## 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 April 5, 2022**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

**Absent: Kenneth Bushnell**

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

**7:09 PM**  Chairman Donald Black calls meeting to order and a roll was called of all Commissioners present.

**Badger Funeral Home-21-Gun Salute:** On May 17, 2022 Badger Funeral Home will hold a memorial at the flag pole in the Old Burying Ground for a Marine that lived his life out in Groton. They will take care of notifying the neighbors and P.D. of the 21-gun salute. We will provide a 50-star flag at the pole for the service

**Prescott Playground:** At our last meeting we discussed Prescott Field and Playground, and to Anna’s credit she said that is under a lease to the Prescott Community Center so D. Black brought that to the attention of the Select Board because they were hinting that we should take care of the playground. D. Black spoke to Mary Jennings and she concurred that she had a lease on the field behind Prescott Center, which they intend to use but, could not speak to the playground. So, D. Black gave that information to Mark Haddad and he said that he would bring it up at the next Select Board meeting. Not at this last meeting but a week ago the Select Board voted to put the Prescott Playground, which is not under lease to the Prescott Community Center, under our jurisdiction to look after and maintain like we do the others at Christine Hanson and Cutler.

**Spring Field Prep:** The fence at the basketball court at Town Field needs some repairs at the cost of $1500 those repairs should be completed within the next few days.

In Field mix for all ball fields was delivered today and should be spread on all baseball diamonds within the next few days as well depending on weather.

**Super Star Update**: Needed a new regulator and a tune up and is back and in service. Bruce is back and working. The total repair was $366.31

**Trailer at Town Field:** We had asked K. Bushnell to address this but he is not here so we will address this next meeting

**PFAS Well Water Testing:** The Select Board voted last night to have all wells tested for PFAS. We have four wells that would be affected. The cost is $400 per well and the testing would be done and over seen by the Groton Water Department. PFAS has been present in the news lately and was found at the High School and in the drinking water in North Groton so, it is important to make sure that we are not contaminating the ground water with our wells.

D. Black would like to entertain a motion to cover the cost of $1600 to test the wells for PFAS.

After some discussion the vote was held off. A. Eliot would like more information regarding PFAS and why we need to test since we have no drinking fountains.

**Carol Wheeler site walk:** Olin Lathorp from the Conservation Committee would like to do a site walk at Carol Wheeler for invasive species. We need to set a date and time to get together with him, easiest way would probably be by email. D. Black will be in contact with O. Lathorp and we will set something up in the next month or so.

**Field Opening:** D. Black has walked the fields andfeels that they are ready and playable. That being said at 8am April 6, 2022 all fields are open for play.

**Signs at Cow Pond:** Justin Frazier has started calling about traffic issues again and asking about signage in the Cow Pond area. Donna has sent him an email saying that we would like to speak with him regarding the issues and get the proper departments involved but at this point we have not heard back from him. Until we do, we will wait on this matter.

**Picnic Table at Cutler**: There is a new picnic table out at cutler. Thanks to Donna and her husband Jason for going out and picking that up. Dave Roy took away the old one for us.

**Gazebo Painting:** The Gazebo is in high demand this year and has not been painted in several years. We need to consider looking at bids to get it repainted sooner than later. We have a small Gazebo fund but, it only has about $200 which certainly won’t cover much more than maybe the paint, but we need to start getting some quotes for repainting the Gazebo.

**LED Lights at Town Field Basketball Court:** The LED lights will be installed in the next week or so depending on the winds. Once the new lights are in that will help lower our energy bills quite a bit.

**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 | $296.86 |
| Toreku Tractor | $366.31 |
| E.L. Harvey | $45.00 |
| Carrot-Top | $50.32 |
| Lowe’s | $149.00 |
| Moison Ace Hardware | $20.36 |
| Total | $927.85 |

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

Voted to approve all invoices due.

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

Anandan Natarajan, Town Field Baseball, Cricket, Saturdays during the spring and Summer 7:30am-10:30am

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by G Chalmers, it was:

Voted to Deny Mr. Natarajan’s request to use Town Field Baseball for Cricket due to high usage by other groups

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

Groton Garden Club, Plant Sale, Legion Field, May 14, 2022 7am-2pm

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by A. Eliot, it was:

Voted to allow The Groton Garden Club to use Legion Field on May 14, 2022 for their annual Plant Sale

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

Nissitissit String Quartet, Town Field Gazebo, Concert, June 29,2022 6-9PM

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was:

Voted to allow Nissitissit String Quartet to hold a concert at the Gazebo at Town Field on June 29,2022 at 6PM

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

Jeff Dries, Cow Pond 3 Baseball Diamond, May 1, 2022-November 2022 on Sundays 9am-11am, pick-up softball games

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by A. Eliot, it was:

Voted to allow Jeff Dries to use Cow Pond Baseball 3 as requested.

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

Groton Council on Aging, Lost Lake Pickleball Courts, April 12,2022-October 2022, Tues, Thurs and Fri 8am-12PM

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by A. Eliot, it was:

Voted to allow Groton COA to use Lost Lake Pickleball courts as requested.

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

Groton Community School, Town Field Gazebo and Playground, June 3, 2022 (rain date 6/11) 4:30-7:30PM, End of Year Family Picnic

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by A. Eliot, it was:

Voted to allow Groton Community School to use the Town Field Gazebo and playground as requested.

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

The Commemoration and Celebration Committee, All of Town Field, July 11, 2022 (rain date 7/18) All Day, Town Fire Works

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by A. Eliot, it was:

Voted to allow the Commemoration and Celebration Committee to use all of Town Field on July 11,2022 all day for the Town Fire Works

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

Badger Funeral Home, Old Burying Ground, 21 Gun Salute and Military Honors, May 17, 2022 12PM

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by A. Eliot, it was:

Voted to allow Badger Funeral Home to use the Old Burying Ground for a 21 Gun Salute and Military Honors

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

Rollstone Bank & Trust, Smith Pavilion/Gazebo, Concert Series 6/16/22 (rain date 6/23), 7/21/22 (r.d. 7/28), 8/18/22 (r.d. 8/25), 9/15/22 (r.d. 9/22) 6:30-9:30PM

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by A. Eliot, it was:

Voted to allow Rollstone Bank & Trust to use the Smith Pavilion on the dates requested for their concert series.

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

**Commissioner Updates:**  Don and Donna were down at Town Field today and it was a mess so, we turned off the lights and informed Chief Luth that until people learned that the basketball court wasn’t a garbage can there would be no night play down there. Right before our meeting D. Black got a call that Officer Hanerhan pulled some kids aside and explained to them that they need to keep these places clean etc. and there will be more patrols so the lights will be turned back on.

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

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

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

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

**In Person Meetings:** with the weather getting better and the user groups becoming more active D. Black would like to make a motion that the Parks Commission return to in person meetings at least for the months of May thru August.

Upon a motion made by D. Black, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was;

Voted to go back to in person meetings at least until August 2022.

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

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Don Black called to adjourn the meeting at 8:20

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

Voted to adjourn the April Parks Commission Meeting at 8:20.

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

**Next Meeting: May 3, 2022 7PM**

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

Date Approved: June 7, 2022