

GROTON PARKS FOUNDATION  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
Wednesday, May 4, 2016  
Minutes

I. Meeting called to order by Chairman, John Silsby at 1830

II. Roll Call:

Neil Brown, Paul Filippetti, Andy Halsey, Ray Munn, Jim Sherrard, John Silsby, <sup>*Domenic Venditti*</sup> and Parks & Recreation Director Mark Berry

III. Approval of minutes of October 7, 2015

Moved by Halsey with the addition of Venditti present, seconded by Venditti, approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report – Brown

From an initial balance of \$10,386.43, with a contribution from the State of \$2307.75 and expenditures during the year, gives a year-end balance of \$13,893.38. It was noted that the trails grant is now virtually expended, and the events field grant balance is approximately \$21K to \$22K, those funds expiring in December 2016. It has become apparent that United Way funding to the Foundation has not been forthcoming; conjecture was that an affidavit from the GPF asserting corporate positions may have to be submitted for that funding to proceed. Filippetti provided formal Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for GPF. Acceptance moved by Munn, seconded by Filippetti, and approved unanimously.

V. Unfinished

a. Update on Copp Property Projects – Mark Berry

Director Berry reported on the status of the trail development project. Boy Scouts have installed several trail junction posts and color-coded trail marker placards. Kent and Frost can prepare a sign and map for the park for a sign cost of \$1000 plus their design costs, with delivery in four to six weeks. It was moved and approved unanimously to provide up to \$2000 for this project (Brown/Sherrard). Venditti opined that future work should include historic markers at infrastructure around the park. Kent and Frost were not satisfied with <sup>*contractor*</sup> portions of the trail construction site work regarding sheet water flow; with a settlement reached, Groton Public Works provided corrective trenching.

b. Status of DEEP grants for Copp Property: Events Field and Trail Improvements

Chairman Silsby will contact the DEEP (Dave Steiger) to ascertain current and future grant opportunities. Consensus was established that future trail improvements should

involve lesser degrees of finish development, in favor of more natural trails than the new one constructed in the past two years.

**c. Fill opening on GPF Board**

1. With a vacancy on the GPF board of directors, Venditti moved and Copp seconded the appointment of Richard Conant to fill that vacancy; the motion was approved unanimously and the appointment was made.

**d. Update on Natural Playground Project**

The Natural Playground project has been delayed until 2018; a stakeholder group will be appointed.

**e. Update on donations to GPF in past 6 months**

Donations to GPF over the past year were reported in the Treasurer's report.

**f. Trail and Event Field Walk – June 2016**

The annual Copp trails walk was scheduled for 18 June 2016 at 1300.

**g. Status on Projects funded by GPF Grants**

GPF Grant Projects: The Peace Garden project costs have not yet been paid, awaiting a Rotary Club decision in June. The Walk with Ease program at the Senior Center has been publicized in Discover. There have been no other grant requests.

**h. Status on Webpage for GPF**

A young web author has been developing the GPS website, but has had a setback due to corrupted files.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Filing Annual Report – John**

Silsby has filed the annual report for GPF for 2015 and 2016.

**b. Booth at Fall Fest 2016 – Saturday, October 8th, 11 AM-5 PM**

Manning for the GPF booth at Fall Fest 2016 is TBD. An upgrade to the booth is necessary.

**c. Camping at the Copp Family Park**

Camping at the Copp Property is currently prohibited by the State under the decision that the park would have to meet "campground standards", which by rough estimate would cost approximately \$50K.

**d. Election of Officers**

Under election of officers, the following slate was nominated (Sherrard/Copp) and elected unanimously: Chairman – Silsby, Treasurer – Filippetti, and Secretary – Munn.

e. Calendar for GPF: Wednesday, October 5, 2016

f. 2017 Meeting Schedule: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 &

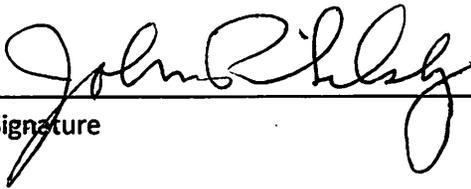
The meeting schedule for 2017 set a meeting on 3 May at 1830 and the second meeting TBD in October.

VII. No other matters were discussed.

VIII. The next meeting was scheduled for 12 October 2016.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 20:08.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

  
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Signature

*12 October 2017*  
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Date