

May 6, 2015

Copp Board of Overseers  
Meeting Wednesday, May 6, 2015; Spicer House, Noank

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 PM by Chairman Brown. Overseers present were Neil Brown, James Sherrard, Andrew Halsey, and Dom Venditti. The Parks and Recreation Director, Mark Berry, was also present.

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

Chairman Brown read the secretary's report.

Board Members Andrew Halsey and James Sherrard moved and seconded to accept the minutes for September 3, 2014 regular meeting. The minutes passed unanimously as written.

#### **Reports on Committee's Activities**

##### **Project Tracking Committee – Andrew Halsey, Chair**

Overseer Halsey noted that there was no formal report. There was however a continuation of the discussion initiated during the Groton Parks Foundation meeting earlier about the need for professional town staff assistance to assure the timely execution of contracts to complete work at the park.

##### **Government Liaison Committee – James Sherrard, Chair**

Overseer Sherrard noted that a detailed description of the Copp Family Park and its part in providing open space for the town has been included in the draft Plan of Conservation and Development that is being prepared by the Planning Commission. The POCD is required by state statute to be updated every ten years. He also noted that the CIP Master List of projects for the town still contains a description for the park, but any funding consideration has been moved to out-years for consideration.

##### **Nominating Committee – Allyn Copp, Chair**

Overseer Allyn was absent, so there was no formal Nominating Committee report. However, Chairman Brown continued his discussion started in the Groton Parks Foundation meeting earlier about the need to plan for out-year planning for officers for the Copp Park Board. In particular, he may only serve another year or so as he is approaching 80 years old; and the board is continuing training for Ray Munn to be our secretary at some future date.

##### **Budget Committee – Dom Venditti, Chair**

Overseer Venditti reiterated 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 Park projects. He also stated that he soon will send out an email to each Overseer asking for a list of near term projects that we can consider for action; to have these in place as funding is procured. He will report back on this effort at our fall meeting.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Brown discussed the Groton Utilities signage is not visually invasive and appears to be functioning well. There still appears to be the infrequent uprooting of signs, but these are re-installed to keep signage current.

P&R Director Berry noted that the events field is being mowed twice a year, the back field is mowed at least once a year, and that the trails are being expanded and better marked to increase usage by the public. Efforts are being expended to better utilize the Town of Groton webpage to promote the park to the citizens of the town. He and John Silsby, the chair of the Groton Parks Foundation, have been able to extend the completion date to December 2016 for us to spend the remaining funds from the state grant on events field project and also obtained an extension until July 2015 for the trails project. He feels this extension should allow all funded work for both projects to be completed. He also noted that the amount of topsoil required to be removed for one section of the trail was substantially greater (18 inches) than the contractor bid value of 6 inches. Whether all the remaining trails can be completed or existing linear length reduced is still be discussed with the contractor and town officials; he will report back on that topic at our fall meeting.

He also gave an overview about work to obtain a Norcross Wildlife Federation Grant by the town as well as a solicitation in the spring/summer Town Recreation Guide for donations to the Groton Parks Foundation, which would benefit our park projects.

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**

To confirm the move of our September meeting to the first Wednesday of October (October 7) to match the similar meeting move by the Groton Parks Foundation.

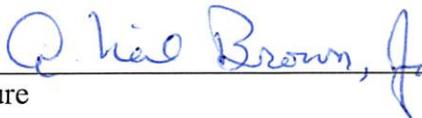
Overseer Sherrard noted that he attended a function on Saturday, May 2 that former Overseer Dave Winkler attended. Dave left the board in 2010, and wanted to wish all the current overseers the best for the future.

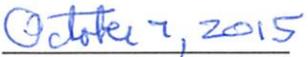
The board noted that our annual walk of the Copp Family Park will occur at 1 pm on Wednesday, July 1.

There was no other business consider. Overseer Sherrard and Overseer Filippetti moved and seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

  
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James Sherrard, Secretary, Copp Board of Overseers

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

  
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Signature

  
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Date