

Town of Groton Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, December 14, 2011
Groton Senior Center at 7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Phil Butta called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Roll Call.

In attendance: Doug Ackerman, Jerry Lokken, Phil Butta, Ed Kolnaski, June Evered, Jim Kamercia.

Guest present: Mary Jo Riley, Senior Center Supervisor

III. Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2011, Meeting

Ed motioned to accept minutes. June seconded. Approved by all.

- IX. c. All members present agreed to move up Mary Jo Riley's scheduled Senior Center Update and "Walk and Talk" (Item IX.C). Mary Jo said that the Senior Center is up for re-accreditation. For this reason, Commission members and approximately 40 Center members had been invited to a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) workshop.

Mary Jo then passed out copies of the ensuing results. She added that success comes down to marketing the offered programs. She then brought Commission members on a guided tour of the Center.

IV. Citizens Petitions and Comments

None

V. Correspondence and Communications

a. Commissioners

Ed reported that Dave Huber says that numbers are noticeably down in girls' basketball. Dave is willing to help out a lot. Phil remarked that there appears to be a cultural shift as numbers in sports are down overall, for both boys and girls. Coach Glen Graham has offered to work with younger children to prepare them for high school. It is critical to keep young people active.

June received good and bad reports from a group that ate in Par Four. They said that food was delicious but that exterior steps needed some minor safety maintenance.

b. Interim Director of Parks and Recreation

None

VI. Town Council Referrals
None

VII. Reports.

a. Interim Director of Parks and Recreation

Budget - Doug said that budget discussions are just starting and asked that anyone having any budget-related initiatives bring them to him soon.

Trails - There is a lot going out with trails and we need to coordinate our trails management. We have a good network of volunteers, along with the Groton Parks Foundation to consider. As with the boating group, we need a defined project with specifics. Doug distributed a CIP project detail in which the following requests are made for fiscal year 2012:

\$30,000 for Beebe Pond Wooden Foot Bridge construction;
\$200,000 for second phase of Tri-Town Trail project;

Doug distributed copies of projected funding starting in FY2013 for three CIP projects. One is for reconstruction of the two basketball and two tennis courts at Farquhar Park and also for a planning engineering study for additional athletic fields on the Merritt Property, for a total of \$175,000. Second is funding of \$75,000 for a feasibility study for a Town of Groton Community/ Aquatics Center. Third is \$30,000 for wooden foot bridge construction at Beebe Pond, and also \$200,000 for the second phase of the Groton portion of the Tri-Town Trail.

b. Monthly Reports.

Jerry mentioned that previously, the monthly reports had one from the Director. Doug agreed that he will do a bulleted list for these reports in future.

c. Golf Course Report/GAB - Jim

Most recent Golf Course meeting cancelled.

d. Master Plan Committee - June

The Committee met on November 16. There was no quorum for the meeting held today, December 14. The Master Plan will be presented to the Town Council on January 24. The presentation will be slightly revised to allow for the alternative of an Aquatics Center separate from a Community Center. The Committee will ask the Town Council for \$75,000 for a feasibility study on the proposed Center. The 2012 Meetings calendar was also approved.

- e. Boating Advisory Board(BAB) Update - Phil
Jerry attended this group's last meeting as Phil couldn't go that night. The group dealt with their agenda for 2012, membership, electing officers, and discussion of the new boat rack being built at the back of Spicer Park.

Supports are already complete. They need volunteers on December 17 to help install the roof. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2012.

VIII. Old Business.

No Smoking Rule for Parks and Recreation Facilities

The group discussed limitations and implications for a town-wide no-smoking rule on Parks and Recreation properties. Phil asked that members ask around and bring comments on this issue to our next meeting.

IX. New Business.

a. Appointments - BAB and MPC

BAB - On motion of June Evered, seconded by Ed Kolnaski, the Commission unanimously approved the reappointments of Tom Tobin and George O'Brien to the Boating Advisory Board, both for another 3-year term, and regretfully approved the resignation of Jack Komorowski.

MPC - On motion of Ed Kolnaski, seconded by June Evered, the Commission unanimously approved the reappointments of Mike Doyle, Kathryn Brown-Tracy, and Carol Fox Spooner to the Master Plan Committee, all for another 3-year term.

b. Election of Officers.

On motion by Jim Kamercia, seconded by June Evered, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers for a term to expire December 31, 2012: Chairman Phil Butta; Vice-Chairman Edward Kolnaski; Secretary Patricia Semancik

X. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

XI. Adjournment

Ed motioned to adjourn, June seconded. All approved.
Adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

Signature



Date

1/11/12