## 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, May 2, 2023**

**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; Bruce Bottamini; David Pitkin, GDYSB; Mairead Orpen, GDYSB; Mary Jennings**

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

Donald Black thanked Bruce Bottamini for all the work he has done at the baseball fields. Bruce thanked Don for his kind words and he said it is very rewarding the appreciation he receives from the baseball user groups.

**Defibrillators at Fields** – Mairead Orpen and David Pitkin expressed the importance of having AEDs at the fields. The commissioners said there will need to be some discussion on where to place them, weather protection and user group access. Mairead and David are looking for the Park Commission’s blessing before moving forward. The Parks Commission offered their blessing and advised to explore information and speak to the Fire Chief and the Town Manager.

**Ring Cameras** – Brenden Mahoney said the cameras will act as a deterrent. The cost is about $250 each. Brenden said we should do a sample first to see how it works.

A. Eliot motioned to look into all angles on ring cameras at fields and report back. G. Chalmers 2nd the motion. ***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, BM, DB, GC)***

**Cutler Basketball Courts** – Donald Black said he received a call that the lights at Cutler Basketball Court are on all night. He said right now they are on from dusk to dawn. He spoke with Kevin Kelly at GELD for options. He said there can be timers installed.

A. Eliot motioned to get an estimate for timers to be installed for Cutler field lights. B. Mahoney 2nd the motion. ***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: AE, BM, DB, GC)***

Donald Black said there is a new crack in the center of the courts. He is concerned about the safety of people playing. He spoke with Vermont Tennis but they cannot get here until September. Anna asked if the courts should be resurfaced. Brenden asked can we get someone to fix it for now. Donald said we can talk to Quintin who works for the Town of Groton to see if he could fix the crack for now.

**Hollingsworth & Vose field** – Donald said NE Turf went out to prep the layout, sod cut, power rake and finish grade. We also received a contract from H & V, Mark Haddad will sign and we will send back to H & V. Brenden asked if it is ready for softball to use. Donald said it is.

**Groton School & Prescott School**– Donald said he spoke with Elizabeth Phen. She asked if there are any community service projects. She is in charge of the community service at the Groton School. The kids would be supervised. He said we have 2 playgrounds that we could use help, Hanson Playground and Prescott Playground. Don said he ordered a pallet of sand for the sandbox at Hanson playground sandbox. They could rake the playground area to get it level before we put down wood chips. They will help with the sandbox and woodchips at Hanson playground on 5/23/23 from 3:45pm – 5:00pm. They will also help with Prescott playground on 5/25/23 from 3:45pm – 5:00pm to level out the ground so we can put woodchips down. Don said he contacted tree services for clean wood chips for Prescott Playground at no cost. He said the highway will spread them out and we will top with playground chips. Brenden Mahoney asked about pruning. Donald said the pruning is done by the highway department.

**Budget Report** YTD we have spent approx. $46,485.44 or 83%, of our $55,759 budget leaving about $9,273.56 in our general expense account.

**Bills:** All invoices were reviewed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Regional Restrooms | $1,128.00 |
| Moison Hardware | $3.89 |
| GELD | $401.72 |
| G. W. Shaw | $140.00 |
| Lawn Solutions | $6,663.58 |
| E. L. Harvey | $ 208.80 |
| New England Well & Pump | $539.98 |
| Boland | $129.81 |
| Dr. Mulch | $70.00 |

YTD we have spent approx. $18,372.00 of our $25,000 capital improvements budget leaving about $8,072.00 in our capital improvements expense account.

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

Voted to approve all invoices due.

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

**CPC Update & Report** – Donald shared a conceptual plan dated April 28, 2023 from Matt Waterman from Land Tech for Woitowicz field. This plan would require removing the tennis courts which is in rough condition, to put in 2 Lacrosse fields and additional 30-40 additional parking spaces. We would ask highway to assist in removing the tennis courts and the brush in the corner.

**Field Use Permits** –

1. 2 Cricket groups, Town field summer permit, Sunday’s June through August 31 from 8-11AM

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

Voted to allow the 2 cricket groups at Town field on dates requested.

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

1. David Manugian Soccer, Spring and Summer application – Cow Pond 2 on Sundays, 8-10PM and Cow Pond 5, 6-9PM on Wednesdays – he will work around soccer and Lacrosse.

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

Voted to allow David Manugian Soccer group at Cow Pond 2 and 5 on dates requested.

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

1. Groton Dunstable Youth Baseball, Cow Pond Field 1,2,3,4, June 16, 2023 – August 31, 2023, Monday – Friday 3:00PM – 8:30PM; Saturday 8:00AM -8:30PM

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

Voted to allow GDYB to hold games at Cow Pond field on dates requested.

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

1. Groton Dunstable Youth Basketball League, Lost Lake and Cutler field basketball courts, July 3, 2023 – July 28, 2023, Wed - Thurs 6:00PM – 8:00PM

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

Voted to allow GDYBL to hold games at Lost Lake and Cutler basketball courts from 6-8PM on dates requested.

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

1. Men’s Pickup Softball, Cow Pond softball field 3, June 18,2023 through August 31,2023, Sunday’s 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

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

Voted to allow Mens Pickup softball at Cow Pond from 9-11AM on dates requested.

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

1. COA Pickleball, Lost Lake basketball courts June 18,2023 through August 31,2023, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

Voted to allow COA pickleball at Lost Lake courts on dates requested.

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

1. Karen Riggert Pickleball, Lost Lake basketball courts June 18,2023 through August 31,2023, Wednesdays 5:00 -7:00PM, with the exception of the month of July, they will play 4-6PM.

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

Voted to allow Karen Riggert pickleball at Lost Lake courts on dates requested.

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

**Commissioner Updates –** Gail Chalmers mentioned the stone wall behind the library is in need of repair. She also mentioned there needs to be something done with Carol Wheeler Memorial Park parking area. Anna Eliot said we need to come up with a plan. Don said Olin Lathrop needs to do more filing to remove the bittersweet. Highway would need to either fix the pot hole, repave the lot or remove the parking area and replace with grass.

Don Black said on May 20th there will be flag placement at the Old Burial Ground and the Groton Cemetery to place flags at Veterans grave sites. The Memorial Day parade will start at Legion Hall @ 9:00 am. The fireworks will be on Monday, July 10th.

Gail Chalmers said the friends of the Groton elders is having a free shredding event on June 17th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm behind the Town Hall.

Don said this will be his last meeting as he is not running for another term. He would like Brenden and himself be co-chairs from this meeting until election day. The Commissioners thanked Don for all his hard work with the Parks Commission and he will be missed.

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

Voted to approve Brenden Mahoney and Donald Black as Co-Chairs until election day.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the April 4, 2023 meeting as presented.

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

Voted to approve the minutes from April 4, 2023 as presented.

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

**Adjourn:** Commissioner D. Black calls to adjourn at: 6:50 PM.

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

Voted to adjourn the April Parks Commission meeting.

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

**Next Meeting: June 6, 2023 @ 5:00pm**

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

Date Approved: June 6, 2023