



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

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

Date: Monday March 24, 2025  
Time: 5:15 PM  
Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
Members Present: Brian Edmonds, Anna Eliot, Mary Jennings, Jeffrey Ohringer (via phone)  
Members Not Present:  
Others Present: Laura Fisher, Tom Delaney, Brian Callahan, Troop 70510 girl scouts, Troop 70510 leaders Elizabeth Donato and Kate Engstrom, Alison Marilton, Adam Freeman, Bethany Whiteheld, David Soranson, Matt Ferriole, Nick Kiernan, Josh Pollock.

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**Call to Order: 5:15 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.

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**Public Comment Period – No comments.**

**Discussion with Girl Scout Troop 70510 – Sign Project & Memorial Project –**

The troop who are working on their Bronze Award, would like to create a memorial garden to honor their late friend and fellow girl scout, Cassidy Baracka. Some proposed placement for the memorial were near the playground or Cutler Field where she often enjoyed her time. The troop, still in the formative stages for a memorial design, suggested a small rock garden comprised of either a large singular rock or a design with a few rocks, that could be completed with a plaque in Cassidy's honor where the community could sit, reflect play or meditate. The commission approves the concept and agrees to work with the scouts on location details.

**Upon motion by CPC representative Eliot, seconded by Commissioner Jennings, to accept the concept of a memorial for Cassidy Baracka in a public place, was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call:**

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

The troop also presented a signage project promoting positive behavior in public spaces. Focusing on where students prefer to hang out on half days, the girls asked for permission to hang up positive impact signs in park areas.

**Upon motion by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by CPC representative Eliot, to write a letter of support for the signage project to present to the town's sign committee or historic district commission was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call:**

<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Discussion with GDYBL re: Maintenance Request –**

The GD Baseball League had submitted some additional maintenance requests for maintaining the fields over at Cow Pond, specifically regarding mowing the infields, trim fencing along the backstops and dugouts and mowing the inside of the batting cages. Requests have been sent to the DPW to work together with the Baseball League. The DPW director Tom Delaney agrees to mow the infields twice a week, when possible, but emphasizes that their main priority is road maintenance. Baseball League Josh Pollock states that the two mowers located at the field are being serviced and will be ready for use in the upcoming weeks. They can be used for spot trimming if needed. DPW and Parks agreed that all communication for maintenance needs go through DPW & Parks Admin Laura Fisher via email.

**Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by Jennings; The Commission authorizes the Baseball League to hire contractors for additional maintenance tasks for string trim fencing along the backstops, dug out outfield fences and snack shacks every 2 weeks, mowing of the inside of the 4 batting cages once a week, and line trimming the fencing around the batting cages every 2 weeks. The motion was unanimously passed in a 4:0 roll call:**

<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

With authorization Chairman Edmonds states the Baseball League will need to have the Town and Park Commission added as an additional insured to their policy.

**Discussion with DPW re: Field & Property Maintenance –**

DPW director and director in training Tom Delaney and Brian Callahan met with the Parks commission to discuss best ways to help out the Parks department with maintenance needs. They expressed that they are doing the best they can to assist with fields, but there is not enough help at the moment and the main priorities are road work and paving. Prioritizing certain fields over commons might be necessary if there is not enough help to maintain all parks that week, but expressed the importance of maintaining the same level of service in previous years.

Issues were addressed with taking DPW materials for user groups to maintain properties. DPW stated that the materials cannot just be taken and permission must be granted. Communication for Parks can go through the Chair for major projects and to DWP/Parks Admin Laura Fisher if situations arise where immediate issues surface or materials are needed for DPW to take care of.

Commissioner Jennings brought up that the Parks commission had not had a budget increase in over 4 years. A necessary increase would help Parks maintain properties more efficiently. Chair Edmonds suggested the need for a significant discussion among the commissioners and user groups about user fees, as this could be a way to fund additional maintenance and services. Stating that “If we need to do extra maintenance, that the DPW can't do, and we need to do those extra things for a particular user group that is not for the benefit of all. We can then take that money collected in those fees and use it to fund those things.”

### **Nashoba Tech Shed Project –**

Discussion was had about interest in moving forward with construction of a new shed, location and taking next steps to start the project.

**Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Jennings, to move forward with Nashoba Tech to spend \$5,800 for a new shed, located at Cutler field to the right of the current shed; with Chairman Brian Edmonds be acting liaison, was unanimously passed in a 4:0 roll call:**

<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

### **Hours of Operation & Noise Complaints –**

A resident expressed noise complaints at the basketball courts behind the library to Commissioner Foley. The Commissioners decide not to change the current hours of operation, noting that lights are programmed to shut off at 10 PM and there is a town noise ordinance in effect.

### **Community Preservation Committee Representative Report –**

Review upcoming Community Preservation Committee (CPC) project scoring. The CPC will be calculating and voting to rank applicants tonight. A request for more regular CPC updates in detail was made, with the suggestion of them possibly being in the form of a written report.

### **Field Maintenance & Trash Bid Updates –**

Town discussed the bids for trash removal and fertilization services. After a brief explanation of each company who bid, the commissioners decided to approve bids for Prime Disposal for trash removal and Gatsby Grounds for fertilization services. Neither fertilization bids were interested in irrigation services. A discussion on options was had where Chair Edmonds would work with Parks/DPW admin Fisher to get bids for irrigation. Chair Edmonds asked Commissioner Ohringer to call surrounding towns and see who they used for irrigation and report back to admin Fisher to try and get bids out for the next meeting.

**Upon motion by Chairman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Jennings, a motion to accept the proposal from Prime Disposal was unanimously passed in a 4:0 roll call:**

<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Upon motion by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Chairman Edmonds, a motion to accept the proposal from Gatsby Grounds was unanimously passed in a 4:0 roll call:**

<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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

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**Sign permits/ invoices-**

The Parks Commission discusses field use permits and scheduling issues. Concerns are raised about blanket reservations from user groups reserving entire field seasons for six or more months out of the year and moving forward applying for a reasonable amount of time at fields so other residents and user groups can use the fields. The commission agrees to work on improving the permit process and scheduling system in the future.

**Upon motion by Chair Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Jennings, going forward, the Park Commission administrator is permitted to authorize any one-day field use permits as long as there is no conflict with something that has been scheduled, was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call:**

<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Upon motion by Commissioner Ohringer, seconded by Commissioner Eliot, to sign permit for the baseball league as submitted and have them come forth to fine tune their times once they figure out their seasons schedule was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call:**

<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>Aye</b>

DPW director Tom Delaney gave a brief update of the work going on at Cutler Field mentioning that there is only enough money to do two backstops. The contract will be getting signed to get those done.

Chairman Edmonds reminded commissioners meetings are being held every second and fourth Mondays of the month at 5:15pm.

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 5:15pm

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**Mary Jennings moved to adjourn at 6:55pm, seconded by Commissioner Ohringer, the motion carried unanimously**

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Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

**APPROVED: 5/12/25**

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