



TOWN OF GROTON

Park Commission
Town Hall
1st Floor Meeting Room

PARK COMMISSION

Mary Jennings, Chair
Mark Presti, Vice-Chair
Jack Petropoulos, Clerk, CPC
Representative
Anna Eliot, Member
Jeffrey Ohringer, Member

Date: Monday July 6, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room
Members Present: Anna Eliot, Mary Jennings, Mark Presti, Jeffrey Ohringer, Jack Petropoulos
Members Not Present:
Others Present: Laura Fisher, Mark Haddad, Brian Callahan, Kara Cruikshank, Peter Cunningham, David Pitkin, Josh Pollock, Judy Anderson

Call to Order: 5:15 p.m.

Mary Jennings, Chair, called the meeting. Commissioner Ohringer arrived at 5:18pm.

The Groton Park Commission held a meeting to discuss compliance with a June 25th Conservation Commission enforcement order requiring closure of the gate off Cow Pond Road and permanent closure of the road except for emergency personnel access. The order was issued after Cow Pond Field's proposal was not approved at town meeting, and the Conservation Commission rejected the Park Commission's request for an extension until after town meeting. The Park Commission discussed various implementation options including turtle monitoring, temporary road construction connecting the parking lots, and turtle tunnels, with baseball representatives explaining the significant impact on their operations including practices every day from 5-9 PM and weekend games involving nearly 30 teams. The group agreed to appoint Jack as coordinator to work with the Conservation Commission to define the requirements for turtle monitors and develop an interim monitoring program, while also exploring permanent solutions like connecting the parking lots or implementing turtle tunnels before the next Conservation Commission meeting on July 14th.

Upon motion by Commissioner Petropoulos, seconded by Vice-Chair Presti, that the Groton Park Commission comply with the June 25 Conservation Commission Enforcement Order regarding the closure of access gate off Cow Pond Brook Rd and policy moving forward by closing the gate to the baseball field, except in the circumstance when turtle monitors are present and that the Groton Park Commission will continue to work with the Groton Conservation Commission to seek permanent solutions in keeping with the interests of the environment and the town was unanimously approved 5:0 as amended.

Next steps

Brian Callahan – DPW Director

- Lock the gate at Cow Pond Road with a proper lock and provide the combination to the necessary parties.
- Assess the logistics and timeline for creating a temporary access road between the parking lots, aiming for completion within two weeks.

Commissioner Jack Petropoulos-

- Coordinate the interim turtle monitoring program for the short term (until next Tuesday), including defining the role, finding volunteers, and working with Conservation Commission for approval.
- Contact the chair of the Conservation Commission to get a definition of what a turtle monitor is and propose an interim monitoring program for immediate implementation.
- Work with Brian Callahan to explore the feasibility of creating a temporary access road between the soccer and baseball parking lots, including a site visit with Josh and a Park Commission member.
- Research and propose permanent solutions such as turtle tunnels or barriers, in cooperation with the Conservation Commission and turtle advocates.

Commissioner Eliot left meeting at 6:30pm.

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

Adjourn at 6:45 pm

Minutes by Laura Fisher, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVED: 8/24/26
