

**Town of Groton
Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Spicer House at 7:15 PM
Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Chairman Butta.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners: Phil Butta, Ed Kolnaski, Tricia Semancik, and Greg Leonard
Staff: John Silsby

III. Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Ms. Semancik, seconded by Mr. Kolnaski, the minutes of the January 13, 2010 meeting were approved, as distributed.

IV. Citizen's Petitions

Daniel Orce and Jason Coray were present and interested in discussing the Department's consideration of developing a public paintball program. The Commission decided, as a courtesy to Mr. Orce and Mr. Coray to move Item VIII. A. Paintball Program up in the agenda. The commission referenced Jerry Lokken's January 11, 2010, memorandum to John Silsby entitled "Proposal to Provide a Paint Ball Facility", which recommended that a user fee supported program be implemented. The Commission discussed the various safety precautions and user rules that would be mandatory if a program was to be initiated. On motion by Ms. Semancik, seconded by Mr. Kolnaski, the Commission voted unanimously to endorse the proposed paintball program and to strongly encourage Department staff to identify/find a suitable location for the program.

V. Correspondence/Communications

A. Commissioners

Mr. Kolnaski reported that he was present during the March 4, 2010, 5th Annual Gerry Smith "Sportsmanship Award Winners" and that the event was very well received.

Ms. Semancik reported receiving a citizen's comment that the walking track at Poquonnock Plains Park was very uneven. Mr. Silsby stated that the track is graded every spring and would be done in the near future.

Mr. Butta reported several items including:

- February 17, 2010 - Discussion with Paul Kadri, Groton Superintendent of Schools regarding the potential enhancement of school/community interaction, especially with future planning.
- February 28, 2010 - Met with the leader of the adult roller hockey program.
- March 2, 2010 - Participated in hockey program discussion.

- B. Director of Parks and Recreation – none beyond items already addressed by the agenda.**

VI. Town Council Referral

None

VII. Reports

A. Monthly Reports

Mr. Silsby noted some concerns with the “DISCOVER” publication, including the print quality and also the cost to the Town, (e.g. not enough advertising sold to completely cover costs).

B. Golf Course Report

January’s revenue was up, while February’s was down.

C. Golf Advisory Board (GAB) Update

Next meeting is in April. Capital improvement projects and budget planning will be timely topics.

D. Master Plan Committee Update

The Committee has twelve (12) members. It has met twice since January and is developing two subcommittees to address the plan’s recommendations.

E. Sutton Park Master Plan Update

Will be addressed by the above referenced committee.

F. Senior Center Project Update

The Senior Center is scheduled for a “soft” re-opening on March 15, 2010 and an official reopening on March 27, 2010 to be followed by a week of special events.

G. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update

Mr. Leonard reported that he attended the BAB meeting on February 25, 2010 and that he plans on attending the March 11, 2010 meeting. He said that the BAB is focusing on increasing public access to town-owned waterfront properties and is developing an inventory map.

VIII. Old Business

A. Paintball Program

(Discussed previously – see Item IV, above.)

B. Groton Long Point Road - signage

Additional crosswalk signage by Esker Point beach has been approved by the Town, with installation pending.

C. FYE 2011 Budget Update

Mr. Silsby indicated the funding cuts were anticipated. He outlined the following upcoming meetings:

March 29, 2010 – Budget public hearing – Town Council

April 10, 2010 – Budget discussion – Town Council

May 11, 2010 – Budget discussion – RTM

D. GOSA Letter – Merritt Property

It was noted that the Commission had been provided with a copy of a letter GOSA sent to DEP regarding the Merritt Property.

IX. New Business

Revised Rules for Dog Park

The Commission discussed and edited the Dog Park Rules. On motion of Mr. Kolnaski, seconded by Ms. Semancik, the Commission unanimously approved the Dog Park Rules as amended, pending review by the Town's Attorney.

X. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 7:15 p.m. at the Senior Center

XI. Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Kolnaski, seconded by Ms. Semancik, the Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gregory C. Leonard, Secretary

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

Signature



Date

