

**Town of Groton  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Wednesday, December 8, 2010  
Spicer House at 7:15 PM  
Meeting Minutes**

**DRAFT**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Butta called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Phil Butta, Richard McCarthy, Edward Kolnaski, Tricia Semancik and Gregory Leonard.

**Parks and Recreation staff present:** Director John Silsby

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Semancik moved that the minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2010 be approved, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Mr. Leonard called attention to a few grammatical edits. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes as amended.

**IV. Citizen's Petitions: None**

**V. Correspondence/Communications**

**A. Commissioners**

Mr. McCarthy reported that he had rendered his resignation as a commissioner, stating that his personal schedule would prohibit his attendance at the majority of next year's meetings, and that he thought it best to resign. The commissioners thanked him for his service, especially with the numerous committees he served on.

Mr. McCarthy referenced a three town trail in Maine, that was recently opened. He noted that the trail was comprised of public utility lands.

**B. Director of Parks & Recreation**

None

**VI. Town Council Referral**

A town-wide review of the potential use of credit cards for customer payments was being conducted. This matter is expected to be taken up by the Committee of the Whole (COW).

The new Parks and Recreation program software cost, (\$35,000), had been approved by the Council. It now needs to go before the RTM.

**VII. Reports**

**A. Monthly Report**

Mr. Silsby stated that the Groton Basketball Association (GBA) turnout has greatly improved over last year.

Chairman Butta stated that the “Expressive Arts” program by Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut seemed very interesting.

**B. Golf Course Report**

Mr. Silsby stated that revenues for November were \$11,000 more than last November. He stated that revenues for the calendar year were \$23,000 greater than the same period last year.

**C. Golf Advisory Board (GAB) Update**

Mr. McCarthy reported that the GAB officers were reinstated for next year. He stated that the GAB has endorsed three CIP projects, as follows:

- Tee Improvements
- Chemical Storage Building
- Meeting upcoming FCC Regulations for controls for irrigation systems.

**D. Master Plan Committee/Sutton Park Master Plan Update – reviewing Fitch Middle School as Community Center site**

Discussion included several points, including:

- Committee has identified the “essential elements” of a Community Center.
- Phase II of the schools’ plan is moving towards a May referendum.
- Fitch Middle School may close
- There may be competing potential uses for the school, (e.g., Community Center, or expansion of town hall).

**E. Boating Advisory Board (BAB) Update**

The BAB has reported that Mr. Kanyock has not attended any meetings and has asked the Commission to remove him from the BAB. On motion of Ms. Semancik, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Commission voted unanimously to remove Mr. Stephen Kanyock as a member of the BAB.

**VIII. Old Business**

**A. Paintball Program Update**

Mr. Silsby stated that the Department of Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department are evaluating two town-owned potential sites for the program, as follows:

- Wells Road, near the former landfill
- Zaist property, near Burrows Field

**B. New funding Sources**

1. The Town Council has approved \$35,000 for registration software, subject to the review and consideration of the RTM. Software specifications are being developed in the event the expenditure is approved.

**C. Noank School Facility/Property**

The Commission continues to endorse the following concept for the use of the school property:

- Construction of new athletic fields  
or

- **If the potential recreational use of the property would not have a significant impact to the overall town-wide program, to consider selling the property and using the funds generated towards a significant project, (e.g., assist with funding a Community Center at another location).**

**IX. New Business**

**A. New Management Study by Town – includes grounds maintenance and golf course**

**Mr. Silsby reported that David Dunn Associates has been retained by the Town to conduct a comprehensive review of managing Town activities. He stated that grounds maintenance and the golf course will be included in the review.**

**B. Election of Officers**

**On motion of Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers for a term to expire December 31, 2011:**

**Chairman Phil Butta  
Vice-Chairman Edward Kolnaski  
Secretary Patricia Semancik**

**C. Approval of Meeting Dates/Time**

**On motion of Mr. Kolnaski, seconded by Ms. Semancik, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the meeting schedule for 2011, of meeting at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, except July.**

**X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Spicer House**

**XI. Adjournment**

**On motion of Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Commission adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**