

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 PM Wednesday, May 10, 2017
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order. Jim Kamercia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Roll Call.

Commissioners: Jim Kamercia, June Evered, Jeff Zuliani, Scott ^{Pierce} ~~Pierce~~.
Jonathan Grossman arrived at 7:43 pm. Staff: Mark Berry.

III. Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2017.

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

IV. Citizens Petitions and Comments.

Scott reported that the floor boards in the Poquonnock River walkway have serious rot in places and need repair.

June commented that several Senior Center members felt that it was inappropriate to use a 911 communication to ask people to bake goods for the upcoming flea market. Mark replied that this method of mailing was used as the police had allowed use of their mass mailing system as being less expensive. The schools had been asked to use theirs, but had refused.

Jeff said that the green net behind Calvin Burrows football field is not there anymore and that the bench at Fitch Middle School building needs repair.

V. Town Council Referrals.

None.

VI. Commissioners' Correspondence/Communications.

None.

VII. Reports.

A. Golf Course Report/GAB - Jim.

Proceeds for April were better this year than last year, but those for March last year were better than those for this year. We are down \$33,000. This is caused by weather, as many recent weekends have too much rain for people to play.

B. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) – Scott.

1. The Magnet School boats have boosted usage considerably.
2. Learn to Row day will be held on July 1 at Esker Point Beach.
3. The status of the walk up ramp at Spicer is still in flux.
4. Scott has volunteered to take photographs of water access sites.

C. Trails Coordinating Task Force - June.

1. The Annual meeting of the Tri Town Trail Association will take place on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at the 7:30 pm in the Groton Town Library.
2. The next meeting of the Task Force will be on June 22 at 4 pm in the Groton Senior Center.

D. Athletic Fields.

Mark reported that the Mystic Muddy Mayhem event at the Fields of Fire location was a huge success with everyone having a good time. 340 runners participated ranging in age from 10 to 78 years old. The event brought in \$13,318 of which half of the net proceeds will go to the Senior Center and half to Parks and Recreation. Viewing of the videos of the event reached more than 1,600 people. This will be helpful in promoting the event in future.

E. Director of Parks & Rec - Mark Berry.

1. Pursuant to Parks and Recreation moving their activities from the William Seely School to Fitch Middle School, Mark attended a meeting with Public Works and the contractor installing the fire suppression system at FMS. The Town is spending \$300,000 for improvements to FMS. Parks and Recreation are spending an

additional \$100,000 to prepare the building as a community center. The change from William Seely to Fitch is scheduled to take place in 14 months.

2. Mark received a phone call from an artist who wishes to paint a giant mural in the skate park. The mural will need to be improved by Parks and Recreation. There was some discussion over how to protect this mural once it is completed.
3. Improvements are being made to the golf course to change the orientation in some locations. There is a Boy Scout who will build three tees for his Eagle Scout project.
4. Summer Camps. In 2007, the Town of Groton summer camps cost \$15 a week and 2,900 kids attended. In 2016, camps cost \$76 a week and 1,500 kids attended. The City charges \$300 for 8 weeks as they subsidize their camps. There was some discussion on raising money for scholarships for needy kids. \$300 has been raised so far.
5. Victoria Chong, an East Lyme student, approached Shawn Greeley about doing a video project for her school. The final project, a 30 second Public Service announcement, is now being shown on Channel 2.
6. When the Public Works budget was cut by \$200,000, the PW director announced that they will no longer provide irrigation, utilities and cleaning services to Poquonnock Plains Park and Calvin Burrows field and that they will no longer keep open the bathrooms at Esker Point Beach and Sutton Park.

VIII. Unfinished Business.

A. Rules and Regulations Review.

Postponed until all board members are on the same copy. The focus is on Facility Reservations on Page 7.

IX. New Business.

- A. Review Boating Advisory Board application for Richard Waters.**
Scott recommends approval highly.

Motion to approve Richard Waters' application for the Boating Advisory Board made by Jon, seconded by Scott. Approved unanimously.

- X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM at Groton Senior Center.**

XI Adjournment.

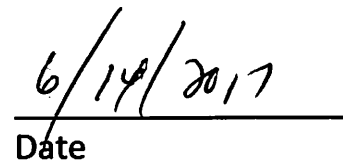
Proposed by Jon, seconded by Scott, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature



Date