



Town of Groton, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes
Parks and Recreation Commission

Parks and Recreation
 27 Spicer Avenue
 Noank, CT 06340
 860-536-5680

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Location:

REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to Order

I.A 7:04 by Dom

Moved by:		Seconded by:	
Commission Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN

I. Roll Call

Mark Berry (MB), Jerry Lokken, Elizabeth Hogan (EH), Dominick Bassi (DB), Fran Whitney (FW), Carolyn Wilson (from GASP).

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

III.A

Moved by: Hogan		Seconded by: Whitney	
Commission Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Unanimous	X		

IV. Citizens' Petitions and Comments

IV.A FW- question about masking policy in the Community Center. MB- Required indoors for all activities in the Community Center. Waiting for numbers to go down below a certain level. Hurting program enrollment, but must be the policy. Building monitor makes sure they are masking in the buildings and instructors are aware masks need to stay on during classes

V. Town Council Referrals

V.A None

VI. Correspondence/Communications

VI.A Commissioners

None

VII. Reports

VII.A Director of Parks and Recreation

X-Town Trail Footbridge was built for children's safety out of school property. Oct. 19 at 5:00 ribbon-cutting.

ARPA funds- Discussion on spending of available money to town- Several projects that we would like to use money for P&R activities/purposes. Advocate for spending for important projects.

Tuesday Oct 19-

Groton senior center 6:30- 8:30

Groton city Hall 1:00-3:00

Walkway around Poquonnock Plains Park, Court behind Community Center and hockey rink, and Groton Skate Park are priorities right now.

EH- asking what happened to the tent that was used last year. MB- Was not commercial-grade, looking to replace it with a commercial grade tent in order to better meet fire codes (shell needs to be fire-retardant, and other requirements for certain size tents). So the previous tent cannot be used.

EH- Question about athletic fields, and why spending money on that is not listed among projects. MB- we don't have quotes yet for the pricing, so cannot list an unknown amount.

EH- Can the department prioritize getting fields added to the list. MB- depending on how much money the department gets, can prioritize.

VII.B Golf Course

Golf Course- Still going strong. Adjustments based on light available since it is getting dark earlier. Last year was the best year in 10 years, and we are still trending ahead of last year, so this is good.

VII.C Trails Coordinating Task Force

Met in Sept. Met with new coordinator (Noah). He wants to update the current town trails

webpage. Three style types will be presented at the December meeting and they will determine which will be best. Then they will start updating the web page.

DB- asking if P&R as anything to do with trail head near the Marriot. MB- No. There has been discussion about a trail that runs along that road outside the fence along the reservoir there and connecting to the Copp Property.

VII.D Athletic Fields

Going to council to Make a presentation on 10/26/21 to look at options the landscape architect has been working on. Discussion of some mixed use at property off of Rt. 117 near Claude Chester. Trying to get a sense of what the Town Council's wish is moving forward.

VII.E Agency Accreditation

MB- got an email from the organization asking for a visit date. Meeting Monday to determine where "holes" are and what needs to be done to finalize. This will help determine a proposed date between March and June.

VII.F Pratt Recreation Building

No progress or report for the month.

VIII. Unfinished Business

VIII.A Kolnaski Conservation Area- Renaming

Groton Conservation Advocates proposed the name change at a previous meeting for a name that was already used in another Groton location. Commission suggested that they find an alternative, and they worked with Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss and recommend another that might draw on history. Sassacus is the name put forward.

Moved by: Hogan		Seconded by: Bassi	
Commission Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Unanimous	X		

VIII.B Succession Plan - Review

EH- Table on the last page should be deleted (looks like an older version of Table 1). Program management section is repeated. Page 5- take Mark's name off and replace it with "Director". Page 4- might want to remove XXXXs. Page 8- middle of page replace "city/county" entries with "town".

Moved by: Hogan		Seconded by: Whitney	
Commission Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN

Unanimous	X		
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VIII.C Administrative Policies Review

EH-Front page GPR03.05 Use OF contractors correction.

P. 8 GPR04.02- looks like a repeat of GPR01.9

P. 10 DEI Commitment. GPR 05.06

IX. New Business

IX.A Parks - Substance Abuse Policy

Carolyn Wilson GASP presented information on substance abuse and measures that could be taken to reduce substance abuse in our community.

Jerry- GASP is seeking P&R Commission’s support in making healthy environments. For example, Park rule is that there is no smoking in presence of children on Parks grounds or in P&R activities. Seeking advocacy for tighter rules/ordinances to the Town Council to support health.

GASP- EH- in the current environment, might not be the right time to put out a new ordinance. MB will look for some samples from other towns of how they implement ordinances in Parks regarding use of tobacco and other such products.

X. Next Meeting Date:

X.A November 10th

XI. Adjournment

XI.A Meeting adjourned at 8:27

Moved by: Hogan		Seconded by: Whitney	
Commission Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Unanimous	X		