



**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  
Jeffrey Ohringer, Member

Date: Monday February 9, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Hybrid Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Anna Eliot, Mark Presti, Jeffrey Ohringer

Others Present: Laura Fisher, Brian Callahan, Peter Cunningham, Judy Anderson

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**Call to Order: 5:01 p.m.**

Anna Eliot Vice-Chair, called the meeting.

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**Public Comments – None**

**Chair Report –**

Discussion for the Parks vacancy position has been postponed till the next meeting.

**CPC Rep –**

The Cow Pond project will be presented to the Planning Board for site plan review on February 26th at 7:00 PM. Vice-Chair Eliot emphasized the importance of a strong turnout at town meeting to pass a bond issue requiring a two-thirds vote. The Commissioners discussed strategies to raise awareness for the project to optimize attendance and emphasized that the project would not affect individual town taxes.

**Permits –**

Approval for Polar Crush and Soccer Shots use of Cutler Field was approved. Softball at field 3 Cow Pond is still pending.

**Upon motion by Member Ohringer, seconded by Vice-Chair Eliot, to approve GD Soccer for Cow Pond Soccer Fields Spring permits was unanimously approved in a 3:0 roll call vote:**

**Ohringer      “AYE”**

**Presti        “AYE”**

**Eliot         “AYE”**

**Upon motion by Commissioner Presti, seconded by Commissioner Ohringer, to send a letter of support to the CPC for the Pollinator Pathway project was unanimously approved in a 3:0 roll call vote:**

**Ohringer      “AYE”**

**Presti        “AYE”**

**Eliot         “AYE”**

**Upon motion by Member Presti, seconded by Member Ohringer, to approve Soccer Shots for Saturdays 8:45-11:15 from April 11th through June 6th, and Polar Crush for Sundays 11-3 on April 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26<sup>th</sup> on Cutler Field for Spring permits was unanimously approved in a 3:0 roll call vote:**

**Ohringer      “AYE”**  
**Presti         “AYE”**  
**Eliot          “AYE”**

Vice-Chair Eliot discussed the Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council's application to restore Carroll Wheeler, which involves removing invasives along the railroad bed and Squannacook River. The Groton Garden Club was approached about donating plant materials for the project, and they expressed interest.

**Ice Rink –**

A resident raised interest in the possibility of setting up an ice rink at Legion Field. Commissioner Presti explained the logistical and financial requirements involved, including the need for an annual liner replacement and water supply. Commissioner Ohringer expressed support for the idea but emphasized the importance of having a private user group take responsibility for maintenance, insurance, and safety, rather than making it a town project. The Commissioners agreed that if a formal application with proof of insurance is submitted, they would consider allowing the rink to be set up at Legion Field.

**Upon motion by Commissioner Ohringer, seconded by Commissioner Presti, to authorize two signatures on the invoices was unanimously approved in a 3:0 roll call vote:**

**Ohringer      “AYE”**  
**Presti         “AYE”**  
**Eliot          “AYE”**

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Monday, February 26, 2026 5:00pm

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**Commissioner Presti moved to adjourn at 6:02 pm, Commissioner Ohringer seconded. The motion carried unanimously in a 3:0 roll call vote:**

**Ohringer      “AYE”**  
**Presti         “AYE”**  
**Eliot          “AYE”**

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Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

**APPROVED: 3/23/26**

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