

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 pm, Wednesday, May 13, 2015
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. **Call to Order.** Jim Kamercia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

II. **Roll Call.**

Commissioners: Jim Kamercia, Phil Butta, June Evered. Jeff Juliani and Jonathan Grossman also attended but both were delayed by Groton youth sports.

Staff: Mark Berry.

Guest in Attendance: Mike Buonano.

III. **Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2015.**

A motion to delay this vote until absent members arrived was made by June and seconded by Phil. Approved unanimously.

At 7:45 pm., Jim made a motion to approve the April 8, 2015 minutes, seconded by Jeff.

Motion approved, with June abstaining (absent from that meeting).

IV. **Citizens Petitions and Comments.** None.

V. **Town Council Referrals.** None.

VI. **Correspondence/Communications.**

A. **Commissioners.**

Phil promised correction to be added. See minutes of June 10, 2015 for correction.

Phil. Approached by a father whose son's game was cancelled for bad weather. Phil offered him tickets for another game but only different sports were available. In the meantime, the father saw that there were teams playing on that field regardless of the bad weather and he was upset that his son's team had been cancelled and he subsequently had to play two games on the same night. Phil feels that there can be bad feelings about situations like this. He feels that we need to work harder to bring people back and to work harder with the teams to prevent similar situations.

Jim. Opening day for baseball was a big success. There were wonderful comments. Jim wishes that there could be a sound system there to announce the games. The City pays for sound for their games and people feel that the Town should also provide sound.

June. Reported that Conrad Heede who was just elected to the City Council is very interested in expanding our trail system to the City. He works at the Marriott and would like to be able to ride his bicycle to work. Mark will follow through on this.

B. **Director of Parks and Recreation – Mark.**

1. Met with resident concerned with the proposed project on the 11th green to move the trees and leave the open space as it was before. Mark met with the architect.

The project is moving forward with a revised plan that is satisfactory to both parties.

2. A request was received from a resident on Eastern Point Road to remove the stump of a tree that had blown down during hurricane Sandy.

VII. Reports.

A. Director of Parks and Recreation - Mark Berry.

1. The regular budget was approved as presented with no amendments.

Capital Improvements - The repairs to the stone wall were approved for ^{20,000} \$25,000, only enough to repair 176 feet. The Open Space Management Plans were not approved.

2. \$20,000 was approved for a management plan for the sand at Esker Point Beach. The plan has to go through DEEP. There are steps that can be taken to help keep the sand on the actual beach. It would also give us approval to extract the sand that ends being carried up in front of people's homes.
3. \$50,000 was approved for golf course renovations.
4. Mark wants to highlight that the department is now offering a new birthday party rental service at William Seely School. Not only does the service fill a need in the community for parents looking to host parties for children at an affordable price, but the parties generate additional revenue in support of the budget. The cost for a party is \$150 for two hours including a classroom for eating the cake and the gym for games. To date, 17 parties have been held and another 6 are planned in the next month. Phil suggested making a video on this for public TV.
5. Kate Bradley will attend the meeting next month
6. The department has received \$14,050 in sponsorships with another \$2000 to come. They are also working with Navy families. Mark was surprised to learn that both Navy parents must be in active enlisted status to qualify for the use of Navy facilities. This makes these costly for many families.
7. The Town of Groton Parks and Recreation Annual Report 2014 was published and distributed.

B. Monthly Reports – Parks and Recreation. ~~None.~~ *see A.*

C. Golf Course Report/GAB . Mark. The course had a really good April. Todd is working hard on picking up more memberships.

D. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update – Phil.

1. The board met on April 30. The kayak racks at Spicer Park are being reconfigured. The rowing club uses the dock there on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A large group of kids are getting out on the water. This is good as some of them may not have any other sports. Some of them are now starting racing. They have asked if the dock reconstruction can be held off until after June 6 so as not to interfere with their training.

*see mark
for changes*



2. Noank Rowing Club signed a Memo of Understanding agreeing to continue to provide instruction.
3. Small Boat Day – May 30. Bill Grady, MC for Small Boat Day, has visions of having a swap meet for used boating equipment. This would take some planning. Noank Rowing Club will bring down their ERGS (ergometers). Parks and Recreation will put up some maps of suitable and available areas for small boating. From 10 am to 2 pm there will be paddleboards.
4. Ribbon cutting for the new dock will be held early morning on fireworks day, estimated to be on July 11. The Town Council, RTM and others will be invited.
5. The boating board plans to have a brain storming session for the long term status of Spicer House. For instance, how would it be used if moved to another location.
6. The Noank Rowing Club is sponsoring a Learn to Row day at Spicer Park on Saturday, June 6 from– 9 to noon.

E. Trails Coordinating Task Force – June.

The Task Force met on April 23, 2015 at 4:15 PM at the Groton Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). There was a short discussion on future Trail Information events and advocacy projects. The group discussed applying for a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, a group that supports conservation of the eco-system and natural habitats for wildlife. The group then took a walk along the Trolley Trail to the end where it has been fenced off. The hairpin turn occurs at that end.

VIII. Unfinished Business. None.

IX. New Business.

A. Welcome to Jonathan Grossman, newest Commissioner. Jonathan is involved in education and is looking forward to serving on the Commission.

B. **Budget Update.** See VII. 1 to 4. Brief overview.

X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 - 7 00 PM at Groton Senior Center.

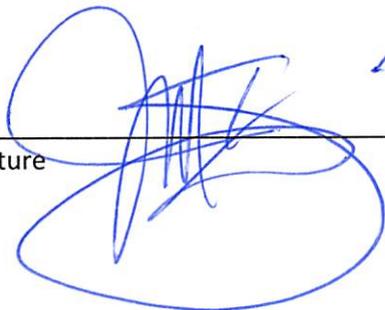
XI. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Phil, seconded by Jeff. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Submitted by June Evered.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

*w/ Ammendments & Corrections to
Be added -*

Signature



Date

6/10/15