

**Guilford  
Town Green Committee  
Special Meeting  
Town Hall  
June 7, 2017  
3:30 pm  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Second Floor**

Present : Chair Jerry Silbert, Pat Todd, Fran Swietlicki, Tom Pinchbeck,  
Vivian Thain, Colin MacKenzie, Catherine Kiernan, John Cunningham

Town Officials : Kevin Magee, Town Environmental Planner/Tree Warden  
Rick Maynard, Parks and Recreation Director

Absent : None

Guests : None

**1. Call to Order**

At 3:31 pm, Chair Jerry Silbert called the Special Meeting to order.

**2. Approve Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**3. Approval of Minutes April 13, 2017 Special Meeting and May 17 Regular Meeting**

Upon review,

*Motion: John Cunningham moved to approve minutes of the April 13, 2017 and May 17, 2017 meetings, seconded by Fran Swietlicki.*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

*Upon further review,*

*Motion: Fran Swietlicki moved that the May 17, 2017 minutes be amended to correct spelling of McKiernan to "Kiernan".*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

**4. Public Forum**

There were no comments.

## **Town Considering a Digital Sign on Town Property for Public Announcements and Events**

Discussion continued from the previous Green Committee meeting on a potential loss of income from sandwich board signs currently permitted on The Green. The Town zoning regulations are being reviewed to consider installation of a digital sign on a Town property for public, emergency and other community announcements. The present Town and GGC policies allow for no more than six regulated size signs to be placed on The Green by Guilford non-profit groups for a two week period, to be removed within one week after the event. The Town fee is \$50 with \$25 returned to the nonprofit when the sign is removed. If not removed, the Town will retain the \$25.

GGC has concerns that if a digital sign is installed elsewhere, groups may no longer use the sandwich board signs.

Kevin Magee advised that the origin of proposing a digital community sign is an alternative to eliminate the public safety hazard of street width size, hanging banners, which the Town has allowed above Boston Post Road / Route One. There is no interest in installing a digital sign on The Green.

GGC revenue from the signs is approximately \$2,000 per year and some local organizations prefer their signs placed on The Green.

Vivian Thain, representing the Guilford Garden Club, advised that the club voted against the Town installation of a digital sign.

Kevin Magee advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will vote on changes to land use regulations that include this proposal.

It was decided that Chair Jerry Silbert will obtain further information and draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen with GGC concerns.

## **Discuss Guilford Art Center request to Waive part of the policy for Permission to use the Guilford Green to include sale of alcoholic beverages at an event on the Green**

Discussion reviewed the "Permission to Use The Green" Town policy regarding sale of alcohol. Chair Silbert submitted the application reviewing added questions 12 through 16 and pages 4 and 5. The BOS have accepted GGC recommendations to amend the policy. In consultation, the Guilford Police Dept., BOS and GGC agreed on a policy which allows only beer and wine, the Police will patrol the event, and the Art Center is responsible for monitoring activity and removing trash and bottles off The Green.

*Motion: John Cunningham moved to accept the revisions to the Permission to Use The Green for the Art Center 2017 event, seconded by Colin MacKenzie.*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

## **6. Status Report on Green Maintenance. (Jerry and Rick)**

Chair Silbert reported that results of the soil tests showed low levels of calcium. Lime was added and calcium was increased in sectors 6, 13. Sectors across from the Town Hall have also been tested and waiting for results. Chair Silbert will research using

another product to improve the soil. Parks and Recreation Director Rick Maynard advised that it is a challenge to mow with weather conditions changing from hot, wet, dry during the grass growing season.

Chair Silbert reported that more information is needed to review a resident's request to plant a memorial tree. If approved, plaques are not allowed on trees or the ground.

#### **7. Parks and Recreation Report - Director Rick Maynard**

Dir. Maynard reported that he had met with the family who had donated a bench along Whitfield Street in memory of a loved one. They have now requested a plaque be placed within the brick base. GGC will discuss at the next meeting.

Dir. Maynard reported that The Green will be mowed for high school graduation after the fields are done. He requested that GGC provide \$1,100 to lime the entire Green. h

#### **8. Tree Warden Report - Warden Kevin Magee**

Kevin Magee reported :

- He had received quotes from tree service contractors for \$6,500 to \$7,500 to remove and or cable a hazardous cracked tree on Park Street side, across from the Town Hall, reported by a resident. Kevin will meet with the service to evaluate.
- Kevin observed damage to exposed tree roots cause by mowers. Flattened mulch is needed and wells must be created around the base of the trees to prevent rot and killing the trees. \*Dir.Maynard will again instruct his crew to avoid the roots and correctly spread mulch.

#### **9. Old Business**

There was no further discussion.

#### **10. New Business**

Chair Silbert reported that when digging for soil tests he had found gravel six inches deep. It is unknown at this time the reason for the gravel yet could be past drainage systems.

Catherine Kiernan reported that Page Hardware has requested that they conduct a Fairy Garden Contest on The Green across from their store. They sell popular ceramic figurines used by many people in gardens and yards. Ceramic figurines would be placed at the base of trees.

Discussion reviewed the criteria of the GGC policy and mowing practices.

*CONSENSUS: Request is denied due to high probability of interference with mowing and damage to the figurines.*

**11. Adjournment**

*Motion: At 4:20 pm Vivian Thain moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fran Swietlicki.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Judith Anderson Castellano  
Recording Secretary

**\*The next regular meeting will be held June 21, 2017 at 3:30 pm.**