

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

**MINUTES
September 7, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, September 7, 2023, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Pat Gill called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Members also present were Robert Ravens-Seger, Nicole Sokolowski, Leona Bevins, and Marc Dlugolenski. Program Coordinator Alicia Van Neil was also present. Carly McKenney, Karen Hines, Christina Leadbeater, and Morgan Bengel were absent.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

Approving the August 3, 2023, minutes was tabled until next meeting due to lack of quorum.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Coordinator A Van Neil stated the two new camp directors worked well over the summer. Most summer programs ran. Two food explorer and an art program were cancelled at the end of the summer due to lack of participants. Fall programs start in the schools in a couple weeks. Flag football assessments are occurring now, and the season starts next week. Basketball registration will open soon for the winter.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

N Sokolowski reported on the budget. The contract service line will be resolved. A Van Neil stated that encumbered money was used for the Party Patrol slides during camp along with other items.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seeger stated that he walked the trail North of Rt 20 and that section is in pretty good shape.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- Discussion tabled until next meeting.

2. **Cowles Park** – P Gill read an email from K Hines. A discussion was held regarding e-bikes because they are becoming more prevalent. This discussion was tabled until addressed by the Park Rules Subcommittee.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- Discussion tabled until next meeting.
 - b. **ADA Bike Trail Updates**- Discussion tabled until next meeting.

3. **Granbrook Park** –
 - a. **Softball Field**- A Van Neil stated we need to do the Wetland application and the map. The next Wetland Committee meetings are October 4th and another one early November. We have to give them 2 weeks' notice to add this topic to the agenda.
 - b. **Gate Closure/Attendant**- A Van Neil stated that there were incidents in July with large groups gathering. The Selectwoman met with A Van Neil and the decision was made to close the gate at dusk and open it at dawn, as well as hire a security guard for the evenings during the summer. DPW and the PD will be opening and closing the gate for the rest of this season. A discussion was held regarding the gate, security guard, and possibly charging non-residents for next summer. This discussion was tabled for now.

4. **East Granby Farms** –
 - a. **Basketball Court Update**- The old basketball hoop will be removed, and the new hoop will be installed. A contractor needs to be hired but they are all backed up due to the inclement weather this summer.
 - b. **STEAP Grant**- Still waiting for results. Rosalie reminded the group that she will not be managing the project if the grant is awarded.
 - c. **Ball Field Updates**- Pat McKenney met with the president of the Little League and gave an estimate for cleaning up the backstop tree/shrub/undergrowth area. Seeding and weeding the infield is part of the current contract.

5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies** – Need to update the background check policy and training for the coaches. This subcommittee will need to meet.

6. Program Committee –

- a. **Summer Concert-** Cancelled on 8/25 due to inclement weather.
- b. **Fall Concert-** To be held on Saturday 9/30 from 11-5.
- c. **Halloween-** To be held at Newgate Prison on 10/28 from 4:30-7:00pm. A discussion was held regarding managing mine tour tickets. Newgate Prison staff can accommodate 20 people every 10 minutes for a total of 300 tickets. 700 people attended the event last year. The plan moving forward is to pre-register 200 East Granby residents and leave 100 tickets available for walk-ins.
- d. **Tree Lighting-** To be held on 12/1. A discussion was held regarding the conflict with Valley Student Theater’s show in town on the same evening.

B. Student Representatives – The town approved the addition of student representatives to the Parks and Recreation Commission. This can go into effect on September 22, 2023. C Leadbeater is updating the by-laws.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. List of Events for 2023- Addressed above under programs.

B. Park Rules/Signage- A Van Neil stated the EG Land Trust and the library discussed having unified signage in town, including the Doreen Jacius Trail by the library. Granbrook Park and East Granby Farms also need new signs stating the park rules. The Park Rules/Signage Subcommittee needs to meet to discuss.

C. Pickle Ball Courts at the High School- A discussion was held regarding painting Pickle Ball Court Lines on the Tennis Courts at the High School. The Athletic Director, Curt Fields, is not opposed to painting the lines. He did confirm there cannot be any leagues during school hours.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by M Dlugolenski and seconded by N Sokolowski to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk