



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
Brian Edmonds, Member

Date: Tuesday May 7, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room
Members Present: Brenden Mahoney, Anna Eliot, Mary Jennings, Jeffrey Ohringer, Brian Edmonds
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Paul Funch, Rob Foley, Karen Brackett

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

General Condition of Park Properties- Commissioner updates and estimates:

Town Fields/ New Town Common/ Minuteman Common/Orchard Common-After a brief discussion on the disrepair of the shed at Town Field, Mary Jennings moved to accept the estimate from A1 Odd Jobs to make the necessary repairs of the Town Field Shed, Brian Edmonds seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Paul Funch of the Trails Committee made an offering of his volunteer's assistance with this undertaking, and will coordinate volunteer efforts with Quintin Shea of A1 Odd Jobs and Brenden Mahoney. The commission discussed the issue of residents using the trash carts at Park properties for household trash, overfilling barrels.

Woitowicz Field/ Prescott Common/ Veterans Memorial Common/Hazel Grove Park/Lawrence Memorial Playground- Karen Brackett was present to request authorization to replace shrubberies at Gold Star and Sawyer Common, as well as potentially Legion Common, she has provided wonderful volunteer efforts maintaining commons, for which the commission thanked her and approved her work.

Badger Common/ Firemen's Common/ Legion Common/Cow Pond- Jeff Ohringer spoke on behalf of Cow Pond, stating that directional signage needs to be moved, which the commissioners will attempt to move themselves. Jeff Ohringer was provided with a phone number for the vendor who created the Cow Pond Baseball Fields signage, West Main Woodworking. There was also a discussion about allowing food trucks to visit parks properties, Rob Foley provided feedback on his experiences with food trucks at parks properties, Brian Edmonds suggested creating a Food Truck Application to be used by vendors. The commission discussed transferring the old shed at Cow Pond to Woitowicz, with an approximate expense of \$700 to transfer it. Jeff Ohringer will provide a quotation for this work at a future meeting.

Cutler Field/ Armstrong Memorial Common/ Lost Lake Pickleball Court/Carol Wheeler- Brian Edmonds shared that Groton School volunteers did a great job cleaning up Cutler, and that a request came in for users to play pickleball at Cutler courts, which was approved as long as users are mindful to clean up after themselves. Brenden Mahoney suggested that the user fill out

a Field Use Permit Application, and discussed liability concerns. The commission discussed the addition of the portable restroom at Lost Lake Courts.

Other Discussion:

CPA Project Updates- Anna Eliot provided an update on CPA projects, with the \$30,000 application 2025-02 Cow Pond Play Fields still pending approval at Special Town Meeting. Ms. Eliot also shared that she met with the Conservation Commission on April 23rd, to discuss parcel 248-39, as working with this area with involve coordination between the Conservation Commission as well as Affordable Housing Trust. Anna Eliot is hoping to complete another CPA application for FY26 in order to cover additional expenses for the redesign of Cow Pond Fields. The commission discussed the Special Town Meeting to ensure members would be available for discussion with the community. Rob Foley asked clarifying questions about working with the Conservation Commission to go through the Article 97 process for parcel 248-39. Anna Eliot and Brian Edmonds discussed having vendor Jamie Buchannon create a checklist of Article 97 steps. The commission discussed procurement procedures for these types of services, which Brenden Mahoney will discuss with Mark Haddad, Town Manager. Brian Edmonds suggested establishing a land swap before initiating the design.

Park Commission Budget Updates- Mary Jennings addressed the room to discuss the inclusion of user groups in developing an operational budget for the Park Commission, with the intention of showing cost by field, and establish a timeline for budgeting. The commission agreed upon the creation of a working group, to be comprised of Mary Jennings and Brian Edmonds. The commission discussed emailing and organizing a user group meeting for June, looking at future year expenses and upcoming needs. Brenden Mahoney shared that the RFP is being worked for the 2024-04 Town Field, Baseball field repairs CPA application.

Old/New Business:

Sign permits/ invoices- Commissioners reviewed and signed field use permit applications and invoices.

Minutes- Brenden Mahoney moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2024 as submitted, Anna Eliot seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting- Tuesday June 4th, 2024 at 5:00pm

Brenden Mahoney moved to adjourn at 6:07pm, Anna Eliot seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes by Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 6/4/2024
