

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 PM Wednesday, September 10, 2014
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm.

The Chair called for a moment of silence in honor of Catherine Kolnaski.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners: Jim Kamercia, Phil Butta, Jeff Zuliani, June Evered.

Staff: Mark Berry.

Guests in Attendance: None

III. Citizen's Petitions, Comments and Concerns

None

IV. Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2014

Motion to approve made by June Evered, seconded by Jeff Zuliani.

Discussion: The following statement to be added to these minutes: "Mark Berry advised Zeke to bring his complaints about rules on Eastern Point Beach to the City of Groton. Jerry also provided the Parks and Recreation's phone number".

The minutes were then approved three to one, Phil Butta abstaining as being absent from this meeting.

V. Town Council Referrals

None

VI. Correspondence/Communications

Commissioners:

Phil Butta - Phil informed the group that a group of volunteers had worked on the rink to make repairs as a result of the hurricane. Those volunteers were: Craig Steadman, Ray Arnott, Dan Klarman, and Jeff Jodoin. Phil is impressed that we have such great volunteers on our teams.

Mark Berry:

Mark was approached by a food cart vendor for permission to sell food at Poquonnock Plains Park. He advised this person that such permission must go through a formal bid process. He also mentioned that the football league have always sold food during games as a fund raiser so competition would not be advisable.

Mark received a letter from a citizen complaining about dogs leaving messes at Central Bark. He replied that Parks and Recreation have always encouraged people to clean up after their dogs and there are notices posted to that effect. He can't spare a staff person to stay at the park to monitor cleanups. A possible solution is to move the collections barrels conveniently closer to where the groups meet.

VII. Reports

A. Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chad Frost presented the needs assessment and Master Plan for the Merritt Fields to the Town Council on August 26. It appeared to be very well received. Counselor Cerf remarked that this was a great location for the fields. Tournaments on these fields may bring people into town. On September 29 at 7:30 pm at the Town Annex, there will be a public presentation on the Merritt property.

The responsibility of Fitch Middle School has been transferred from the Board of Education to the Town.

Bids went out today for the proposed trail on the Copp property.

The Senior Center Lifelines publication has been changed to eliminate repetition and to be more user friendly. Non-Residents are now eligible to join Club 55.

Golf course employees met with IT people to develop a mobile app, "Golf Now".

Kate made many changes to the Discover publication.

A. Monthly Reports – Parks and Recreation

A hard copy of the report was given to Commissioners.

B. Golf Course Report/GAB – Jim

The course did very well over the summer months.

C. Master Plan Committee

The Committee met on August 27. Many projects on the 2009 Master Plan have already been completed but there are valuable projects still remaining. The Master Plan team will make the decision which to pursue.

D. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update – Phil

The request for a new modular dock for Spicer Park has been approved by the Town Council and will go to the RTM on October 8. The project is to be done in November. The cost will be taken out of Reserves but will be reimbursed in full by fees. This new dock will provide the handicapped improved access and entry into the boats.

E. Trails Coordinating Task Force - June

No meeting held. June did add that the TriTown Trails have been approved for 501c3 tax-deductible status for fundraising. They will have a trail head sign unveiling on Saturday, September 27 at 2 pm at Preston Community Park. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16, at the Paddock in Ledyard.

VIII. Old Business

Field Use - Mark distributed an overview of playing fields prioritization. The challenge is coordinating schedules as both the Board of Education and Groton Parks and Recreation are using some of the same fields. Parks and Recreation are seeking solutions. Not a single group can be totally accommodated as there are just not enough fields available.

IX. New Business

Election of Vice-Chair and Secretary for Remainder of Term.

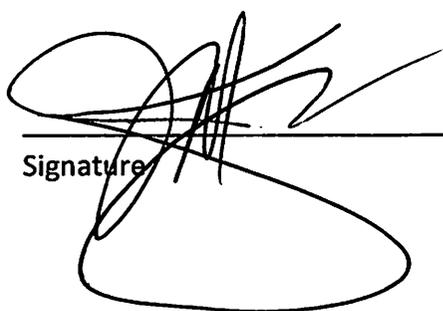
June will remain as Vice-Chair but will act as secretary ex-officio until official elections are made in December.

X. Next meeting – October 8, 2014, 7 pm. Groton Senior Center.

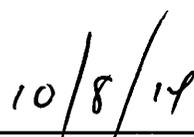
XI. Adjournment Motion to adjourn made by Phil Butta, seconded by Jeff Zuliani. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature



Date