## Meeting Minutes

## Park Commissioners

Donald Black, Chair

Anna Eliot, Vice Chair

Gail Chalmers

## TOWN OF GROTON

Park Commission

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

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**Date: Tuesday June 7, 2022**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room**

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

**Others Present: Donna Main- Parks Assistant, Brenden Mahoney**

**7:00 PM**  Chairman Donald Black calls meeting to order.

**Election Results:** Don Black has been elected and accepted a one-year term to the Parks Commission. The Parks Commission would like to welcome Brenden Mahoney to the meeting, Brenden was a write in on the ballot and has decided to attend tonight’s meeting to help make his decision of weather he would like to be sworn in for a three-year term. Welcome Brenden.

**Cow Pond Brook Rd. Discussion:** Justin Frazier came back to us with a design he would like to see, similar to what is in front of Prescott Community Center. D. Black explained to him the restrictions not only in cost but also size. We cannot exceed the size of 2’x3’. We have not heard back from Justin.

**Prescott Playground:** It has come to the attention of the Parks Commission that there is some talk that the field behind Prescott Community Center may, eventually, become a parking lot. That being said DPW has also informed us that they do not have time in their schedule to help with removing the stumps in the playground area. Estimating the work that is remaining to be done to get that playground in playable condition it would cost the Parks Commission around $10,000 between stump removal, chipping, mulching, laying kid safe playground chips and repairing and replacing equipment. The suggestion of the Commission is to postpone plans of repairing the playground until we know more about the plans for the field.

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

Voted to postpone work on Prescott Playground.

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

**Spring Field Prep:** All of the fields have had the in-field mix spread we will ask Kurt from Dawson Landscape to adjust the sprinklers so the clay gets water. The lighting at the basketball court at Town Field has been changed to LED from the mercury vapor.

**Veterans Memorial Common Seeding:** The seeding on the Common has been completed. Thankfully we will be getting some rain since the common is not irrigated.

**Stone Wall Repairs Town Field:** We have about $12,100 remaining in our Capital Improvement budget we would like to put that money to use to repair the wall at Town Field. Several of the stones have fallen out and every winter there is damage from plowing. Brenden Mahoney does this kind of work and is willing to help with obtaining reliable quotes for the work so that the funds may be encumbered for future use.

**Memorial Tree for VSO Bob Johnson:** The Friend of the Tree Warden approached us wanted to plant a tree in Memory of Bob Johnson, who was the town VSO for many years. They would like to place it on Veterans Memorial Common however, they were unable to raise enough funds. Donna has gone to Kazanjian’s Groton Nursery, in West Groton and for $500 they will plant a Red Sunset Maple Tree, including delivery, compost, fertilizer and mulch.

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

Voter to purchase the tree in memory of VSO Bob Johnson.

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

**PFAS Well Water Testing:** The test samples have been collected. We have the funds set aside in the budget to pay our portion of the bill for this.

**Carol Wheeler site walk:** Gail Chalmers met with Olin Lathorp at Carol Wheeler Park regarding the invasive species there. There were several found there including Japanese Nut Weed (?), Bittersweet and possibly Buckhorn. Mr. Lathorp will file all the necessary paperwork and take it from there.

**Cow Pond Well:** It seems that someone possibly hit one of the well risers near the football shed. We called out New England Well and Pump they came out made some repairs and it worked for about a week. Then, we got another gall that there was another problem it turned out we had to replace the control box and pressure switch on the older well. All is working fine now.

**Lights at Cow Pond:** The Soccer program would like to change the mercury vapor lights at Cow Pond to LED and they would like to add some more lights. D. Black said that he would get a quote from Tim MacGregor, who did the lights at Town Field for us. Brenden Mahoney mentioned that we need to look at the angle of the lights when/if we replace them.

**Budget Report:** YTD we have spent $53,084.61 of our $55,759.00 budget, leaving us with a balance of $2,674.39. We have used 95% of our budget so far.

**Bills:** All invoices were reviewed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Groton Electric | $701.58 |
| Turf Unlimited | $5,541.16 |
| G.W. Shaw | $140.00 |
| Regional Restrooms | $2,145.00 |
| Carrot-Top | $165.89 |
| E.L. Harvey | $379.50 |
| Moison Ace Hardware | $23.17 |
| New England Sports Turf | $4,550.00 |
| Richey & Clapper | $4,034.13 |
| New England Well and Pump | $3,184.67 |
| Total | $20,865.10 |

Upon a motion made by G. 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:**

Our Capital Improvement budget sits at $12,155.29

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sierra Tree Service | $1007.50 |
| Total | $1007.50 |

Upon a motion made by G. 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)***

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the April 5, 2022 meeting were emailed to all Commissioners.

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

Voted to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2022 meeting

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

**Commissioner Updates:** The Middle School will be losing their Softball Fields and the High School has limited Softball space. There is a group that is interested in starting a softball league in the area and it has been recommended to them to apply for a CPC grant and look at Cutler Field since we already have back stops there. Another place that we might want to consider may be H&V(?). It could make a nice revitalization project for that area.

Brenden Mahoney will be going in to Town Hall in the morning to be sworn in.

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Don Black called to adjourn the meeting at 8:18

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

Voted to adjourn the June Parks Commission meeting.

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

**Next Meeting: July 12, 7PM**

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

Date Approved: June 28, 2022