrical box that had been damaged.

10. Update on Tire swing repair – Playground

D. Black updated that they are waiting on a U bracket from O'Brien and Sons.

11. Update on Care and Mulching of Commons

1. Establish a Maintenance Plan

D. Black was pleased with the work completed by the Garden Club. The following commons are in need of attention and require mulch to enhance the stone markers: Badger, Minuteman, Sawyer, Armstrong, Boynton, Cutler, Gold Star Memorial, Liberty Tree, and Wheeler.

*Upon a motion by K. Bushnell, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:
Voted to mulch the additional commons not exceeding \$1000.00.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: KB, AE, GC, DB)*

A. Eliot stated that the Garden Club has requested that the Park Commission use the same-colored mulch as they have in the other Commons.

12. New Mower Proposal

D. Black explained the new mower requested by the HWD would encumber the funds into the next fiscal year. The HWD has requested a Hustler Super Z, industrial, 72" deck mower that would cost \$13,954 delivered.

*Upon a motion by K. Bushnell, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:
Voted to purchase a new Hustler mower for the Highway Department at the cost of \$13,954.00
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: KB, GC, DB) AE-Abstain*

A. Eliot questioned the expenditures and the budget. D. Black verified that the amount is correct and that the Commission has sufficient funds.

13. Update on sprinkler activation

D. Black stated all the sprinklers have been activated; Woitowicz and Cow Pond both required repairs at the initial startup.

1. Woitowicz
2. Cow Pond
3. Cutler

14. Commissioner Updates

D. Black notified the Commission that last Saturday morning the Town Field had trash everywhere and broken bottles had been thrown against the garage. B. Bottamini and D. Black cleaned the area. Later that day K. Bushnell informed D. Black that there would be a basketball game commencing at 8:00 P.M. He thought it would be a great opportunity to investigate who left the trash behind. D. Black began to video the game and a few attendees questioned his intentions. D. Black then questioned if they knew of the persons involved in the trashing of the field. They were very polite and said they would send a notification to all those involved. D. Black did not receive any specific names however; there have not been any further issues.

A. Eliot questioned if anyone knew the write-in nominees on the ballot and if the Commission should reach out to see if they are interested in becoming part of the board.

A. Eliot questioned if there was an update on the email received from Mike Kennon. K. Bushnell stated he was looking for a place to play softball. D. Black placed a call to M. Kennon and has not heard anything back.

A. Eliot stated that the Commission needs to discuss how they are going to implement the \$20,000 received from the CPA. D. Black stated that the Commission has engaged with Matt Waterman and he would be performing a feasibility study once the Commission receives the funds the next step is having a formal meeting.

15. Field Use Requests

River Runners, Smith Pavilion,
Sat, May 29th 5:00 P.M.

D. Black approved the Field Use Permit Application and it has already occurred.

Groton Community School- Closing Kindergarten Ceremony, Gazebo
June 7, 2021, 5:30 P.M-7:30 P.M.

*Upon a motion by K. Bushnell, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:
Voted to approve the Field Use Permit Application submitted by Groton Community School for
the use of the Gazebo, June 7, 2021, 5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: KB, GC, AE, DB)*

Katie Riceberg-Birthday Party, Smith Pavilion,
June 13, 2021, 9:00A.M.-2:00 P.M. setup and cleanup.

*Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was: Voted to
approve the Field Use Permit Application submitted by Katie Riceburg for the use of the Smith
Pavilion, June 13, 2021 from 9:00 A.M- 2:00 P.M.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: KB, GC, AE, DB)*

Groton Community School-Preschool Portfolio Night, Gazebo;
June 11, 2021, 5:00P.M-7:00 P.M.

Friday,

*Upon a motion by D. Black, seconded K. Bushnell, by it was:
Voted to approve the Field Use Permit Application submitted by Groton Community School for
the use of the Gazebo, June 11, 2021, 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, KB, GC, DB)*

Groton Community School- End of the year celebration, Gazebo;
June 9 & 10th, 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

*Upon a motion by D. Black, seconded K. Bushnell, by it was:
Voted to approve the Field Use Permit Application submitted by Groton Community School for
the use of the Gazebo, June 9th & 10th, 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: GC, AE, KB, DB)*

Groton Community School-Closing Ceremony, Gazebo;
June 15, 2021, 5:45 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.

*Upon a motion by D. Black, seconded K. Bushnell, by it was:
Voted to approve the Field Use Permit Application submitted by Groton Community School for
the use of the Gazebo, June 15, 2021, 5:45 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: KB, AE, GC, DB)*

GDRSD-6, 7, 8 Middle School Football- Matt Ricard, Cow Pond Field 3
Mid Aug-Early Nov, M, T, W, TH

D. Black recommended postponing the request to the next meeting when the Commission can request additional information. K. Bushnell stated that he would speak to M. Ricard the next time he saw him.

Robert Anderson, Lost Lake Fire Station Pickleball Court;
Summer-Fall, Wed, 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. & Sat, 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

*Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded K. Bushnell, by it was:
Voted to approve the Field Use Permit Application submitted by B. Anderson for the use of the
Lost Lake Fire Station Pickleball Court, Summer- Fall, Wed 5:00P.M.-7:00 P.M., Sat 10:00
A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, GC, KB, DB)*

16. Approval of Invoices

*Upon a motion by K. Bushnell, seconded by G. Chalmers it was:
Voted to approve the total invoice amount of \$10,587.92.
The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, GC, KB, DB)*

17. Approval of Minutes

*Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:
Voted to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2021.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: GC, AE, DB) KB- Abstain*

18. Adjourn

8:07 P.M.

*Upon a motion by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell it was:
Voted to adjourn the public meeting at 8:07 P.M.
The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, GC, KB, DB)*

The next Park Commission meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2021 located at the Town Hall.