

**Town of Groton
Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Spicer House at 7:15 PM
Meeting Minutes**

DRAFT

I. Call to Order

Called to Order at 7:15 PM by Chairman Butta

II. Roll Call

Commissioners: Phil Butta, Dick McCarthy, Ed Kolnaski, Tricia Semancik and Greg Leonard

Staff: John Silsby and Jerry Lokken

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Semancik motioned to approve. Seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Unanimously approved, as distributed.

IV. Citizen's Petitions

None

V. Correspondence/Communications

A. Commissioners

1. Mr. Kolnaski has been discussing the Jerry Smith Good Sportsmanship Award with Greg Goode. The annual ceremony is being planned for March. Valvoline Oil has donated \$500.
2. Mr. McCarthy attended the Tri-Town Committee meeting, regarding the proposed trail from Preston to Bluff Point. The next meeting is January 25, 2010.
3. Chairman Butta attended the December 10, 2009, Boating Advisory Group meeting. Also, he had a citizen contact him with an interest in advancing paint ball activities.

B. Director of Parks and Recreation

None

VI. Town Council Referral

Mr. Lokken represented the Department at the January 12, 2010, COW meeting. Pertinent matters discussed included:

1. Parks and Senior Center Rules – passed
2. Community Gardens – updated
3. Spicer House – conversion of handicap lift to a ramp is being deferred while the Town considers an alternate Parks and Recreation office location.

VII. Reports

A. Monthly Report

The Commission reviewed the December 2009 Month Report. Comments included:

1. New feature at skateboard park via donation – should be publicly “Talked up”
2. Senior Center received a National Award.
3. Meals-On-Wheels program and inclement weather cancellations
4. The Youth Football program leaders have pledged cooperation on any issues including the volume of music at football events.

B. Golf Course Report

Poor weather in December has led to decreased levels of play and corresponding revenues.

**C. GAB (Golf Advisory Board) Update – next meeting February 1
No Report**

D. Master Plan Update – appointment of Master Plan Committee; liaison with Board of Education

1. The initial committee meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010. Mr. McCarthy is the commission liaison, with Mr. Kolnaski as the alternate.
2. Applications for the two additional committee members were distributed. On motion of Ms. Semancik, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Commission unanimously appointed Kathryn Brown-Tracy (2 year term) and Raymond S. Dunn (3 year term) to the Master Plan Updated Committee.

E. Sutton Park Master Plan – form Master Plan Committee

The Sutton Park Master Plan will be addressed by the overall Master Plan Committee.

F. Senior Center Project Update

1. The Center will move from the Noank School to the renovated Center the last week in February.
2. March 1 “Soft Opening” with ribbon cutting March 27.

On motion of Ms. Semancik, seconded by Mr. Kolnaski, the Committee voted to change the location of the March 10, 2010 meeting from Spicer House to the Senior Center.

G. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update

1. Interested in improving access to water. Town property inventory and evaluate.
2. Exploring installation of Kayak rack/lock system at Esker Point Waterfront Park.
3. Spicer Park improvements – shelter for rowing craft and improve kayak access
4. Planning small craft dealer demos for Healthy Groton Month.
5. Interested in having the Town cover operation and maintenance expenses for Spicer Park dock.
6. On motion of Mr. Leonard, seconded, by Mr, Kolnaski, the Commission voted unanimously to endorse the concept of having the Spicer Park dock’s operating and maintenance expenses be included in the Parks and Recreation budget as opposed to being funded by the dock’s users.

VIII. Old Business

Use of Merritt Property – impact on trail master plan

No recent developments.

A. Paintball Program

Mr. Lokken stated he was preparing a proposal, to be submitted to Mr. Silsby, on the potential to provide opportunities for developing a paintball program. He stated he received great assistance from a paintball advocate/leader. He said that he expects that user fees would cover costs. He said that he proposal would involve the use of a town-owned parcel of land.

B. Groton Long Point Rd. – additional signage by Esker Point Beach

Additional signs have been approved by the Town Traffic Commission and will be installed soon.

C. Draft of New Pricing Policy

Mr. McCarthy moved, seconded by Mr. Leonard, that the Commission endorse the new program pricing policy, as distributed. Substantial discussion ensued, including:

- a. Direct costs VS indirect costs**
- b. All Recreation programs are supported beyond user fees, to some degree.**
- c. Program participants should be advised of pricing policy through summary/graphic in DISCOVER and by having full policy available on-line, in the office, etc.**

D. FYE2011 Budget Updated – due to Finance Dept. – January 14

- 1. Potential cutback in State Aid could affect current budget and programs.**
- 2. Employee benefit costs, especially health care insurance, increasing drastically.**
- 3. Meeting with Town Manager January 29, 2010.**

IX. New Business

None

X. Next Meeting Date: February 10 at 7:15 PM at Spicer House.

XI. Adjournment

A. On motion of Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Semancik, the Commission adjourned at 9:00 PM.