

**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**7:00 pm, Wednesday, October 14, 2015**  
**Groton Senior Center**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Jim Kamercia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Commissioners in Attendance: Jim Kamercia, June Evered, Jonathan Grossman,  
and Jeff Zuliani.

Absent: Phil Butta

Staff: Mark Berry

Guests in Attendance: Mike Buonano; George O'Brien. Both interested in boating.

**III. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2015**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jonathan, seconded by Jeff.  
Approved unanimously.

**IV. Citizens Petitions and Comments**

None.

**V. Town Council Referrals**

None.

**VI. Commissioners' Correspondence/Communications**

Jim congratulated Parks and Recreation on the success of the 2015 Fall Festival at Poquonnock Plains Park. Mark replied that there were between 120 and 130 vendors this year. Jim had heard that the entertainers this year were better than ever. Jonathan is on the GBA Fall Festival committee but hasn't seen the feedback yet.

There were some criticisms that there were not enough garbage bags. Jeff felt that the event could have used more police presence. Jonathan heard complaints that there were not enough food vendors. He added that these people were referring to country fair type foods like fried dough. Jim felt that it would have been nice to have had an area set up like a farm market. Mark said that bringing animals in would require insurance. Mark explained that Parks and Recreation only provides the site. A committee manages the rest. They try to bring in only one vendor for each category of food.

## VII. Reports

### A. Director of Parks and Recreation - Mark Berry

1. Mark went to an NRPA conference. He attended a variety of sessions. These were very educational and informative on what other parks and recreation departments are doing.
2. Mark worked with Kate on promoting the parks and recreation department at the Fall Festival. They also sent out a golf survey to which they had a good response. Jim asked what some of the problems identified in the survey were. Golf problems reported were bunkers and the need for more sand. A fairly high percentage said they would buy breakfast if it were to be offered. ~~Jim described his past as a youth selling hot dogs and a drink for \$2.~~ He added that most of the surrounding golf courses offer breakfast.
3. Matt Forde had sent an E-mail stating that he is interested in putting a synthetic turf surface on Poquonnock Plains Park. Mark will be meeting with them to discuss options.
4. Mark has been meeting with Samer Delgado of a group who had been using the old jungle gym and playground equipment at the former Pleasant Valley School for training and fitness exercises without authorization. This was finally stopped by the Board of Education. Samer wishes to continue working with this group. Now he has a meeting with Mark and other Town and Board of Education officials to present his case. Mark advised Samer that he needs to demonstrate strong interest from the population.
5. The grant for a butterfly project at Copp was denied. Mark will continue seeking funds for this.
6. Kate has been working on several activities. She made enhancements to the "Shennecossett" front page and created a new email template for weekly Shenny specials. She had also been marketing the 10K relay race and working on building relationships with local businesses.
7. The Senior Center held an Active Aging Week a few weeks ago. Mary Jo and Mark developed an Outdoor Adventure Travel group (OAT) to tap into the younger senior market. They recently did the zip lining at Fields of Fire and loved it. The Senior Center will continue to offer these activities. The kitchen is now offering Grab and Go meals. This means that seniors can eat a healthy meal in the Center and also take a healthy meal home. They are averaging 120 Grab and Go meals a month and generating more revenue for the Center.
8. We are still without a Parks foreman. Other staff is helping out.

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9. Shennecossett had a good month in September, up \$1000 up from last year.

**B. Golf Course Report/GAB**

Jim agreed with Mark's statements on the survey. He added that their board is looking for another member.

**C. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update. Phil absent**

Guest George O'Brien says they are looking for other members for BAB. Jim asked what George's vision for the Spicer parcel is. He would like a fine boating facility down at Spicer Park. George is looking for a place to locate his ERG rowing units. They are currently in the field house at Fitch High School. He and his wife conduct training sessions on these. They have Pilates on one side of the room and the ERGs are on the other.

June had received a complaint about the bathrooms at Spicer Park. George replied that they are useable and taken care of as well as can be done. These are basement bathrooms, not the Marriott. They try to do enhancements as often as they can.

**D. Trails Coordinating Task Force – June. Meeting cancelled.**

**E. Sports Complex**

General discussion ensued. The Town is working on refining their alternate site list if the schools take over the Merritt property.

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

None

**IX. New Business**

**A. Boating Advisory Board – Member Reappointment**

Action on this was delayed until Phil can be present.

**B. Boating Advisory Board – Expansion of Board**

Action on this delayed until Phil can be present.

**C. Meeting Schedule for 2016**

A motion to remain with the present schedule of meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, with the exception of July during which there shall be no meeting, was presented by June and seconded by Jonathan. Approved unanimously.

**D. Copp Board – Camping rules review request**

Mark explained that this issue is on the agenda because of a request to allow a Boy Scout group to camp overnight on the property. Parks and Recreation current rules do not allow overnight camping anywhere in town. The request is for the Commission to change the current rules.

A motion was made by Jeff, seconded by Jim, to delay this discussion until next meeting to allow time for the Commission to go over the rules.  
Approved unanimously.

X. **Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 - 7 00 PM at Groton Senior Center**

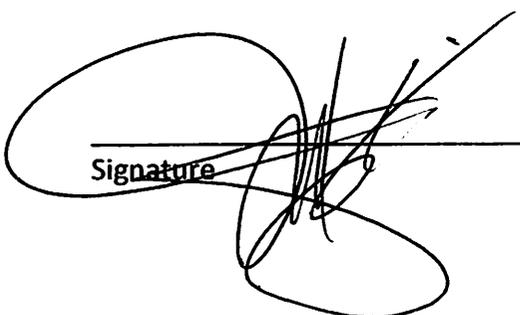
XI. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Jeff, seconded by Jim. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by June Evered.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

*w/ connection*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*11/18/15*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date