

Parks and Recreation Commission
7:00 PM Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Groton Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

II. Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Jim Kamercia, Chair; Jeff Zuliani, Vice Chair;
June Evered, Secretary; Scott Peirce, Member
Staff: Mark Berry, Director, Parks and Recreation.

Jonathan Grossman has resigned. The other members thank him for his service.
June agreed to act as Secretary in his place.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 13, 2017

Motion to approve minutes made by Scott, seconded by June.
Approved unanimously.

IV. Citizens Petitions and Comments

None

V. Town Council Referrals

None

VI. Correspondence/Communications

A. Commissioners

- a. June asked if Mark would be interested in being nominated for the CRPA (Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association) Board of Directors. Mark replied that he is too involved with the budget to consider it at this time. Mark reported that Ben Morse, ~~currently serves~~ *currently serves* on the CRPA Executive Board.

This is OK →

- b. Scott distributed a multipage bundle of initiatives and programs obtainable through NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association).

VII. Reports

A. Golf Course Report / GAB – Jim

No meeting in January. The course suffered a weather related loss in December. The 2018 rates will be finalized in February.

B. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) – Scott

No meeting in January. The boating season is approximately May 24 through October 25.

C. Trails Coordinating Task Force – June

The Task Force met on 12/7.

Avalonia. Joellen reported that Avalonia will hold its 50th anniversary event at the Mystic Aquarium on 2/21/2018 from 5 to 7 pm. She also reported that a GIS mapping project will be funded in part by CT Land.

Copp Property. Mark reported that the work that needs to be done next on Copp is digging holes for directional signs. This task is suitable for a Scout wishing to earn an Eagle badge.

Cross Town Trail. Mark reported that an engineer has developed a plan for the bridge behind the Cutler Middle School. This is shovel project ready and thus more appealing for grants. It is estimated that the bridge will be at least 30 feet long and approximately 5 feet wide. There is water on both sides so 2 feet need to be allowed for this on both sides. Anticipated cost of materials for the bridge is \$18,000, but the planning costs may be around \$7,000 because of the difficult terrain.

Town Trails – Mark.

A study on connecting Depot Road to Thomas Road was presented to the Town Council. The decision was made to restripe the roads to denote bicycle lanes as the cost of building new lanes from scratch would be too expensive. The plan is to push the pavement out to 2 feet on either side and add stripes on one side of the road. Money for other trails identified in a previous Trails Task Force meeting has been approved. One trail is to the High School, another to the treatment plant. The first phase will start in the year 2024 as the CIP is for five years out.

June was appointed Secretary.

The meeting Schedule for 2018 was agreed as follows:

March 15, June 21, September 20, December 6

All meetings are Thursdays, 4 pm to 6 pm at the Groton Senior Center.

D. Athletic Fields

The Town engineer is working on design plans to make improvements to one of the fields at Fitch Middle School. Mark reported that he is still waiting to hear from the tournament organizers about the decision to hold a Lax tournament on Memorial Day weekend. The Groton Youth Football will be asked if they have any interest in opening up a concession stand for tournaments. Otherwise, food trucks will be brought in.

E. Director of Parks & Recreation

The Director reported that the golf course was entering into a new golf cart lease agreement. The cost of the carts is approximately \$12,000 more than the previous lease because the course owned the previous cart so there was a credit applied to the lease.

The FYE19 budget was presented to the Town Manager and the Budget Team. The department has been working with a graphic designer to finalize the Sponsorship Packet. The Senior Center hosted the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Before Business at the Senior Center.

The department was able to get a sponsor for each of the 25 teams in the Groton Basketball Association. Money collected from sponsors helps offset program costs.

Senior Center staff have been busy writing a couple of grants to support the programs and services they provide.

VIII. Unfinished Business
No discussion

IX. New Business

A. FYE19 Budget Review

Mark summarized his budget presentation to the Town Manager. The budget presented reflected a 1.7% increase. Included in the budget were proposals to expand Senior Center hours to Saturday morning and increase bus transportation hours to cover the increased demand for those attending Community Meals. Part of the presentation included proposing cuts to achieve a 0% increase and a 5% decrease. One of the proposed changes was to eliminate the July 4th parade. Also, two seasonal summer employees may be eliminated.

X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 - 7:00 PM at Groton Senior Center

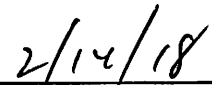
XI. Adjournment

Scott motioned that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by June. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature



Date