## Meeting Minutes

## Park Commissioners

Donald Black, Chair

Brenden Mahoney, Vice Chair

Anna Eliot

Gail Chalmers

## TOWN OF GROTON

Park Commission

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

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**Date: Tuesday September 13, 2022**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

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

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

**Others Present: Donna Main- Parks Assistant, Mike Sarcia**

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

**Cow Pond Sign Plan:** Jeff Ohringer has submitted a sign permit application to have a sign put out at Cow Pond Field but needs some direction on how to proceed. Donna has offered to help him get onto the agenda of the sign committee so that they may be able to help give him some direction on how to start this project. Once he has a design in place the Parks Commission will be happy to review his planned design to work to have an appropriate sign for best visibility in the area etc.

**Carol Wheeler Park tree trimming and lawn planting:** Mike Sarcia, land owner of parcel 101-12 which abuts 101-13, Carol Wheeler Park. Mr. Sarcia is concerned about some trees on parcel 101-13 that are laying on the roof of the building on his property. He came to the meeting tonight to inquire about how to get permission to have those trees taken care of so that he may continue work on the roof of his building. G. Chalmers would like to see the tree trimmed not taken down to preserve the land from washing out around the bank area of the park.

Upon a motion made by A. Eliot, seconded by B. Mahoney, it was;

Voted to give Mr. Mike Sarcia support to file an RDA application of the specified trees discussed on parcel 101-13

that overhang his abutting property of 101-12.

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

The discussion continued regarding Carol Wheeler Park and possibly revitalizing the entire park and parking area. The suggestion was made to tear up the existing parking area, that is in serious disrepair, and seed the area for grass to expand and improve the park area. Both A. Eliot and G. Chalmers would like to see the area repaved as a parking lot. The trees must be addressed first before winter so that Mr. Sarcia is able to make his building more weather tight.

**Smith Family Pavilion;** The Smith Family, who donated the gazebo/pavilion at Town Field, would like to use the pavilion for a family wedding on September 30. We would like to freshen it up and paint the gazebo prior to the wedding for the family. This can be done at relatively low cost and in short time.

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

Voted to paint the Smith Family Pavilion/Gazebo at a cost not to exceed

$600 plus supplies.

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

**National Heritage 40B/Cow Pond Soil:** We received an email from Nik G. and Takashi regarding National Heritage and the on going issue of that hill of soil that if removed could really help our parking problems. Years ago there were studies done and there were tell tale signs of Blandings Turtles down there and that had slowed things down but we would like to see things move forward. We would like to say that we have the soil as long as we are able to provide it, you can have it. We could take care of both issues with one stone.

A. Eliot has been having Donna collect all of the information, studies and work that has been done regarding Cow Pond and any of the land that the Cow Pond Playing Fields occupy. There is a lot of work that needs to be done there and she would like to form a committee, headed by Brenden Mahoney and David Pitkin, and with the help of an engineer would like to see some of the CPC money put to work. There a lot of improvements that can be done there but a plan has to be made.

**Squanacook Sportsman Club:** Mihran Keoseian, of the Squanacook Sportsman club approached D. Black about their project by the Community center. They are currently working on lead remediation and removal of the old gun range building and plan to construct a fitness trail to include several fitness and workout stations. He asked if, when completed, the Parks Commission would take governance over this trail/park. At this point the Parks Commission believes it is too premature to make that decision. Once there is a more formal plan of what is going to be built and what kind of maintenance it will require the Parks Commission is willing to revisit this request.

**Light control timer access at Cow Pond:** The lights at Cow Pond Soccer and Football are being left on at night long after everyone has left. We need to have all combinations to all sheds and buildings on all parks properties kept by the Parks Commission so in the case that lights are left on or if there is an emergency someone form the Parks Commission is able to respond. Donna will maintain a copy at her desk once all lighting information and combinations are obtained.

**Cow Pond Soccer Field 1 over seeding:** Jeff Ohringer aerated the field on 9/11 and the field will be seeded on 9/15/2022. Cow Pond Soccer Field 1 will be closed for the rest of the season.

**Superstar scarifier cost estimate:** The cost just for parts from MTE in Derry, NH is $490.60. The parts can be shipped to and installed by DPW. To have a mobile mechanic from MTE come to do the installation including the cost for parts would be $1100.32.

Upon a motion made by G. Chalmers, seconded by B. Mahoney, it was;

Voted to purchase the parts only and have DPW replace them for us.

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

**Budget Report:** YTD we have spent approx. $10,747.74, or 19%, of our $55,759 budget leaving about $45,011.26 in our general expense account.

**Bills:** All invoices were reviewed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Groton Electric | $1293.28 |
| Regional Restrooms | $1072.50 |
| E.L. Harvey | $196.00 |
| G.W. Shaw | $140.00 |
| Turf Unlimited | $154.00 |
| Toreku | $624.32 |
| Total | $3480.10 |

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

Voted to approve all invoices due.

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

**Capital Improvement Budget:**

Our Capital Improvement budget sits at $25,000

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the August 9, 2022 meeting were emailed to all commissioners for review.

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

Voted to approve the minutes from August 9, 2022 as presented

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

**Adjourn:** Commissioner D. Black calls to adjourn at: 8:34pm

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

Voted to adjourn the September Parks Commission meeting.

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

**Next Meeting: October 4, 2022**

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

Date Approved: October 4, 2022