



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 May 12, 2025
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room
Members Present: Brian Edmonds, Rob Foley, Anna Eliot, Jeffrey Ohringer, Mary Jennings,
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Laura Fisher, David Greenwood, Josh Pollock

Call to Order: 5:02 p.m.

Chair Brian Edmonds called the meeting. Because Commissioner Rob Foley is participating via Zoom, all votes in this meeting will be taken as roll call votes.

Pets On Park Commission Properties –

Signage has been put up in the past. Town bylaw states if the pet is under physical control such as a leash, fence, or other physical means it is allowed on public property. Chair Edmonds and Commissioner Jennings agree that the law is reasonable and do not see a need to add anything more. Commissioners Ohringer and Eliot do not believe dogs are allowed on the field due to owners not always picking up waste and the potential for kids who play sports may slip in. A discussion developed on putting up better signs for dog owners to clean up after their pets and providing dog bags for the community to use.

Cutler Field –

Mary reported that the Nashoba High School shop teacher and administrator had agreed to build a shed at Cutler Field next fall, with the kids coming to the field to construct it. The Commissioners discussed the need for a wider garage door for the shed with some other modifications estimated at \$7433.61. Commissioner Jennings will contact Nashoba Tech to discuss future modifications and costs.

Upon motion by Commissioner Eliot, seconded by Chair Edmonds, to earmark from our current capital funds \$8,000, and the if the shed is not completed within this fiscal year of 2025, to encumber those funds over. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

GD Softball would like to get permission from the commissioners to install benches, removable signs to post during games for directions to games and temporary secure fences at Cutler Field.

Chair Edmonds would like to see materials (fences and benches) donated to the Town since it is a public field in case anything happens to it, or softball would need to remove fencing and benches after every game to prevent any damage that could potentially happen if left out.

Upon motion by Chair Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, to authorize the installation of the temporary fencing. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Upon motion by Chair Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Eliot, to authorize softball to put their sign out during their games. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Irrigation on Fields –

Commissioner Ohringer decided to hire Montachusett Lawn Sprinkler Co to service the fields. A discussion was had about how an individual commissioner cannot make a decision without a vote to hire a company or take on a contract for the town.

Upon motion by Chair Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, to authorize the Commission to pay for these services based on the contract that Jeff was able to secure. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Discussion of payment for the invoice from Montachusett irrigation for the spring service turn on and maintenance of \$5394.14 and winterization of \$2,250 was had about where funds would be taken from and if an encumbrance was needed to cover the amount into next fiscal year. More maintenance was also needed to fix a crushed pipe caused by a run over valve before the season was concluded. The commission agreed to accept the company's bid and authorize payment.

Upon motion by Chair Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Ohringer, to accept Montachusett Lawn Sprinkler and to pay Montachusett Lawn Sprinkler Company in the amount of \$5,394.15 out of our operating budget for 2025. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Park Commission Policies & Procedures –

The Commission discusses adopting Robert's Rules of Order as their official meeting procedure. Mary proposes a motion to incorporate Robert's Rules into their policies, arguing it would provide clarity and efficiency. However, Brian raises concerns about potential conflicts with open meeting laws and references the Town Council's recommendation against formally binding the Commission to Robert's Rules. The group debates the pros and cons, including the flexibility of Robert's Rules for small committees and the need to stay compliant with local laws.

Upon motion by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Chair Edmonds, to replace within the Draft Park Commission policies. Section 7. The language included there would be removed in its entirety, and replaced with meetings that would be conducted in accordance with Robert's rules of order and its provision for small committees as its parliamentary authority to the extent that those rules do not conflict with any Town, State, or Federal laws. The motion fails 3:2

Ohringer	No
Eliot	No
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	No

Upon motion by Chair Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Foley, striking the 1st portion of the 1st sentence in the second paragraph, so the second paragraph would open when the Park Commission acts only by a majority of a quorum and a properly noticed meetings. No commissioner has unilateral authority to speak on behalf of the Commission without a vote to that effect. Likewise, no Park Commissioner has unilateral authority to take by any action on behalf of the Park Commission without a vote to that effect. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Chair Edmonds proposes doing a straw poll for amending the rest of the policies unless there is an objection. Commissioners agree.

Upon motion by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Eliot, that the straw polls taken be consolidated into a document, and the final vote be taken at our next meeting. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Public Comments –

Administrative Assistant Fisher is waiting on revised Montachusett invoice to be paid on upcoming warrants for Parks.

Youth Baseball rep Josh Pollock discussed topics related to field maintenance and upcoming projects they aim to work on. Pollock mentioned the success of recent field improvements and addressed issues such as garbage removal and dumpster usage.

Capital Budget & Capital Improvements –

Briefly mentioned there is not much money left in the Capital improvements funds.

Old/New Business:

Sign Permits/ Invoices Meeting Minute Approval-

Upon motion by Commissioner Eliot, seconded by Commissioner Jennings, to approve the meeting minutes for March 24, 2025. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Upon motion by Commissioner Eliot, seconded by Commissioner Jennings, that the Parks commission approve the Softball Permit Request. The motion was unanimously passed in a 5:0 roll call:

Ohringer	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Jennings	Aye
Foley	Aye
Edmonds	Aye

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Monday, June 2, 2025 4:30pm

Brian Edmonds moved to adjourn at 6:51 pm, Jeff Ohringer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously

Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: July 23, 2025
