



TOWN OF GROTON
Park Commission
Town Hall
1st Floor Meeting Room

PARK COMMISSION
Brenden Mahoney, Chair
Anna Eliot, Vice Chair
Mary Jennings, Member
Jeffrey Ohringer, Member
Gail Chalmers, Member

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room
Members Present: Brenden Mahoney, Anna Eliot, Mary Jennings, Jeffrey Ohringer, Gail Chalmers
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Katie Berry, Tammi Mickel, Brian Edmonds, Judy Anderson

Brenden Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment- Brian Edmonds addressed the Park commissioners to indicate that he is satisfied with the response to the open meeting law complaint he had filed, with the addition information he was able to see that there were no issues and will let the attorney general know of the result. He thanked the commissioners for their time and suggested that the Park Commission could benefit from including neighbors in upcoming park projects. He also requested that the Park Commission move their meeting time to 7pm. Brenden Mahoney thanked Mr. Edmonds for this feedback, Jeffrey Ohringer suggested that the public also keep track of upcoming agendas and minutes of the Park Commission.

Commissioner field review assignments- Brenden Mahoney spoke to the commissioners to develop a plan for delegating oversight of park parcels. The commissioners went through the listing of park properties and assigned the following commissioner to each parcel. Mary Jennings sought to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each commissioner to ensure best practices. Brenden Mahoney, as chair, will be the point of contact for the commissioners, user groups, the Department of Public Works, fertilization, and irrigation contractors. Each commissioner will be responsible, as a liaison, for taking a weekly look at their parcel, making sure that the property is clean, taking note of any damages and providing the information to the chair. The Park Commissioners will also acquire (3) quotes for any repairs/replacements at their parcel and provide them to the Park Administrator, Katie Berry, one week in advance of any upcoming meeting for the commission to review and approve. Anna Eliot suggested that the Boy Scouts in town may be willing to assist with lowering of the flags on parcels.

Town Fields (4)

Town Fields- 99 Main St (MARY JENNINGS)
Woitowicz- 120 Forge Village Rd (ANNA ELIOT)
Cow Pond Brook- 99 Cow Pond Brook Rd (JEFFREY OHRINGER)
Cutler Field-155 Townsend Rd (GAIL CHALMERS)

Town Commons (9)

Badger- Mill/Pleasant/Farmers Row (JEFFREY OHRINGER)
Firemen's- Next to Filhos (JEFFREY OHRINGER)
Legion- William Boynton Memorial (JEFFREY OHRINGER)
New Town- across from Sawyer (MARY JENNINGS)
Minuteman- across from the library (MARY JENNINGS)
Orchard- Blossom/Branch (MARY JENNINGS)
Prescott- Byron Wilson Square- Old Ayer/Main (ANNA ELIOT)
Veterans Memorial/Sawyer- Hollis/Martins Pond/Sawyers Way (ANNA ELIOT)
Armstrong Memorial- Farmers Row/ Groton School PAC (GAIL CHALMERS)

Parks (4)

Hazel Grove Park- 166 Jenkins Rd (ANNA ELIOT)

Carol Wheeler Memorial Park- 3 Townsend Rd (GAIL CHALMERS)

Lost Lake Pickleball Court- George and Agnes Rider Park (GAIL CHALMERS)

Lawrence Memorial Playground- Behind library (ANNA ELIOT)

CPA Project Updates, 2022-02 Feasibility Study for Cow Pond Fields, Waitowicz Field; Cutler Field- The commissioners were provided with copies of the current open CPA projects that are relevant to park parcels. Anna Eliot addressed the commission to share current updates on the feasibility study for Cow Pond field area. She stated that Mark Haddad is working on a town meeting warrant article to sell property for the nitrogen loading in this area. The DPW is currently working on making adjustments at Waitowicz field to create parking, this is safety work being done through the DPW. The botanical study for the feasibility study CPA project has been paused for now. Tammi Mickel, Assistant Assessor, provided the deed information on parcel 248-39, that shows the parcel is held under the jurisdiction and control of the Conservation Commission. Anna Eliot stated that the Conservation Commission plans to work with Town Counsel to get parcel 248-39 out of Chapter 97, Ms. Eliot is hopeful that selling the gravel from that parcel will purchase and create a parking lot for Cow Pond Fields. Brenden Mahoney is hoping to determine the exact order of operations, and who to speak to, in regards to the use of parcel 248-39. Brenden Mahoney stated that he is researching the egress areas of Cow Pond Fields to benefit the entrance and parking in this area and is hopeful that the DPW may be able to assist with an interim solution to the traffic and parking issues in this area. Mr. Mahoney motioned to research this interim work at Cow Pond Field with the DPW, assessing the ability of the DPW to do this work and determine any cost to the Park Commission, to create a safer entrance and parking area while the Heritage Landing project is in progress, Jeffrey Ohringer seconded, and the motion carried.

FY24 Park Commission Budget Review- The current operating and capital planning budgets were shared with the commissioners. Brenden Mahoney discussed current expenditures. Mary Jennings has requested that the Park Commission present a budget showing the expenses for the month and year by line, in order to see the actual expenses, and increases in the field maintenance costs, so that the Park Commission may have the most accurate picture of the financial needs of the Park Commission and its parcels. Jeffrey Ohringer agreed that we need to prepare for cost inflation/increases. Brenden Mahoney will be meeting with Mark Haddad, Town Manager, in the coming months, to review the FY25 budget and present the needs of the Park Commission. The commissioners would like to review whether user groups should be paying for field use, which will be placed on the October meeting agenda.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Sign permits/ invoices- The commissioners reviewed and signed monthly invoices and (1) field use permit.

Minutes- Anna Eliot motioned to approve the August 1, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted, Gail Chalmers seconded, and the motion carried.

Schedule Next Meeting and Commissioner Updates- Tuesday October 3rd 2023 at 5:00pm

Brenden Mahoney moved to adjourn at 6:17pm, Jeffrey Ohringer seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes by Katie Berry.

APPROVED: 10/03/2023
