

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT**

**MINUTES
January 5, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, January 5, 2023, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Members present were Marc Dlugolenski, Robert Ravens-Seger, Karen Hines, Christina Leadbeater, Nicole Sokolowski, Morgan Bengel and Carly McKenney. Program Director Alicia Van Neil was also present. Jim Gothers was absent.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by K Hines to approve the minutes of December 1, 2022, as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director A Van Neil stated that all the regular winter programs (now through the middle of March) are up and running. The two biggest programs are Ski Sundown and Basketball. Ski Sundown will not be starting tomorrow due to the warmer temperatures. Basketball: Grades 3-8 started their programs December 1, 2022. K, 1st and 2nd programs start this week. Basketball will take place in the Seymour School gym, the Middle School gym, and the old High School gym. The programs missing from Let's Talk Turkey are the middle school running program, and two new after school programs. Parks and Rec partnered with Project Graduation to hold a Parents' night out fundraiser. Parents dropped their children off at East Granby Farms for a few hours while they had some time to themselves. Project Graduation made about \$500.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

N Sokolowski stated that December hasn't closed yet. Nothing unexpected.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seeger stated he walked the trail from Copper Hill to Floydville. Because of the hard freeze after rain in December, frost heaves are now worse than they were before. They were also generally on the west side of the trail, but they are now also seen on the east side as well. North of 189 is in excellent condition. South of 189 is in pretty good condition, but by the bridge and beyond there are missing rails that need to be replaced. Also, up the hill toward Floydville there are a lot of cracks and frost heaves. A Van Neil stated that DPW is aware of these issues and will work to correct them in the spring. Significant repairs are needed at the Beaver Dam Marsh bridge near the north entrance. DPW's Ed Hubbard is going to get a quote from Galasso for those repairs. R Ravens-Seeger stated on the day he visited there weren't many people using the trail. K Hines stated she visited the trail on a nicer weather day and the trail was very busy. A Van Neil reminded the group a discussion may be needed if it snows and the person from Granby continues to plow the trailhead near the north entrance. A Van Neil will mention this to the new town State Trooper as well.
2. **Cowles Park** – K Hines stated that there is still a bit of activity there, noticing 2-4 cars in the lot every afternoon. Tommy from New England Mountain Bike Association and crew repaired the bridge and it looks amazing. There is wood leftover that will be used to repair other bridges.
3. **Granbrook Park** – P Gill visited and it was very quiet there. M Bengel met with invested town member, Jim Lindberg, and Land Trust director, Amanda Thompson, to start making a wish list for enhancing the park.
4. **East Granby Farms** – A Van Neil stated there isn't much activity here without snow right now.
5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training** – C Leadbeater put together a document about the sexual harassment policy and updated the coaching contract. No training is necessary and links to information will be provided. Mandated Reporter training will be recommended this year and required next year.
6. **Program Committee** –
 - a. **Easter Egg Hunt**- Saturday 4/1/2023 was decided on for the date of this event, 10:00am for the younger children and 10:15am for the older group.

- B. **Student Representatives** – The discussion of adding student representatives will be tabled until February’s meeting.
- C. **Summer Concert** – A discussion was held about keeping the approved date of 9/8/23 or about moving the date back to the last weekend in August. C Leadbeater mentioned that someone should work with R McKenney to learn the process of running this event. P Gill’s suggestion is to move the date back to the last weekend in August this year and then consider moving the date into September for next year. C McKenney asked why the concert is held on a Friday instead of a Saturday. She will ask R McKenney and bring that info to the next meeting. Further discussion was therefore tabled until February’s meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Election of Officers** – K Hines present the slate of nominations:
 - Chairman – Pat Gill
 - Vice Chairperson – Chrissy Leadbeater
 - Treasurer – Nicole Sokolowski

A motion was made by K Hines and seconded by R Ravens-Seger to elect the slate as presented to serve through the calendar year 2023 or until a new slate of candidates is elected. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. **Update Sub-Committees** – Members discussed which sub-committees they wanted to be a part of.
- C. **Town Vision meeting** – P Gill stated he forwarded an email to everyone today from the town, an invitation to attend the Boards and Commissions meeting regarding the new town village center master plan on January 18th at 4:30pm.
- D. **Safety Updates** – A Van Neil stated we need to look at the emergency plans for Cowles Park and the Farmington Valley Heritage Trail. And also that the tractor at East Granby Farms is in disrepair and is therefore not safe. A discussion will need to take place regarding removing it and what should be done with that space.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by M Dlugolenski and seconded by R Ravens-Seger to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovalski
Commission Clerk