## 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

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**Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

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

**Commissioners Present: Anna Eliot, Gail Chalmers, Jeffrey Ohringer, Mary Jennings**

**Others Present: Paul Alphen, Attorney**

**Commissioners Absent: Brenden Mahoney**

**5:04 PM**  Anna Eliot calls meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

**Heritage Landing Concept Plan:** Paul Alphen, who represents Heritage Landing was present to discuss their request to use town property for nitrogen loading for their project. Heritage Landing has put in an application in accordance with Chapter 40B for 30 units at market value and 10 units at AMI 80% affordable. He said the last time we met; he explained the DEP requires them to have a total of 30 acres for nitrogen loading. They are in need of 14.5 acres. They are asking use 14.5 of town owned land for nitrogen which would require a restriction on the property. He said this would not interfere with the Parks plan for that area. Heritage Landing is willing to take down the hill area, use the fill and create a parking area. There are 3 areas they have proposed which are mainly wetland areas. He said they are going to the ZBA and would like the Parks Commission to vote in favor of Heritage Landing using the town owned land projected to the Select Board. A. Eliot said we are not ready to make any vote until we complete the Oxbow study and MEPA tells us what we can do.

**Botanical Services Proposal:** A. Eliot said we need a vote on the Oxbow botanical services proposal in the amount of $7,100 to determine the identity of the “Data sensitive plant species” at Cow Pond field property. We need to fulfil this for NHESP in order to move forward with Cow Pond concept plan. The funds would come out of the CPC funds.

Upon a motion made by M. Jennings seconded by G. Chalmers it was:

Voted to approve the Oxbow botanical services proposal in the amount of $7,100.

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

**63 Gratuity Rd.** A. Eliot said there is a development at 63 Gratuity Rd. Hazel Grove Park, who drive horses on the track abuts the 63 Gratuity Rd. property. A. Eliot would like to draft a letter to be read into the record at the planning board meeting requesting a condition for safety concerns, that the developer construct a 4-foot chain link fence along the entire property line from Jenkins Road to the farthest north west property line. Another condition sought is that the condominium association be responsible to ensure the fence remains to prevent an unintended access to the track and to maintain it in perpetuity. There are ways to construct a fence that allows wild life to traverse the property.

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

Voted to send a letter to be rad into the record at the planning board meeting, the developer of 63 Gratuity Rd. construct a 4-foot fence along the property and maintain it in perpetuity.

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

**Cow Pond Pump House:** J. Ohringer said the condition of the Cow Pond field pump house is in rough shape. The ground supports, floor and siding are rotting and the wood is splintering. He said it is a safety issue as someone could fall through the floor. A. Eliot asked J. Ohringer if he is asking for a whole new pump house or just fix it up? She said we could tie it into the parking and egress plan we are working on. We can put an application into the CPC. J. Ohringer said it really needs to be replaced but where a CPC application will take time, we should consider a temporary fix. A. Eliot asked J. Ohringer if he would be willing to get quotes to temporarily fix up the pump house (repair floor, supports and replace the siding). J. Ohringer said he can get quotes.

**Signage at Cow Pond Field:** Where we are working on a plan at Cow Pond for additional parking, egress and fields, if we were to put up a sign now, it would be taken down in the future. J. Ohringer withdrew his request for signage at Cow Pond considering the possibility the sign would need to come down for future plans.

**Backpack blower & Trimmer for Cow Pond Baseball fields:** The GD youth baseball has requested a backpack blower to blow out the dugout and remove grass clipping from the fields and a line trimmer to trim the fences and inside the batting cages. A. Eliot postpones the discussion and requested the user group attend a Parks Commission meeting to discuss their request.

**Carol Wheeler Memorial Park:** G. Chalmers said the parks looks awful. The DPW will not mow is because there are so many layers. She said what I would like to do is level the whole thing out, take out the curbing’s and remove the parking lot. People could park on the side of the park. The park needs help. A. Eliot said Olin Lathrop did an invasive species study at Carol Wheeler Memorial Park, and contemplated applying for a grant to remove the invasive species. G. Chalmers said what she would like to do temporarily is have hire Block and Blade to go in and clean it out. A. Eliot asked if G. Chalmers have spoken with Olin because he had a plan to remove the invasive species. G. Chalmers said she spoke with him but things were put on hold. She said she will reach out to Olin Lathrop to see how to move forward on removing the invasive species then we can discuss removing the parking lot and curbing so the park can be mowed and replacing the parking lot with grass. A. Eliot said we need to have a plan on what we are spending with the capital budget money when B. Mahoney is here.

**Fields Use Permits:**

1. Turning Circles – Yoga – Town Field August 20 & August 27 from 5PM to 7PM.

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

 Voted to allow Turning Circles at Town field on dates requested.

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

1. GDYSC – Soccer Camp – Cow Pond fields, August 7-11 & August 21-25, Monday through Friday from 9AM-3PM

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

 Voted to allow GSYSC at Cow Pond fields on the dates requested.

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

1. UML Mavericks Cricket Group – Town Field, July 9 – August 31, Saturdays from 8AM-12PM

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

 Voted to allow UML Mavericks Cricket group at Town field on the dates requested

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

**CPC Update:** No updates

**Budget Report** YTD in FY24, we have spent approx. $1,665.00 or 3%, of our $55,759 budget leaving about $54,094.00 in our general expense account.

**Bills:** All invoices were reviewed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Regional Restrooms | $1,431.00 |
| E.L. Harvey | $234.00 |
|  |  |

YTD we have spent approx. $0.00 of our $25,000 capital improvements budget.

Upon a motion made by J. Ohringer seconded by G. Chalmers it was:

Voted to approve all invoices due.

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

**Commissioner Updates:** The Commissioners would like to discuss in a future meeting a Capital Budget plan.

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the June 6, 2023 & June 27, 2023 meetings as presented.

Upon a motion made by M. Jennings, seconded by G. Chalmers, it was;

 Voted to approve the minutes from June 6, 2023 & June 27, 2023 as presented.

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

**Adjourn:** Commissioner A. Eliot calls to adjourn at 6:47 PM.

 Upon a motion made by J. Ohringer seconded by G. Chalmers, it was;

 Voted to adjourn the July 11, 2023 Parks Commission meeting.

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

**Next Meeting: August 1, 2023 @ 2:00pm**

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

Date Approved: