## Meeting Minutes

## Park Commissioners

Brenden Mahoney, Chair

Anna Eliot, Vice Chair

Gail Chalmers

Mary Jennings

Jeffrey Ohringer

## TOWN OF GROTON

Park Commission

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

Tel: 978-732-1893

parks@grotonma.gov

**Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

**Time: 3:30 PM**

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

**Commissioners Present: Brenden Mahoney, Anna Eliot, Gail Chalmers, Mary Jennings,**

**Jeffrey Ohringer**

**Others Present: Tammi Mickel - Parks Assistant; Matt Waterman – Land Tech; Paul Alphen – Attorney representing Heritage Landing; Fran Stanley - Groton Housing Authority; Chris Clinton – President of GDYLAX; Jon Strauss; Brian Callahan – Groton Highway Dept.; Brian Edmonds – Groton resident; Jim Barisano; Carl Canner**

**3:30 PM**  Brenden Mahoney calls meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

**Election of Officers –** Brenden Mahoney was voted as Chair of the Parks Commission 5-0

Anna Eliot was voted as Vice Chair of the Parks Commission 5-0

Anna Eliot was voted as CPC representative for the Parks Commission 4-1

**Heritage Landing Concept Plan** – A. Eliot stated last week Heritage Landing applied for an application with the ZBA for a 40B construction of approximately 40 housing units on Cow Pond Brook a 15.5-acre parcel (Parcel 248-42). Attorney Paul Alphen was present on behalf of the developer to discuss the project. He said NHESP will require restrictions on undeveloped land to protect the blanding’s turtle’s habitat areas. He said the property does not meet the nitrogen loading requirements per the DEP. In order to comply with DEP, they would need 30 acres which would require an additional 14.5-acres to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of the ground water resources in the area of the public and private wells. He said they are looking for support to use the Town’s land across the street from the proposed development. The land would not be used for any construction, it would just be under restrictions for nitrogen loading and blanding’s turtles. They have reached out to other abutting properties and those properties have denied the proposal. Matt Waterman said the preliminary filing for the Parks Commission to the NHESP on the proposed access road was flagged due to the time of year. They would like a study done on the plant species and animal habitat in the area. Jon Strauss said he had concerns on opening the area up to national heritage. He was concerned of area’s out of the scope being addressed. A. Eliot recommended having Oxbow Associates come out to do the study.

Upon a motion made by J. Ohringer, seconded by A. Eliot

Voted to have Oxbow Associates conduct the study of the plant species and animal habitat on specific areas of town owned property between Cow Pond and Hoyts Wharf for the NHESP.

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

**Prescott Playground** – Jim Barisano said he is a tenant at Prescott School. He shared pictures of the condition spoke of . The playground has sat there for the Prescott playground. He said the playground was built in 1995 and the school was closed in 1996. The playground has sat all those years and the forest has grown into the playground. He said Carl, himself and others has cleaned up the area in the past but it is still a mess. There is an abundance of poison ivy. He is asking the Parks Commission for support to get the playground up and running.

B. Mahoney asked M. Jennings if she is still on the board of the Friends of Prescott. M. Jenning stated she was. A. Eliot asked her to recuse herself from The Friends of Prescott school due to the conflict-of-interest law. M. Jennings said the Prescott Playground is not included in the lease agreement and she did not feel it violated the conflict-of-interest law. M. Jenning was advised to speak to the Town Clerk’s office and contact the ethics commission before she can participate in any discussion on Prescott playground.

Carl Canner said there has never been question on if the town owned this property. There was some discussion on weather or not the parks had any control over the playground. B. Mahoney said we cannot vote on anything until we have better clarification on who controls the playground. A. Eliot said the Prescott playground is owned by the town but the Parks do not have jurisdiction over it.

Carl Canner said the town has done work on the playground and the previous chair of the Parks Commission has said the Parks is going to do work on the playground. He said the Parks should take the responsibility and finish it. A. Eliot said Don Black has always done a lot for the town. G. Chalmers said the Parks voted on this about a year and a half ago and it was voted not to take jurisdiction over Prescott playground. The Select Board voted the Parks oversight of the playground but not control.

**Cutler Field CPC Project** – Chris Clinton, president of GD girls’ lacrosse, said he is asking the commission to withdraw the CPC application or 2 softball diamonds at Cutler field, that was approved at town meeting. Chris Clinton and Jon Strauss said there was no communication to them regarding the CPC application. Where GD girls’ lacrosse uses Cutler field, they felt they should have been informed before the application was submitted. There was a conceptual plan showed to them the day of town meeting for Woitowicz field, to take out the tennis courts to put 2 lacrosse fields and additional parking lot but they are concerned they will have a lack fields until Woitowicz were to take place. Chris Clinton said he supports softball but would like communication with the Parks Commission and the user groups to come up with a plan where all user groups can benefit. B. Mahoney said there will be a meeting with the Town Manager, the head of softball, Chris Clinton, Matt Ricard, highway and himself to discuss the options to come up with a solution where all user groups can benefit before moving forward with any vote on the CPC application. A. Eliot said she would like Brenden have the opportunity to his job first.

Upon a motion made by M. Jennings seconded by J. Ohringer it was:

Voted to withdraw the CPC application for the 2 softball diamonds at Cutler field.

***The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Yes: MJ, JO, GC; No: AE, BM)***

**Field Use Permits** –

1. GD Varsity Volleyball Team- Woitowicz Field, July 15, 2023 7AM – 4PM
2. GD Youth Lacrosse – Cow Pond Lacrosse / Football Field, July 16, 2023 – August 31, 2023

Mondays 6PM – 7:30PM

**Budget Report** YTD we have spent approx. $49,769.12 or 89%, of our $55,759 budget leaving about $5,989.88 in our general expense account.

**Bills:** All invoices were reviewed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Regional Restrooms | $1,782.00 |
| Moison Hardware | $225.92 |
| GELD | $827.74 |
| G. W. Shaw | $140.00 |
| Lawn Solutions | $488.00 |
| E. L. Harvey | $ 360.00 |
| Lawn Solutions – Capital Budget | $3,142.08 |

The New England Well & Pump invoice for $539.98 which was paid out of the general expense budget will be moved to the Capital Budget.

YTD we have spent approx. $20,610.06 of our $25,000 capital improvements budget leaving about $4,389.94 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, GC, MJ, JO)***

The Commissioners signed the Hollingsworth & Vose Fertilization contract for 3 applications of fertilization at $488.00 each; Totaling $1,464.00

**CPC Update & Report –** No updates

**Commissioner Updates –** No updates

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -** The minutes from the May 2, 2023 & May 16, 2023 meetings as presented.

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

Voted to approve the minutes from May 2, 2023 & May 16, 2023 as presented.

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

**Adjourn:** Commissioner B. Mahoney calls to adjourn at: 6:20 PM.

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

Voted to adjourn the June 6, 2023 Parks Commission meeting.

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

**Next Meeting: July 11, 2023 @ 5:00pm**

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

Date Approved: July 11, 2023