

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 PM Wednesday, October 12, 2016
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order**
7:04 pm

- II. **Roll Call**
In attendance: Jim Kamercia, Jeff Zuliani and June Evered.
Mark Berry
Absent: Jon Grossman

- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 14, 2016**
Meeting minutes acceptance proposed by Jeff, seconded by June.
Approved unanimously.

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

- V. **Town Council Referrals**
Mark reported that the Town Manager has requested that each Town department lists all the services provided by their department. The Town Council is preparing their personal lists of services that they consider essential.

- VI. **Correspondence/Communications**
 - A. **Commissioners**
The golf course financial report is not yet available. Totals for this past September are down from last September but the numbers are still ahead overall. Mark had attended a meeting of the Golf Advisory Board. Each meeting now has a different topic. The last meeting focused on marketing. Mark felt that it was a very good meeting. Members play at courses around the country and came up a bunch of great and feasible suggestions.

- VII. **Reports**
 - A. **Golf Course Report / GAB – Jim**
The bench that was vandalized will be totally replaced at no cost to the Town. The original bench was a granite bench erected in honor of two Groton Police who had been killed in duty. The course has suffered vandalism – flagpoles broken, sprinkler heads snapped, greens set on fire. Some of the vandals have been identified.

 - B. **Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update**
No report.

 - C. **Trails Coordinating Task Force – June**
June reported that the task force met on September 22, 2016. It was a good meeting.
 - 1. Avalonia is working on an application for membership in the Land Trust Alliance.

2. Copp Property - Mark is working on a trail grant ~~wrapping up a large grant~~ that would continue the trail work that was completed last year. He is also working on a sign for beneath the kiosk at the entrance to the park.
3. X Town Trail. GOSA checked the trails after a strong storm. This is a mast year for acorns which fall like ball bearings. (Oaks shed more acorns in mast years).
4. GOSA is moving to be a cooperative manager with the State of the Tilcon property. The total cost is \$785,000 of which GOSA will supply \$117,750 and the State the rest.
5. Groton Town Trails. All grant monies have been received. Summer camp kids wrote thank you notes to volunteers who escorted them on hikes in the parks.
6. TriTown Trails is in the process of obtaining access approval from property owners. They will seek a recreation grant fund for the trail construction.
7. The Trail Task Force meeting schedule for the next twelve months will be December 7, 2016, and March 16, June 15, and September 21, 2017.

D. Athletic Fields

Mark is submitting a request in the CIP 2018 for \$36,000 for consultant to review the potential of available sites for multiple fields. The contract is to do an analysis of potential sites and come up with estimated costs.

E. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Representative of Groton Little League is pursuing the installation of lights for the Calvin Burrows field. They are already working with Mark on permitting. This lighting will help alleviate the existing field shortage.
2. There have been complaints about the odor from the seaweed at Esker Point Beach. This is not a natural beach and the weed gathers there. The seaweed would typically be raked one time but this year it needs to be cleaned out again. The Town has been working with the City as they have a beach groomer. The seaweed is trucked to Coogan Garden where it is put to good use.
3. The principal of Cutler Middle School is in favor of the foot bridge being built behind the school. Besides completing the cross town trail, the bridge would give the students an additional exit in case of any emergencies.
4. The Town is currently negotiating with a consultant to develop a beach management plan. The plan will help reduce the ongoing loss of sand from the beach.
5. Kate is working to get sponsors for each of the teams for GBA (Groton Basketball). Last year there were 23 teams in the league.
6. The Walk with a Doc series at Poquonnock Plains Park was successful. We partnered with L& M for that. Mark wants to expand our involvement with health care providers – that they may encourage using the parks as a conduit for better health.
7. The Senior Center partnered with Connecticut College to participate in helping seniors with IT problems. This took place in the Senior Center. It was a great success on both sides.
8. The golf business is seeing a seasonal slowdowns in business. Feedback from the public is that the course is in great shape and Eric does a great job.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Council Presentation

The Parks and Recreation staff is planning to attend an upcoming Town Council and RTM meeting to discuss what recreation means to the community.

They are also working on putting together a questionnaire on how to promote the Senior Center for men. They are ~~using~~ planning on using a focus group, advertising on Facebook and circulating a survey to gather feedback.

IX. New Business

A. Review of proposed CIP Projects

Mark is resubmitting some projects that were turned down last year. These include trail, golf course, and park improvements. He is requesting \$60,000 for Engineering Design Services for a playground made from stone and wood. He is putting together a committee as there is ~~a ton of~~ interest in nature based playgrounds. The balance of the project will be paid by fund raising.

Helen Rush, chair of Club 55 at the Senior Center wishes to replace the Center road sign and make it a variable display sign for messages. Club 55 has raised \$2,200. We are applying for a grant from Millstone.

Mark is writing a grant for work at the Copp property to do trail work, place educational signs and to plant milkweed, this to encourage monarch butterflies for the planned butterfly habitat restoration project.

B. Meeting dates for 2017

The meeting schedule for the coming year was approved for the 2nd Wednesday of each month, excepting July when there will be no meeting.

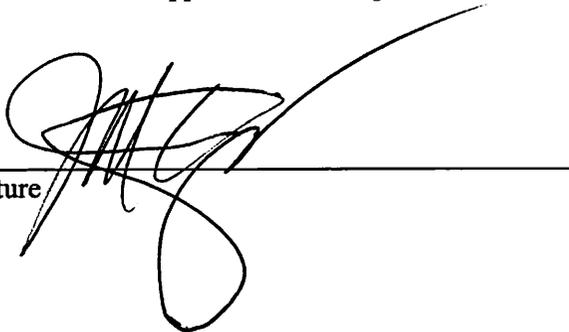
X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2016 - 7:00 PM at Groton Senior Center

XI. Adjournment

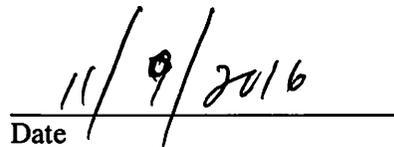
Proposed by Jim, seconded by Jeff, approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

Minutes have been approved and accepted.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim", written over a horizontal line.

Date

A handwritten date "11/9/2016" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.