



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

**PARK COMMISSION**  
Mary Jennings, Chair  
Anna Eliot, Vice-Chair  
Mark Presti, Clerk  
Rob Foley, CPC Representative  
Jeffrey Ohringer, Member

Date: Monday June 16, 2025  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
Members Present: Rob Foley, Anna Eliot, Jeffrey Ohringer, Mary Jennings, Mark Presti  
Members Not Present:  
Others Present: Laura Fisher, Brian Callahan, Mark Haddad, Kara Cruikshank

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**Call to Order: 5:02 p.m.**  
Mary Jennings acting chair, called the meeting.

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**Public Comments –**  
None.

**Reports from DPW –**  
DPW approved to have the Porta-potties at Cow Pond field and Town Field serviced twice a week due to overflow issues.

## **Financials**

**Projected EOY Budget –**  
Administrative Assistant Fisher gave a report on the updated Capital and Expenses Funds stating that with the pro-rated amounts and twice a week services to Town Field and Cow Pond Field restrooms there is a substantial increase in expenses. She suggests that going forward it would be cheaper to add another restroom at both locations instead of getting restrooms serviced twice a week at \$35 per restroom each visit. With soccer coming to an end, the Cow Pond field may see less use over the summer. The commissioners would like communication with Baseball to see how busy they will be in the summer and maybe determine switching restroom services back to once a week.

**Pre-Emergent Weed Application –**  
Commissioner Ohringer requested that Admin Fisher reach out to Gatsby Grounds to see if we can apply weed killer to fields on the next fertilizer application. Commissioner Ohringer mentioned the soccer user group agreed to cover the cost of weed application for the rest of Cow Pond Field. The commissioners would like to get estimates for Woitowicz and Cutler Field weed applications and when treatment can be done.

## **Cow Pond Field CPA Working Group Update –**

Chair Jennings went over the CPA Project application 2026-11, reviewing the contract with Activitas, which includes 5 meetings with the working group. Confirmation that the money for these meetings is included in the budget. Town Manager, Mark Haddad, as chief procurement officer, is working directly with the working group and Megan who has time allocated in her contract for these meetings. Haddad states they will share committee notes on information discussed in the working group and will be communicating with Parks. Commissioner Presti reported on what was discussed during the working group meeting earlier that afternoon. The group decided to focus the approved \$100k on studying parking areas as it impacts the two ball fields and the surrounding area. Presti had mentioned that during the meeting Commissioner Eliot had made a great point about anticipating that this would be about a 10-year plan. That the objective being that the commission would not try to bite all of this off all at once, creating a progression of target objectives to be achieved over time. Megan from Activitas suggested the possibility of requesting an additional \$150k for further studies. Agreement was made that accessibility and parking were the focus point. Better accessibility means the community can get to the fields and trails with more effectively. It was noted that parcel 259-51 had potential to become a new field or overflow parking, although though town meeting had previously voted against it for affordable housing. The project will need to work with the conservation groups and fishes and wildlife to ensure the wetlands are protected. The next meeting will take place on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.

Commissioners discussed possibly leveling the fields so they could move fields around throughout the seasons while work was being done. It was also brought up in discussion of a possible different point to have an access road to be convenient to community.

The Parks Commission would like to have a CPC application in for a \$1,000,000 federal reimbursement grant by the fall of 2026 for the project that would need to be spent by 2027 with a requirement for a matching \$500,000 contribution from CPC. Milestones will be set in the next meetings in order to meet this deadline.

Working group consists of Mark Haddad, Tom Delaney, Brian Callahan, Kara Cruikshank, Brenden Mahoney, Anna Eliot, Mark Presti, Charlotte Steeves, reps from Soccer, Baseball and Lacrosse.

A separate conversation on future possibilities to renovate Woitowicz Field and how to get it more manageable for a multi-use field that could be a great asset to the community and an alternative for user groups to play on. Also explored the possibility of using H&V Fields for lacrosse and soccer, with estimates of \$300,000-400,000 needed for leveling and improvements. The board agreed to investigate further, with plans to create a map of H&V Field and review existing agreements, before making any decisions about potential improvements.

## **Proposed Schedule & Agenda Topics –**

Chair Jennings suggests the possibility of detailed reports from commissioners in the working group if they are on alternate meeting days.

## **GDYBL Purchase of Tarps & Town Field Activities during Construction –**

Will be discussed at a later date.

**Upon motion by Commissioner Eliot, seconded by Commissioner Presti, that the Parks commission approve the May 5, 2025 minutes. The motion was passed in a 5:0 roll call:**

<b>Ohringer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Eliot</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Jennings</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Foley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Presti</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Sign permits/ invoices-**

**Upon motion by Chair Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Foley, to authorize the chair to sign the invoices as opposed to every member of the committee sign the invoices for this evening. The motion was passed.**

Admin. Assist. Fisher notified Commissioners that the reimbursement request for the baseball infield mix came in for \$992.87 to come from Capital Expenses as agreed upon in a previous meeting.

**Upon motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Ohringer, that the Parks commission approve to meet every second and fourth Monday of the month at 5:00pm. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Monday, June 23, 2025 5:00pm

Prior to Adjournment, Chair Mary Jennings requested that each commissioner bring up to three goals they would like to achieve in the next year with the Parks Commission.

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**Mary Jennings moved to adjourn at 6:20 pm, Rob Foley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously**

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Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

**APPROVED: July 23, 2025**

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