



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

PARK COMMISSION
Brian Edmonds, Chair
Anna Eliot, CPC Representative
Mary Jennings, Member
Jeffrey Ohringer, Member
Rob Foley, Member

Date: Monday March 10, 2025
Time: 5:15 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room
Members Present: Brian Edmonds, Rob Foley, Anna Eliot, Jeffrey Ohringer (via phone)
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Laura Fisher, Joshua Pollock, Nick Kiernan, Mike Johnson, Judy Anderson

Call to Order: 5:16 p.m.

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

Public Comments-

Joshua Pollock representing the Groton- Dunstable Youth Baseball League, requested permission from the board for early access to the fields on March 18th to service equipment, March 22nd to start their CP2 and CP4 projects and March 29th for spring season set up.

CPC Application 2026-11 – Additional Letter of Support – GDYBL

The Youth Baseball League would like the Parks Commissioners to write a letter of support for a CPC application stating that proposed work for a baseball project would not conflict with future plans for Cow Pond and would ultimately want to be considered a separate project. The Commission debates whether they can make such a statement given ongoing planning. They ultimately agree that the baseball project will complement the bigger Cow Pond project down the road. **Upon motion by Commissioner Ohringer, seconded by CPC Rep Eliot, to have the chair draft a letter for the Groton-Dunstable Youth Baseball League in support of their CPC application.** Though some members express discomfort with the specific language requested as the main town project is still being created. **Motion was approved in a 3:1 roll call vote:**

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	No

Update to GDYBL re Purchase Request Approved by vote on 2/24/25

The commissioners approved at the previous meeting to grant the Youth Baseball League up to one thousand dollars for in field mix from capital funds. The league was given a reimbursement form to submit to the Parks Commission once materials have been purchased. A discussion was had as to how to keep in touch with DPW for early access.

Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, that the chair is authorized to work with Tom Delaney and any user groups to get them access to Park Commission properties for pre-season setup and maintenance between now and the end of set up. The motion was unanimously passed in a 4:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

CPC Application 2026-05 – Additional Letter of Support

The commissioners voted at the last meeting to authorize the town manager to submit an amended application on behalf of Parks for the design, adjusting the price to \$100,000 as opposed to the initial price. The town manager had suggested that the commissioners potentially amend the letter of support that had originally been submitted on December 31, 2024 adding the details of the project that was voted on last weekend. **Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, to amend the letter that was previously written to reflect the amended project from last time. The motion was unanimously passed in a 4:0 roll call:**

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Chairman Brian Edmons will draft up letter for submission.

Community Preservation Committee Representative Update (Anna Eliot) –

The CPC has received the final applications for review and indicating how they will vote. Voting for applications will be in two weeks.

Commissioner Conduct-

Review of the Commissioner Code of Conduct and adherence to votes policy.

Portable Restroom and Trash Service Bids Update-

Admin Fisher presented portable restroom bids to Parks commissioners. After a quick discussion, Throne Depot was chosen. **Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by CPC Rep Eliot, to award the portable restroom contract this season to Throne Depot. The motion was unanimously passed in a 4:0 roll call:**

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Discuss Scheduling Public Forum with/for User Groups-

The discussion focused on scheduling a public forum to gather input from user groups and the public. The idea is to have representatives from each user group; such as baseball, soccer, lacrosse and softball, present their needs, updates and concerns in a 15-minute session. This would allow the commission to understand their needs and plan accordingly. Discussion was had about whether or not to have all user groups in the room for a meeting at once to discuss specific topics and build consensus, or to speak with each group separately to hear their concerns individually and establish a rapport. The commissioners were in disagreement on which option would be best. Ultimately, Chairman Edmonds suggested picking a date possibly when the Spring sports are finishing up, to give user groups time to prepare their applications and concerns and email a sign-up sheet for 15-minute increments to discuss with commissioners. The commission also discussed the importance of conducting meetings in an orderly fashion to avoid conflicts and ensure everyone's voice is heard. A discussion was had on making sure information was available for user groups about the future Cow Pond Project and where they fit in. Some commissioners would like extra emails to be sent to user groups informing them of upcoming topics that could involve them, while other commissioners state it is a public meeting and already posted on the town website. Commissioners would ultimately like more user groups and residents to reach out with questions they may have about the projects going forward and have better communication.

Anna leaves meeting at 6:15pm, debate on whether enough members are present to have a quorum with Jeff being on zoom and not having a hybrid announcement. Approval is granted to continue meeting with three members.

Commissioner Rob Foley will work with Admin Laura Fisher on getting an outline on basic information for user groups to express their concerns and needs. The goal is to give the user groups enough time to present feedback and coordinate a forum with the commissioners before the start of the next fiscal year.

Old/New **Business:**

Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, to have Anna Eliot come to town hall and sign invoices. The motion was unanimously passed in a 3:0 roll call:

Ohringer **Aye**
Foley **Aye**
Edmonds **Aye**

Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, to sign Field Use Permits uncontested as long as there is room on the schedule. The motion was unanimously passed in a 3:0 roll call:

Ohringer **Aye**
Foley **Aye**
Edmonds **Aye**

Upon motion by Chair Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, the February 3, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as amended and with the addition of the soccer and baseball leagues letter attached in a 3:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Monday, March 24th 2025 5:15pm

Brian Edmonds moved to adjourn at 6:45pm, Rob Foley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously

Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: April 14, 2025
