

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

**MINUTES  
February 2, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, February 2, 2023, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 M Bengel to approve the minutes of January 5, 2023, as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

A Van Neil reported the Booster Club sent a Thank You card for the donation to their organization. Polly Vouglas sent an email with a request that will be discussed under new business.

**5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director A Van Neil stated that all the regular winter programs are going well. The Ski Sundown program will be postponed 2/3/23 due to extreme cold weather, so the program will be going until almost the end of February. The chaperones have been great this year. The summer programs should be finalized by the end of February to go out in the "Let's Talk Turkey" in March.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

N Sokolowski shared the current expenses (through 1/27/23) and stated that Parks and Rec Commission is at 53% budget for the year, which is on target with the budget at this time.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

## A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seeger stated that he walked the trail from Rt. 20 to the Suffield border. There is continual deterioration in this area due to the high water table. He visited the trail on a Saturday, Sunday, and Monday afternoon, and the trail was well used on all three days.
  2. **Cowles Park** – K Hines stated the park is still heavily used. She sees 1-3 cars in the lot daily during the week and about 20 cars there on weekend days.
  3. **Granbrook Park** – M Bengel stated she is still working on a wish list for the park with the invested town member, Jim Lindberg. Otherwise, the park looks great.
  4. **East Granby Farms** – A Van Neil stated that the barn is having furnace problems. Ray with DPW put it on the capital plan and is getting more information for repairing.
  5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies** – A Van Neil stated there is a new house bill coming out this month for summer camp regulations. There is a public hearing on Tuesday, February 7. The new bill states that municipalities would need specific licensing and regulations that would make East Granby's programs too expensive to carry out. A Van Neil requested commission members to write letters to John Kissel or Tami Zawistowski explaining why the new bill would not be good for East Granby. Some of the changes: staffing requirements per number of campers, a nurse would have to be on staff, more training would be needed, fingerprint background checks through state police would need to be done. A Van Neil stated they do follow the Office of Early Childhood Recommendations, with the exception of the few areas mentioned above.
  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. C Leadbeater asked if more activities would be considered in addition to the egg hunt and Easter Bunny visit. A Van Neil stated they are open to suggestions.
- B. **Summer Concert** – C McKenney talked to Rosalie McKenney about why the concert is usually on a Friday instead of a Saturday night. Bands cost less on Fridays than Saturdays. R Ravens-Seeger made a motion to move the date back to 8/25/23. N Sokolowski seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

C. **Student Representatives** – C Leadbeater shared updated By-Laws with new verbiage, including information for incorporating student representatives. She will send them out in an e-mail to the committee, and has asked everyone to “reply all” with questions or suggestions. The discussion was tabled until the March meeting.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Spring 2023 Concert, June 16** – A Van Neil reminded the group that when the August 2022 concert was cancelled, the decision was made to have a spring and a fall concert in 2023. The date decided on for the spring concert was June 16, 2023. R McKenney recommended using the band that was lined up for August. The deposit for the band was carried over to the spring concert. The program subcommittee should meet to plan. The new sound system has arrived and is ready to use.

B. **P Vouglas request** – P Vouglas, the art teacher at Allgrove and Seymour schools is planning a Barn Quilt Trail. The quilt is funded by the Allgrove/Seymour PTO and will be made by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class. P Vouglas is asking the Parks and Rec Commission if the community-based quilt could be displayed on the outside of or inside the barn at East Granby Farms. The other two quilts will be at Allgrove and Seymour. The quilt is made up of individual squares (that have a personal or local historical meaning to the students) on a 4x4 piece of plywood. M Bengel asked if the quilt could be displayed on the Historical Society barn instead. R Ravens-Seger will talk to the Historical Society.

C. **STEEP Grant** – A Van Neil shared the potential plans for the area at the North entrance of East Granby Farms. The plans were developed during a meeting with A Van Neil, R McKenney and the surveyor. A discussion was held regarding the plans.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by M Bengel to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Kovaleski  
Commission Clerk