



**TOWN OF GROTON**  
Park Commission  
Town Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room

**PARK COMMISSION**  
Brenden Mahoney, Chair  
Anna Eliot, Vice Chair  
Mary Jennings, Member  
Jeffrey Ohringer, Member  
1 Vacancy

Date: Tuesday February, 6, 2024  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
Members Present: Brenden Mahoney, Anna Eliot, Mary Jennings  
Members Not Present: Jeffrey Ohringer  
Others Present: Katie Berry, Rob Foley, Leslie Lathrop

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**Brenden Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.**

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**General Condition of Park Properties- Commissioner updates and estimates.**

**Town Fields/ New Town Common/ Minuteman Common/Orchard Common (MARY JENNINGS)** Mary Jennings had no general condition updates on these parcels. Brenden Mahoney shared an update on Town Field area, that with the Town Managers directive, he has sought a landscape architect firm to potentially create a full scale design that would include the CPA project 2024-04 Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond, with the proposed CPA project 2025-06 Outdoor Fitness Court, and potentially include a splash pad for the Town Field Area, . Rob Foley, of the youth baseball league, asked which firm Mr. Mahoney had contacted, which was Weston & Sampson, as they have done an expansive project for the Groton School.

**Woitowicz Field/ Prescott Common/ Veterans Memorial Common/Hazel Grove Park/Lawrence Memorial Playground (ANNA ELIOT)** Anna Eliot had no updates on these parcels, just shared that the grass fields at Woitowicz should be ready by Spring. Groton resident, Leslie Lathrop, asked about the ongoing work that is being done to update the Woitowicz Field area, where an additional field is being created, as well as additional parking, and removal of the tennis courts.

**Badger Common/ Firemen's Common/ Legion Common/Cow Pond Fields (JEFFREY OHRINGER)-** Brenden Mahoney shared that the Cow Pond Field new shed, which has been donated by the youth soccer league, is coming along great.

**Cutler Field/ Armstrong Memorial Common/ Lost Lake Pickleball Court-** No updates.

**Other Discussion-** Resident Leslie Lathrop addressed the commission to discuss what recreational opportunities are being provided to the Four Corners neighborhood area. Anna Eliot shared that the neighborhood residents should come to the Park Commission meetings to share what changes they would like to see, and in order to create future project proposals either with Community Preservation or Park Commission capital funds. There was discussion about the possibility of a playground area.

Katie Berry also shared a request from a resident who lives near the Lost Lake basketball court, she is requesting a change from the double rimmed hoops to single. Brenden Mahoney stated that he would get pricing on collapsable hoops like those used on the Town Field basketball court.

**CPA Project Updates (ANNA ELIOT)-** Anna Eliot shared the feedback letter provided by the Community Preservation Committee after their Public Hearing held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The feedback suggested to request a letter of support from the Affordable Housing Trust, to update #19 of the CPA Project Application Form Feasibility-showing projects in other towns that were successful and to expand on the Management Plan with more of an overview of the procedures involved and an oversight plan. Anna Eliot moved to have Parks Admin, Katie Berry, request a letter of support from the Affordable Housing Trust, Mary Jennings seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Letter of Support request for 2025-06 Outdoor Fitness Court (BRENDEN MAHONEY)**

Brenden Mahoney discussed the 2025-06 Outdoor Fitness Court proposal, which would create a fitness court area besides the Town Field basketball court area. The commission had previously met with the Town Manager, Mark Haddad, to discuss the project, and supported placement of the court near Town Field. Mary Jennings moved to create a letter of support for the 2025-06 Outdoor Fitness Court project on behalf of the Park Commission with support for creating the project in conjunction with the already approved 2024-04 Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond project, Anna Eliot seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Park Commission Budget Review (BRENDEN MAHONEY)** The commission reviewed budgetary information and current expense, capital, and gift fund balances. Katie Berry, Parks Admin, presented the draft spreadsheets that were compiled for the Town Manager's meeting with primary user groups in order to potentially create a field usage fee structure, as the Park Commission expense budget will be removed if the proposed Override of Proposition 2 ½ does not pass. The commission discussed the immense impact of losing the expense budget amount of \$55,579.00, as this funding is used to maintain the town's fields and parcels. Rob Foley, of the youth baseball league, addressed the commission to share his concern over the proposed fee structure that the Town Manager had provided, stating that the user groups are already paying for a great deal of field maintenance items, and volunteering substantial time to the fields care. Mr. Foley shared that he would like to present a 20-minute video on the baseball league to the commission, which was discussed as an agenda item for the April 2024 Park Commission meeting. Mary Jennings asked questions as to why the Park Commission's expense budget has not increased in recent years, and shared her concern for the lack of funding, as well as the proposed complete cut of the expense budget. Brenden Mahoney and Mr. Foley discussed the proposed fee structure that was presented at the Town Manager's user group meeting.

**Park Commission Vacancy updates (BRENDEN MAHONEY)-** Brenden Mahoney discussed the process of filling the current vacancy on the Park Commission. Katie Berry presented one the committee interest form that has been received so far, the Park Commission has advertised the vacancy, will collect any other interest forms until February 28<sup>th</sup>, and interview candidates on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

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**OLD / NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sign permits/ invoices-** The commissioners reviewed and signed the monthly Groton Electric Light invoice.

**Minutes-** Anna Eliot moved to approve the January 10, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted, Brenden Mahoney seconded, and the motion carried, with Mary Jennings abstaining.

**Schedule Next Meeting and Commissioner Updates-** Tuesday March 5, 2024 at 5:00pm

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**Brenden Mahoney moved to adjourn at 6:22pm, Anna Eliot seconded, and the motion carried.**

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Minutes by Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

**APPROVED: 3/5/2024**

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