## 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

Tel: 978-732-1893

parks@grotonma.gov

**Date: Tuesday December 13, 2022**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

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

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

**Others Present: Tammi Mickel - Parks Assistant, Mike Sarcia, Michelle Collette**

**5:00 PM**  Chairman Donald Black calls meeting to order.

**Trash Containers** – We have suspended trash containers until the spring at Woitowitz Field and 2 from Town Field. E.L. Harvey does not take the containers when they are suspended for the winter. We will notify E.L. Harvey in the spring when services will resume. There is one at Cutler field basketball court and 2 are Town field that are out for use.

**Carol Wheeler Park Invasive Plant Management** – G. Chalmers said she met with Olan Lathrop and there is nothing that can be done now due to the winter season.

**Cow Pond parking proposal –** D. Black said he met with Tom Delaney from the Highway department. He showed an arial photo of Cow Pond field to show the commissioners the proposed plan on moving rocks to open an area back from the road to provide about 40 perpendicular parking spots. B. Mahoney spoke with Chief Luth and he is on board with the plan.

**Field Use Requests –**

Groton Dunstable Youth Lacrosse, Woitowicz Field, April 1, 2023 – June 18, 2023, Mondays thru Thursdays 5PM - 7PM and Sundays 11AM – 3PM

Groton Dunstable Youth Lacrosse, Cow Pond Football Field, small LAX Field-Mod 1 & 2, April 1, 2023 – June 18, 2023, Mondays thru Thursdays 5PM - 7PM, Fridays 5PM – 8PM and Sundays 8AM – 6PM

Groton Dunstable Youth Lacrosse, Cutler Field, April 1, 2023 – June 18, 2023, Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 5PM - 7PM and Sundays 8AM – 5PM

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

Voted to allow Groton Dunstable Youth Lacrosse to hold practice and games at Woitowicz, Cow Pond and Cutler field on dates requested.

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

**UMASS Rocket Club -** The UMASS Rocket clubrequested to use Cow Pond field tolaunch rockets at a low level. We had the club fill out a field use request form and spoke with Fire Chief McCurdy to see what guidelines needed to be followed on their end. The club was advised to fill out a permit through the fire station as well.

**Report on Accessibility Committee** – D. Black requested to postpone until the 6:00PM public hearing

**CPC update** – D. Black gave an update on his discussion with Matt Waterman on creating an access road out to Hoyts Wharf Brook Road and the intangibles that would go into the process. D. Black said they submitted 3 applications to the CPC. He spoke with Matt Waterman regarding the Hoyts Wharf access road. Matt recommended filing preliminary application with NHESP (Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program) to have an informal discussion. The fee will be $300. D. Black asked the commissioners if we should spend the $300 for a meeting with NHESP? A. Eliot said they should meet with the NHESP. She stated she would like all the Parks Commission members be present for the discussion with NHESP. D. Black said he would like Matt Waterman to attend as well.

D. Black entertained a motioned to pay the $300 and have an informal discussion with NHESP and have Matt Waterman from Land Tech to join.

B. Mahoney moved the motion, A. Eliot second the motion.

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

A.Eliot said the CPC met last night. The track at FloRo bid for $1.4 million and ended up costing another $1 million. The town voted the CPC would pay for the bond. There was discussion weather to pay the principal of $1 million out of this year’s CPC funding. She said the interest rates are going up, the current interest rate is 4.5%. If we pay down $1 million of the principal it could possibly save the town some money. If we do that, none of the applications for this year will be funded. The CPC voted last night for the treasurer to go to a bond company. D. Black asked how many applications are in this year. A. Eliot said there are 9. She said the CPC is meeting again next Monday. If everything goes through the 9 applications might get postponed. D. Black asked it that goes through all the applications will be null and void. A. Eliot said she thinks they will suspend them for now. G. Chalmers asked if the applications that get suspended, will they be first in line for the following year? A. Eliot said yes.

**Budget Report** YTD we have spent approx. $32,210.09, or 58%, of our $55,759 budget leaving about $23,548.91 in our general expense account.

**Bills:** All invoices were reviewed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Groton Electric | $755.29 |
| Regional Restrooms | $148.50 |
| E.L. Harvey | $143.00 |
| Turf Unlimited | $5,940.41 |
| Moison Hardware | $8.59 |
| Total | $ 6,995.79 |

Upon a motion made by D. Black 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)***

**Commissioner updates** - No updates

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the November 15, 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 November 15, 2022 as presented

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

**PUBLIC HEARING 6:00PM –** Request from Mike Scarcia to remove trees on Carol Wheeler Memorial Park property.

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

**Others Present: Tammi Mickel - Parks Assistant, Michelle Collette - ADA Coordinator, Mike Sarcia**

D. Black called the public hearing to order at 6:00PM

D. Black read the following Public Hearing legal notice.

“The Town of Groton Park Commission will hold a public hearing on December 13, 2022 at 6PM at the Groton Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA. The purpose of the Hearing will be to discuss the removal of trees at Carol Wheeler Park. All interested parties are invited to attend”.

Mike Sarcia read a statement requesting a group of trees that consist of 4 trunks (3 maple trees and 1 oak tree) located at Carol Wheeler Memorial Park, owned by the Town of Groton, parcel # 101-13-0, be removed as the trees are in poor condition and pose a threat to the building and his property of parcel # 101-12-0. Mr. Sarcia had Marquis Tree Service come out to assess the trees in question on the Carol Wheeler Memorial Park property as well as additional trees on his property he will be removing.

Mike Scarcia shared a letter and pictures from Marquis Tree Service to the Parks Commissioners explaining their opinion after inspecting the trees on Mr. Scarcia’s property and the trees in question on Carol Wheeler Memorial Park. Jay Webster from Marquis Tree Service stated in the letter the following statement: “These trees have an elevated likelihood of failure, and they represent a risk to the house, and anyone using the outdoor living spaces. It is my opinion that that the trees should be removed for safety reasons.”

Michelle Collette stated the Commission on accessibility met with Mr. Scarcia a couple weeks ago regarding his concerns universal accessibility to Carol Wheeler Memorial Park. She shared an evaluation plan from 2015 on Carol Wheeler Memorial Park which stated the recommendation of accessible parking to be added which is not present at this time. They said the only other concern was Mr. Scarcia’s concern regarding the pavement is in rough condition and if the parking will remain it should be brought up to standards. A. Eliot asked if the pavement were to be removed and replaced with a porous base, will that be handicap accessible? Michelle Collette said it would be handicap accessible as long as it is level and meets the requirements. There was a brief discussion on grassing the area. D. Black asked Mike Sarcia, if we allowed the trees to come down who would pay for the removal? Mr. Sarcia said the quote he received was for $3,800 to take down the trees and that does not include the police detail. He said the 2 trees on his property are $1,800 and the group of 4 on the Carol Wheeler Memorial Park’s property is $2,000. Mr. Sarcia said he would pay for the 2 trees on his property and would be willing to pay for half the cost of the trees on the park property.

After a brief discussion, D. Black made a motion that permission be granted for Mr. Sarcia to take down a group of 4 trees that are located on Carol Wheeler Memorial Park. The motion further states that Mr. Sarcia will hire and pay the associated fees for tree removal to Marquis Tree Service, Inc. The Town of Groton Parks Commission will pay for a police detail during the removal process. The approval further states that it is agreed that the stumps from the group of 4 trees shall not be removed. Mr. Sarcia agreed with the terms stated.

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

Voted that permission be granted for Mr. Sarcia to take down a group of 4 trees that are located on Carol Wheeler Memorial Park. The motion further states that Mr. Sarcia will hire and pay the associated fees for tree removal to Marquis Tree Service, Inc. The Town of Groton Parks Commission will pay for a police detail during the removal process. The approval further states that it is agreed that the stumps from the group of 4 trees shall not be removed.

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

**Adjourn:** Commissioner D. Black calls to adjourn at: 6:36PM.

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

Voted to adjourn the December Parks Commission meeting.

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

**Next Meeting: January 10, 2023 @ 5:00pm**

**Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Tammi Mickel, Parks Assistant**

Date Approved: 1/17/2023