

**TOWN OF GROTON
PARK COMMISSION**

Date: January 27, 2025

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

Members Present: Brian Edmonds, Anna Eliot, Rob Foley, Mary Jennings, Jeff Ohringer (via ZOOM)

Others Present: Jon Strauss, Sten Peeter, Joshua Pollock, Judy Anderson, David Pitkin

Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.

Chair Brian Edmonds called the meeting Because Jeff Ohringer is participating via ZOOM, all votes in this meeting will be taken as roll call votes.

Public Comment Period

Joshua Pollock, president of Groton Dunstable Youth Baseball League expressed concerns about the field prep and maintenance of the Cow Pond Fields, and drainage issues. He said that the DPW didn't trim the fields.

John Strauss presented several issues including Questioning the newspaper story reopening the Parks Commission issues as part of the Charter Review Committee, and the need for 2 porta potties on the rail trail.

Groton Youth Soccer Field Use Requests

Stem Peters from Groton Dunstable Youth Soccer explained the request for that user group's field permit for all Cow Pond soccer fields seven days per week, 8:00 am through 8:00 pm. For both the Spring and Fall Season. It appears that other groups who want to use the field during these times, contact GDYS directly and then complete alternative field permits. Questions of liability were discussed.

It was moved by Edmonds, seconded by Foley that the current request be approved.

The roll call vote was unanimous.

Community Preservation Committee Representative

The Commission deliberated on the Town Manager's recommendation at the last meeting that the Park Commission's CPC Representative Anna Eliot be removed from this office. Member concerns were:

Edmonds: Eliot's stated intention to not bring a proposed motion (not yet voted) forward to the CPA, but to express her own preferences instead. Also, failure to bring forward a motion about the rescission of the Cutler Field CPA application forward to the CPC when that vote was taken in 2024. Concerned too about Eliot's refusal to vote on Jennings motion either Yes, No or Abstain until pressed by the Chair. Didn't have faith that as a CPC rep she would bring the will of the Parks Commission forward.

Foley: Not a member of the Commission but observed the voting process under review. Believes in second chances and asked Eliot to bring votes of the Commission forward to the CPC and to vote Yes/No/Abstain on all motions

Jennings: Expects the CPC rep to educate the Commission on the working of the CPC and how its deliberations affect the schedule of the Parks Commission. Concerned that no overview of the schedule nor the CPC budget were ever shown to the Commission and that the Town Manager's CPA applications were not reported back to Parks. Suggested that we review expectations of this office when creating our policies but not remove her at this time

Ohringer: no comments

Eliot: Said that the Jennings motion that she opposed failed so the question of her bringing the motion forward was moot. If asked directly to bring things forward to Parks she would have done so.

In conclusion, no vote to remove Eliot from the CPC rep position was taken.

Field Use Permit for Waitowicz Field.

Moved by Foley, seconded by Edmonds to approve permit. Unanimous vote to accept

Bids for Services

Moved by Edmonds, seconded by Foley to accept bids for portable restrooms, trash services and lawn care: Unanimously approved.

Letter of Support for Conservation Commission CPA Application

Foley and Eliot pointed out that under MA law as a Park Commission we can acquire land and ask for funds to purchase land as does the Conservation Commission. Question arose as to the amount of dollars available in unallocated CPC funds for Parks requests and Conservation Commission requests. Not known at this time by CPA Rep. Will bring it to the next meeting. Vote on this recommendation needed at this time though.

Moved by Jennings, seconded by Edmonds to write letter of support for the Conservation Commission CPA Application

Eliot, Aye; Edmonds, Aye; Jennings, Aye; Foley, No; Ohringer, No. The motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings

The Commission decided to meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Feb. 3.

Approval of Minutes if 1/7/25 and 1/13/25

Moved by Edmonds, seconded by Foley to approve the minutes as submitted.

Unanimously accepted.

Prioritization of CPA Applications/Policy:

Postponed until next meeting

Adjournment

Moved by Jennings, seconded by Eliot to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Mary Jennings Clerk