## Meeting Minutes

## Park Commissioners

Donald Black, Chair

Anna Eliot, Vice Chair

Gail Chalmers

Kenneth Bushnell

## TOWN OF GROTON

Park Commission

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

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**Date: Tuesday March 1, 2022**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Commissioners Present: Donald Black, Anna Eliot, Gail Chalmers, Kenneth Bushnell**

**Others Present: Donna Main- Parks Assistant**

**5:01 PM**  Chairman Donald Black calls meeting to order and a roll was called of all Commissioners present.

**Badger Funeral Home-21-Gun Salute:** As discussed at the last meeting there is a local family that would like to have a Military Service and 21 Gun Salute at Legion field but we would like to suggest that they hold it in the Old Buying Ground buy the flag pole.

**Prescott Playground:** We have been approached by the Prescott Center and Mark Haddad, as well as Carl Canner, to take over the playground behind the field at Prescott Center Field. The vines are over grown and Carl has agreed to clear all that, we would be responsible to ensure that the equipment is child safe and maintained as well as the base material underneath it, like we do at Christine Hansen Playground. The Prescott Center will be having a summer camp on the field and they could get some good use from the playground if it can be cleared and taken care of. We oversee the other playgrounds in town so it makes sense for this to fall under our umbrella as well.

A. Eliot states that she is opposed to taking on the responsibility of the activities that are taking place at a private organization. The group should be responsible for all the expenses, insurance and upkeep of the facility and grounds and that should not be the burden of the tax payers.

K. Bushnell asked if the land and everything is still owned and taken care of by the town and just leased by the Prescott Community Center.

D. Black stated that yes, it is just leased the town maintains the field and grounds of Prescott Community Center.

G. Chalmers wasn’t even aware that a playground was back there, it is so over grown and agrees that we should not be involved with it.

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was:

Voted to decline taking over Prescott Playground:

***The motion passed by a roll call vote (Yes: AE, GC, KB,DB)***

**Porta-Potties:** The Parks Commission was approached by United Rentals with a bid for Porta-potties that at first glance appeared to be competitive with our current provider, Regional Restrooms. After discussion and comparing the numbers, it was decided to stay with Regional as they have provided superior service and the cost savings is minimal at best and we have a long standing and good relationship with our current service.

Upon a motion made by K. Bushnell, seconded by A. Eliot, it was;

Voted to stay with Regional Restrooms as long as they hold their rate or do better,

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, GC, KB, DB)***

**Trash Pick-up:** Donna will contact E.L. Harvey to make sure that all billing issues have been resolved since the change from WasteNot and will ensure that starting April 15 that we have one trash can at Cutler and Woitoitz as well as the four we currently have at Town Field. We will continue to keep the four at Town Field year-round and keep trash cans at the other two locations from April through November like we do with the dumpster at Cow Pond Field.

**Minuteman Common Christmas Tree:** Kevin Kelly with GELD reached out and in order to preserve Prescott Common at the holidays he would like to put up a 40’pole and create a Christmas Tree out of lights. This would not interfere with the decorations that the Women’s Club does but, we would first ask their thoughts and permission before moving forward. This could act as a center piece to the towns holiday lighting.

**Letter of Support for Mike Sarcia:** Mike Sarcia is going before the ZBA on March 2, 2022 and is asking for a letter of support for his use of the old Aide’s Attic building for dry storage. The renovation of that building would be a great improvement for West Groton and as an abutter, with Carol Wheeler Memorial Park, of that property the Parks Commission would like to show support of this project.

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was;

Voted to support Mike Sarcia in his renovations of Aide’s Attic provided he understands

the parking area is Parks property and part of Carol Wheeler Memorial Park.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, GC, KB, DB)***

**Spring Field Preparation:** The fields overall are looking to be in good condition. The fence at the basketball court at town field has suffered some damage that needs more than just a few zip ties to hold it together.

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was;

Voted to hire a fencing company to make any needed repairs to the basketball court

fence at town field.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, GC, KB,***

***DB)***

**Park Commission Candidates:** If you know of any one that would be interested in one of the three open seats on the parks commission, please ask them to fill out nomination papers.

**Budget Report:** YTD we have spent $27,454.27 of our $55,759.00 budget, leaving us with a balance of $28,304.73. We have used 49% of our budget so far.

**Bills:** All invoices were reviewed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Groton Electric | $293.75 |
| E.L. Harvey | $90.00 |
| Total | $383.75 |

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was:

Voted to approve all invoices due.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, GC, KB, DB)***

**Capital Improvement Budget:** We have a remaining budget of $19, 429.55 the expenditures to date have been $2100.00 for the flag pole at Cow Pond Field and $3470.45 for the mulch a Christine Hanson Playground. We still have plans to purchase some infield mix to do some repairs at the baseball fields.

**Field Use Requests:**

Groton Dunstable Regional High School Baseball, Practice, Town Field, Large Baseball Diamond, March 14, 2022-June 3, 2022 Monday- Friday 3PM-5PM

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was:

Voted to allow GDRHS to hold practice at Town Field Baseball Field, once the fields are opened

for the season until June 3, 2022.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes:***  ***AE, GC, KB, DB)***

Connie Keeran-Pickleball, Lost Lake Pickleball Courts (both courts), April 1, 2022- September 30, 2022, Wednesdays 5PM-7PM.

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:

Voted to allow Connie Keeran to use both Lost Lake Pickleball courts as requested from April 1-September 30, 2022.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes:***  ***AE, GC, KB, DB)***

Groton Dunstable Youth Baseball, practice and games, Cow Pond Baseball 1-4, April 4, 2022- June 15, 2022 Mon- Fri 5PM-8:30PM and all-day Sat and Sun

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was:

Voted to allow GD Youth Baseball to hold practice and games at Cow Pond Baseball Fields, once the fields are opened for the season until June 15, 2022.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes:***  ***AE, GC, KB, DB)***

North East Baseball, Cow Pond Baseball Diamond 4, Multiple dates between April 4- June12, 2022 on Sundays 10AM-2PM

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:

Voted to allow North East Baseball to use Cow Pond Baseball Diamond 4 as requested.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes:***  ***AE, GC, KB, DB)***

Groton Dunstable Youth Soccer Club, Cow Pond Soccer Field 1-4, practice and games, April 6-June 19 2022 Mon-Fri 4PM-9PM and Sat 8AM-6PM

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was:

Voted to allow GDYSC to hold games and practices at Cow Pond Soccer Fields 1-4 as requested.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes:***  ***AE, GC, KB, DB)***

**Commissioner Updates:**  There is a trailer next to the shed at town field that is unregistered and uninsured, after some research it was found to be owned by NE Baseball. Kenny will look into it and see about having it moved.

The superstar groomer will be picked up for repair and service by Toreku on April 9, 2022.

The Parks Commission has been invited to the executive session of the 40B commission to discuss items on their project that may impact Parks.

**Approval of Minutes:**  The meeting minutes from the Parks Commission meeting held via zoom on February 1, 2022 were emailed to all Parks Commissioners for review.

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell it was;

Voted to approve the meeting minutes from the month of February 1, 2022.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, DB, KB GC abstain)***

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Don Black called to adjourn the meeting at 6:07PM

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by K. Bushnell, it was;

Voted to adjourn the March Parks Commission Meeting at 6:07.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, GC, KB, DB)***

**Next Meeting: April 5, 2022 7PM- Zoom**

**Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Donna K. Main, Parks Assistant**

Date Approved: April 5, 2022