

**Guilford
Town Green Committee
Town Hall
June 15, 2016
3:30 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Second Floor**

Present : Chair Jerry Silbert, Fran Swietlicki, Vivian Thain, Colin MacKenzie, Pat Todd

Town Officials : Rick Maynard, Director, Parks and Recreation

Absent : John Cunningham, Catherine Kiernan, Tom Pinchbeck,
Kevin Magee, Town Tree Warden/Environmental Planner

Guests : None

1. Call to Order

At 3:35 pm, Chair Jerry Silbert called the regular meeting to order. All members present were eligible to vote.

2. Approve Agenda

Upon review,

Motion: Fran Swietlicki moved to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Pat Todd.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

Upon review,

Motion: Vivian Thain moved to approve the May minutes with amendment to add "Fran Swietlicki" under "Present : ", seconded by Fran Swietlicki.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

4. Treasurer's Report

Chair Jerry Silbert reported that Treasurer Catherine Kiernan had emailed members the monthly Treasurer's report. \$4,900 had been received from the Guilford Art Center for their 2015 three day Exposition.

Discussion reviewed both past and present GGC fee schedules for events held on The Green. Chair Silbert advised that he has requested copies of GGC account expenditures from the

Town Finance Dept. GGC revenue for fiscal year 2015-2016 was \$6,750. Also, approximately \$1,870 in revenue fees from event signs posted at the north end. The 2015-2016 Fund Balance as June 30 was \$38,691.48. Currently, the balance is \$45,023.60.

5. Public Forum

There were no comments.

6. Consider use of GCC funds for improvement of the Guilford Green's lawns

Parks and Rec. Director Rick Maynard reported that sections of The Green had been aerated today and will compost and areas seeded tomorrow. This is done by hand rake as the topdresser tractor needs repair. Rick gave details of the process for members.

Discussion reviewed funding The Green maintenance. Spring and fall are the times that Parks and Recreation can seed The Green. There are only six crew members to maintain 40 fields, playgrounds, beaches and Parks in town. It was suggested that a contractor be hired to seed from late June through August to assist with building a thicker turf over two to three years. Chair Silbert explained his participation with organic seeding systems in Old Lyme, which included fertilizer, pesticide, and watering. The Town pays for use of the water meter pit located on Whitfield Street, which has water pressure of sixty pounds per square inch.

Discussion reviewed the Board of Education debate on the pros and cons of natural versus artificial turf for fields. Natural grass gets damaged by field use, is pervious and drains quickly during rain with no public health risk. Artificial turf is impervious, does not drain quickly and has rubber tire crumbs which contain carcinogens. It has an eight to twelve year lifespan.

Referring to a pilot seeding project, it was decided that P&R Dir. Maynard and Chair Silbert will work on an area using the water meter pit. Chair Silbert will request quotes from contractors and will contact the Board of Selectmen regarding Green Committee plans.

7. Clarify our position on permission to use Green from a for profit corporation

Chair Silbert reported that for-profit Foodworks retail market has requested that the Town allow the company to show a movie on The Green. The next Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting will address this request. Chair Silbert will contact the BOS regarding for-profit companies and use of The Green instead of another location.

8. Parks and Recreation Report - Director Rick Maynard

Dir. Maynard reported that his crew will edge all the sidewalks prior to the annual high school graduation on June 21. (Refer to "6" for P&R report)

9. Tree Warden Report - Warden Kevin Magee

Chair Silbert reported for Kevin Magee who was not able to be present. Kevin has posted a sign for removal of a dying Norway Maple and the canopy has been pruned for the large Weeping Beech across from Page Hardware. Though Gypsy moths have been prevalent throughout town, they have not appeared on The Green yet.

10. Old Business There was no further business.

11. New Business Discussed under "6" and "7". There was no further business.

12. Adjournment

Motion: At 4:25 pm, Vivian Thain moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Colin MacKenzie.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary

*The next regular meeting will be July 20, 2016 at 3:30 pm.