

Meeting Minutes

Park Commission

August 24, 2026

Attending: Mary Jennings, Anna Eliot, Mark Presti, Jack Petropoulos. Jeff Ohringer arrived at approximately 5:50 PM. GD Baseball representatives.

Chair Jennings attended remotely and called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

Minutes from meetings on May 15, 2026, July 6, 2026, July 13, 2026 and August 10, 2026 were individually moved to be approved by Eliot and seconded by Presti. All minutes were individually unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Chair Jennings reviewed planned future meetings on 9/14 (public hearing on the Cow Pond proposal), 9/28 and October 3.

Chair Jennings noted that the CPC would be voting on the Cow Pond CPA proposal this evening. She noted that approvals had been obtained from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. Approval from the Stormwater Committee was pending. Letters of support have been received from the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Select Board.

Jennings designated Presti and herself to work on publicity for the Cow Pond Article at Town Meeting.

Presti reported on the Town Field status. He stated that he felt the benches and dugouts were below expectations and that he will consult with Town Manager Haddad about ideas he has on how to remedy the problem. He will ask Haddad about a “handoff” walkthrough of the fields to be sure that Parks and Baseball are happy with the outcome.

Representatives from GDBaseball expressed concern about the condition of the fields (including Alvin Sawyer) and supported the idea of a walkthrough. Petropoulos (CPC Rep for Parks) was asked to ask the CPC if they would like to participate in a walkthrough.

Petropoulos reported on the last CPC meeting. He discussed having passed on GDBaseball’s prior concerns about the condition of the Town Field project.

Petropoulos reported on turtle monitoring. He stated that he had not yet received a schedule for Fall Baseball but was concerned about being able to get monitors for all

games and practices. Representatives from GDBaseball said the fall season will start September 8 and run through the first week of November. Practices may start earlier.

Eliot stated that she wanted baseball to modify their schedules so that parents could attend Town Meeting to support the vote for the Cow Pond project. Representatives from Baseball explained that they are unable to modify the schedule as it is created and coordinated regionally by the league.

The Commission discussed a Draft of the General Operating Policies prepared by Jennings. Many issues were brought up with requests for modifications. Eliot motioned to approve the Draft and to make modifications later. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion failed on a roll call vote, with Jennings and Eliot in favor, and Presti, Ohringer and Petropoulos opposed.

Petropoulos expressed concern that if the Cow Pond project failed at Fall Town Meeting, that Baseball parking would be a very difficult problem and that the Commission had no plan to bring another CPA initiative back to Town Meeting in the Spring. Petropoulos noted that Preliminary CPA applications for the 2027 Spring Town Meeting were due on October 1 and suggested that the Commission should submit a Preliminary Application as a placeholder to assure that they would be eligible to submit an application in the Spring. Petropoulos moved that "I bring forward to the next Parks Commission Meeting a DRAFT Preliminary Application for the 2027 Spring Town Meeting." Eliot seconded and the motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Jennings made clear that Parks and DPW does not have the code for Baseball's lights at Cow Pond. Presti made clear that Baseball does not have the code. Presti will speak with Groton Electric to determine if they have the code.

Approved 10/5/26