September 4, 2013

Copp Board of Overseers
Meeting Wednesday, September 4, 2013, Spicer House, Noank

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by Chairman Brown.
Overseers present were Neil Brown, James Sherrard, Allyn Copp, and Dom Venditti. Alternate overseer Ray Munn was present also and was seated to act in Andrew Halsey's absence.

There were no members from the public or Groton Town staff in attendance. Therefore no citizen's comments were received.

Board Members Dom Venditti and Jim Sherrard moved and seconded to accept the minutes for May 1, 2013 regular meeting. The minutes passed unanimously as written.

Board Members Jim Sherrard and Allyn Copp moved and seconded to accept the minutes for the July 1, 2013 special meeting. The minutes passed as written (4-0-1 – with Ray Munn abstaining).

Reports on Committee's Activities

Project Tracking Committee – Andrew Halsey, Chair

Since Andrew was absent there was no report. The on-going creation and improvements to the events field with parking project was thoroughly discussed by the Groton Parks Foundation at its earlier meeting this date, so no further discussions were held.

Government Liaison Committee – James Sherrard, Chair

Jim mentioned his effort to work with Mark Berry, the Director of Parks and Recreation to have a viable CIP project submitted by the end of the calendar year for town government review and funding support consideration. He was also looking at regional charitable organizations for small project funding support. Most of these organizations have January deadlines for proposal submission with May project award dates. He would try to submit small projects for this funding source consideration.

Nominating Committee – Allyn Copp, Chair

Allyn noted that there were no Copp Board vacancies, so no nominating committee activities. However, the group would look to area residents to identify those individuals who could bring unique talents to the Overseers – and consider making interested and qualified individuals an offer of Alternate Overseer status.

Budget Committee – Dom Venditti, Chair

Dom noted his activities in creating a working budget to support Copp Overseer activities and his search into regional, state, federal, and private funding sources to compliment possible town funds to underwrite desired Copp Overseer projects. He promised a more detailed overview at our next meeting on his successes in this area.

Old Business

Chairman Brown noted his efforts with Groton Utilities management in the final approval of utilities signage on the Copp property – this included both verbiage and the actual location of sign placement. All signs should be installed by our next meeting.

Chairman Brown also noted a town-wide effort in establishing uniform signage to identify all town open space, not just the Copp Family Park. Hopefully this uniform signage will be installed in the near future.

Chairman Brown noted the current status of the event field. It was noted that the field will receive one final mowing before the winter sets in. Also it was noted that there is considerable poison ivy in the northwest corner of the field and that care should be given in its eradication. The use of a wider mower deck was recommended to better define and identify the paths within the park. It was noted that the current trails appear to be used by the public and the completion of the trail project would further increase the utilization of the park by the public.

New Business

The success of prior site walks was noted and it was agreed that the overseers plan an annual site walk in early July each year. Allyn Copp also mentioned the potential creation of a water taxi system for the lower Thames River between New London and Groton – if developed, this connection might bring additional public members to the park. Any possible tie into utilizing the state-owned Gray Rock Park was placed on hold for now, since any perceived benefits were minimal, with only marginal benefits possibly realized.

There was no other business. James Sherrard and Allyn Copp moved and seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

James Sherrard, Secretary, Copp Board of Overseers

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

Signature

5/7/2014
Date