



**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  
Brian Edmonds, Member

Date: Thursday August 1st, 2024  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
Members Present: Brenden Mahoney, Anna Eliot, Mary Jennings, Jeffrey Ohringer, Brian Edmonds  
Members Not Present:  
Others Present: Katie Berry, Sachin Patel, Michelle Collette, Bruce Easom

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

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**Discussion on Dog Waste Signage at Park Properties with Michelle Collette, Member of the Board of Health-** Michelle Collette described recent issues with dog waste on Town properties, and presented signage purchased by the Board of Health. With support from Mark Haddad, Town Manager, signage was offered to be placed at (6) Park Commission properties: Legion Hall, Cutler Field, Lawrence Memorial Playground, Carol Wheeler Park, Cow Pond Fields, and Woitowicz Field. Commissioners discussed the issue occurring at different Town parcels, with Anna Eliot suggested a fine policy be put in place by the Select Board or Town Clerk's Office. Anna Eliot moved to approved installation of dog waste signage at the 6 sites, Brenden Mahoney seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion on Parking at Carol Wheel Park with Sachin Patel- Prospective new owner of 9 West Main Street (Former Clover Farms Store)-** Sachin Patel discussed his plan to open a liquor store at 9 West Main St, and requested that his patrons be able to park at Carol Wheeler Park. Brenden Mahoney asked Mr. Patel if he would take care of any trash left behind by his customers, taking care and pride of the area, so it may be enjoyed by all, to which Mr. Patel said he would. Mr. Mahoney asked if, when improvements are made, like paving, he might make a monetary donation, to which Mr. Patel said he would be open to discussion. The Commissioners unanimously thanked Mr. Patel for coming and having the discussion, and wished him well on his new business, as it is a public lot.

**Discussion on West Groton Rail Trail with Bruce Easom-** Bruce Easom shared that he and others have been working on creation a committee, or sub-Committee, in order to continue work on the West Groton Rail Trail. Mr. Easom described potentially starting at the rail road bridge at the Ayer Groton boundary toward 225 near Rivercourt, through West Groton. Bruce Easom stated that he is meeting with various boards and committees to get their thoughts, and will be going before the Select Board soon. The Park Commission, and guests, viewed the GIS mapping of the proposed area and discussed benefits for residents and businesses. The Commissioners had no criticisms of the plan, and offered support.

**Discussion on Removal of Trash Barrels, Installation of Carry in/Carry out Signage at Park Fields-** Brenden Mahoney discussed the issues the Park Commission is facing with the barrels placed at Parks parcels, using Town Field as an example, where the barrels are being filled with household trash, suggesting it may be beneficial to transition to a carry in/carry out policy. Commissioners discussed the potential issues with removing the barrels, and the concern that residents may or may not clean up after themselves should the barrels be removed. Brenden Mahoney suggested making a condition of field usage be that coaches/groups clean up after themselves. Mary Jennings suggested usage of positive signage. The Commissioners also discussed collaborating with the school district to keep kids involved. Brian Edmonds moved to place recycling barrels at Town Field basketball court, Cutler Field basketball court, and Cow Pond baseball fields for \$30/month, Mary Jennings seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Park Commission Properties- Assigned Commissioner updates and estimates-** Brian Edmonds shared that no additional vandalism has occurred at Cutler Field. Brenden Mahoney shared that A1 Odd Jobs has made great progress renovating the Town Field Shed.

**Discussion on Policies and Procedures Manual and For-Profit Group Usage and Fees-** Brian Edmonds shared that he has contacted the Town Manager to discuss other board and committee policy manuals, also looking at fees that other local towns impose for field usage, and conflict of interest policies, and will update the Commission at the next meeting.

**2024-04 Town Field Major League Baseball Diamond & 2024-05 Construct 2 Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field Project Procurement Updates Discussion-** Brenden Mahoney shared that no additional bids were submitted for the Cutler Field project RFP, and that written estimates will be provided by Don Black at the next meeting. Mark Haddad has assisted with the Cutler Field and Town Field project procurement process, and met with the Community Preservation Committee to discuss amending the Town Field project, to be placed on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

**2022-02 Feasibility Study & 2025-02 Cow Pond Play Fields Updates and Discussion-** Katie Berry shared that there have been over 20 responses and 3 bidders for the Cow Pond Play Fields RFP. There will be a working group created to review responses, at the next Park Commission meeting. Brian Edmonds moved to authorize the chair to appoint 2 members as a working group to do a preliminary review of responses for the Cow Pond project, and report back to the Commission, Mary Jennings seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Park Commission Budget Updates-** Katie Berry shared final FY24 expense breakdowns and current invoices for signature.

**Budget Working Group Updates (MARY JENNINGS)-** Mary Jennings discussed the Capital Planning objectives for FY25, looking at the priorities that each Commissioner has provided. Mary Jennings and Brian Edmonds suggested each Commissioner provide a monetary amount assigned to the priority lists.

#### **Old/New Business:**

**Sign permits/ invoices-** Park Commissioners signed FY24 Expense and FY24 Capital invoices to be processed.

**Approve March 11, 2024 & July 2, 2024 Minutes** – Anna Eliot moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 11, 2024, as submitted, Brian Edmonds seconded, and the motion carried

unanimously. Brian Edmonds moved to accept the meeting minutes of July 2nd, 2024, as submitted, Anna Eliot seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 5:00pm

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**Brian Edmonds moved to adjourn at 6:54pm, Brenden Mahoney seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

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Minutes by Katie Berry, Interdepartmental Administrative Assistant.

**APPROVED: 9/3/24**

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