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

PARK COMMISSION
Mary Jennings, Chair
Anna Eliot, Vice-Chair
Mark Presti, Clerk
Jeffrey Ohringer, Member

Date:	Monday January 26, 2026
Time:	5:00 PM
Location:	Zoom Meeting
Members Present:	Anna Eliot, Mary Jennings, Mark Presti, Jeffrey Ohringer
Others Present:	Laura Fisher, Brian Callahan, Mark Haddad, Kara Cruikshank, Megan Buczynski, Judy Anderson, Mike Johnson, Pat McAdams, Adam Burnett, Fran Stanley

Call to Order: 5:01 p.m.

Anna Eliot Vice-Chair, called the meeting.

Public Comments – None

Chair Report –
The Parks Commission meeting addressed Rob Foley's resignation as a Park Commissioner and the need to appoint a new CPC representative.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ohringer, seconded my Commissioner Presti, to appoint Vice-Chair Anna Eliot as the new CPC Representative, was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call vote:
Jennings "AYE"
Ohringer "AYE"
Presti "AYE"
Eliot "AYE"

Resident Adam Burnett discussed concerns about hunting activities at Hazel Grove Park, where illegal deer herding and hunting had occurred despite the property being posted as private land. Adam offered to help post additional no-hunting signs, and Mark Haddad agreed to work with DPW to implement the posting. The Commission agreed to maintain their no-hunting policy.

Upon motion by Chair Jennings to close the area for hunting and post signs at Hazel Grove property for no hunting, seconded by Member Ohringer was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call vote:
Jennings "AYE"
Ohringer "AYE"
Presti "AYE"
Eliot "AYE"

Cow Pond Update –
Megan Buczynski gave an updated report incorporating public feedback and working with police and fire departments to add a third entrance for safety. It was suggested to use the Hoyt Wharf Road parcel for mitigation instead of developing it with Mary and Jeff expressing support for the new entrance design to accommodate multiple sports activities simultaneously and more importantly enough space for safety vehicles. The Park Commission discussed parking arrangements deciding against allowing road parking to prioritize safety and avoid potential political pressure for road redesign.
Megan is working on the numbers to ensure the project remains budget-neutral by offsetting the playground's cost with a smaller, less expensive design. Mary inquired about obtaining a letter of recommendation from the Commission on Accessibility, and Mark Haddad confirmed they would work with Michelle to get this letter in time for the final application submission in three weeks.

Upon motion by Member Ohringer, seconded by Member Presti, to 100% back and support the Cow Pond Project was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call vote:

Jennings "AYE"
Ohringer "AYE"
Presti "AYE"
Eliot "AYE"

Upon motion by Chair Jennings, seconded by Member Presti, to create a revolving fund to bring forth at the Spring Town Meeting, was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call vote:

Jennings "AYE"
Ohringer "AYE"
Presti "AYE"
Eliot "AYE"

Financial and Permits –
Approval for Baseball and Lacrosse for Spring Permits.
Polar Crush and Soccer Shots at Cuttler field to be discussed at the next meeting pending GD Softball Spring permits.
Pat McAdams expressed issues with Softball using field 3 and it conflicting with their Lacrosse games. GD youth Baseball will reach out to their coordinator to help resolve the issue with the possibility to switch to another field.

$7681.11 invoice from the Nashoba Tech for the Cutler Field shed.

Upon motion by Chair Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Ohringer, to authorize Vice-Chair Anna Eliot to sign all invoices and permits was unanimously approved in a 4:0 roll call vote:

Jennings "AYE"
Ohringer "AYE"
Presti "AYE"
Eliot "AYE"

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Monday, February 9, 2026 5:00pm

Anna Eliot moved to adjourn at 6:02 pm, Mark Presti seconded. The motion carried unanimously in a 4:0 roll call vote:

Jennings	**"AYE"**
Ohringer	**"AYE"**
Presti	**"AYE"**
Eliot	**"AYE"**

Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 3/9/26