



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
Jack Petropoulos, Member

Date: Monday March 23, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room

Members Present: Mary Jennings, Anna Eliot, Mark Presti, Jeff Ohringer (via Zoom) & Jack Petropoulos

Others Present: Laura Fisher, Judy Anderson, David Pitkin, Joshua Pollock, Mike Johnson, Don Barry & Pat McAdams

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Mary Jennings, Chair, called the meeting.

Public Comments – None

Approval of Minutes –

Upon motion by Commissioner Presti, seconded by Vice-Chair Eliot, to approve minutes from December 8th, January 12th, January 26th, February 9th, February 23rd, and March 2nd, as amended including a name change from "Prescott Garden Club" to "Groton Garden Club" was unanimously approved via 4:0 roll call vote:

Jennings Aye
Ohringer Aye
Presti Aye
Eliot Aye

Upon motion by Commissioner Presti, seconded by Vice-Chair Eliot, to approve minutes from February 23, 2026 & March 2, 2026 by Kara Cruikshank Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, was unanimously approved via 4:0 roll call vote:

Jennings Aye
Ohringer Aye
Presti Aye
Eliot Aye

Chair Report –

Chair Jennings reported a concern about debris left on Cutler Field after a bonfire and asked Vice-Chair/Liaison to Cutler Field Eliot to investigate and potentially contact the responsible party for cleanup.

CPC Rep –

After Attending several different meetings from other commissions including the Planning Board, Conservation, Earth Removal that Activitas has needed to get approvals for the Cow Pond Project

with the only concern at the moment being from Earth Removal with not wanting sand on the new parking lot; which is not a problem as the fields are closed off during winter months. The meeting focused on the Cow Pond project funding and its impact on CPC funds. Commissioner Eliot explained that the project requires \$4.2 million in funding, with \$1.6 million coming from non-Groton sources (40% of the total), leaving Groton to fund approximately \$2.56 million. The project will use approximately \$300,000 a year of CPC funds and not affect the tax dollars of the town.

DPW –

DPW director was unable to attend, but will present irrigation and fertilizing bids at the next meeting.

Budget –

No New invoices this week.

Permits –

Youth Softball for Cutler Field usage from April to June, Monday-Friday, 5pm-8pm. Don Barry noting that while practices can occur, games cannot due to safety concerns with the current field conditions.

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Eliot, seconded by Commissioner Presti to approve GD Youth Softball April 1 -June 15 5pm-8pm Monday-Friday at Cutler Field was unanimously approved in a 5:0 roll call vote:

Jennings	Aye
Ohringer	Aye
Presti	Aye
Eliot	Aye
Petropoulos	Aye

Alvin Sawyer Field –

The discussion on the Alvin Sawyer Little League field ensued, on an issue where the field was unexpectedly seeded over as part of a larger baseball field improvement project. The Commissioners explained that while the original CPC grant application included both fields for renovation, funding constraints led to focusing only on the major league diamond, with the Alvin Sawyer field being seeded over as part of the contract that was mutually agreed upon. The baseball league expressed concern about losing a playable field, with Josh noting that 160 kids are unable to use it and may need to use facilities in Dunstable instead. The group discussed potential solutions, including seeking help from the Select Board to address the issue and possibly filing a new CPC application next year to restore the field, though this would not provide immediate relief for the 2027 season.

Discussion on Blanket Scheduling –

The discussion focused on establishing a policy for field usage permits and prioritizing access for youth nonprofit organizations. The group discussed moving away from a first-come, first-served system to give priority to nonprofit youth sports leagues through a blanket permit approach. Other permit requests would be approved based on availability after youth schedules are confirmed. Since there is no permitting software for residents and groups to reserve on their own at the moment, Administrative Assistant Fisher will reach out to user groups with conflicting permit requests to resolve the conflict, if possible, when blanket scheduling is an issue.

Upon motion by Commissioner Presti, seconded by Commissioner Petropoulos that institute a policy that formalizes the permitting process in such that the Park Commission provide priority to the Groton-Dunstable nonprofit youth leagues access to the priority permit to be

approved, then accept other individuals pending availability based on the submitted permit request. If there are conflicts with permits after schedules have been submitted, Administrative Assistant Fisher will check with youth sports groups for field availability. This motion was unanimously approved in a 5:0 roll call vote:

Jennings Aye
Ohringer Aye
Presti Aye
Eliot Aye
Petropoulos Aye

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Eliot, seconded by Commissioner Presti to approve Men's Soccer 8am-10am Sunday, 6pm-7pm and Wednesday April 1-June 15 on Cow Pond Fields pending availability from Lacrosse and Soccer user groups was unanimously approved in a 5:0 roll call vote:

Jennings Aye
Ohringer Aye
Presti Aye
Eliot Aye
Petropoulos Aye

Upon motion by Commissioner Presti, seconded by Commissioner Petropoulos to approve Prime Disposal for trash removal for \$140 a month was unanimously approved in a 5:0 roll call vote:

Jennings Aye
Ohringer Aye
Presti Aye
Eliot Aye
Petropoulos Aye

Upon motion by Commissioner Ohringer, seconded by Vice-Chair Eliot to approve the draft Letter Mary and Jack wrote to the Groton Herald with an amendment of 40% of the project is covered from outside of town money and not involving tax payers' money be mentioned earlier in the letter was unanimously approved in a 5:0 roll call vote:

Jennings Aye
Ohringer Aye
Presti Aye
Eliot Aye
Petropoulos Aye

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn- Monday, April 13, 2026 5:00pm

Commissioner Petropoulos moved to adjourn at 7:00 pm, Commissioner Presti seconded. The motion carried unanimously in a 5:0 roll call vote:

Jennings Aye
Ohringer Aye
Presti Aye
Eliot Aye
Petropoulos Aye

Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 4/13/26
