

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
May 2, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, May 2, 2024, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Pat Gill called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members also present were Robert Ravens-Seger, Leona Bevins, Morgan Bengel, Ella DeSimone, Chloe Rapose, Karen Hines, Nicole Sokolowski, and Jon Webster. Program Coordinator Alicia Van Neil was also present. Marc Dlugolenski and Carly McKenney were absent.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None.

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by N Sokolowski to approve the April 4, 2024, minutes. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A Van Neil received a card from Project Graduation thanking East Granby Parks and Recreation for the donation.

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Van Neil reported that all the spring and after school programs are going well. Horseback riding starts next week. Running programs are going great. Enrollment in summer programs is low. A lot of applications for camp counselors and counselors-in-training have been received. All last year's counselors want to return as well.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

L Bevins reported that the budget is on track.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seger stated that he walked the trail and noticed a tree had fallen. It has already been cleaned up, but there are fences that need to be repaired. Some trees have also been removed along the trail. The trail is in the same condition as before. It is still heavily used by many bicyclists and a few pedestrians. A Van Neil mentioned the port-o-potty has been moved to the parking lot on Rt. 189.

- a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update

- b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update-** A Van Neil reported that the state requested more information that will need to be gathered.
- 2. **Cowles Park** – K Hines mentioned she has not hiked the trails recently, but the parking lot is already busy at 7am. P Gill noted the parking lot fences have been repaired. A Van Neil reported there has been some trail damage. A tree has fallen across the trail that needs to be cleared. There is some flooding by the open field and DPW has been contacted to see if they can add stones or other materials to the trail. Tom Pavelchek is also getting a quote for materials to finish fixing the bridges.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers-** C McKenney is meeting with the fire department next week to learn their requests.
- 3. **Granbrook Park** – M Bengel reported that the grills are being replaced by a generous resident and the DPW. A Van Neil will be ordering the bear-proof canisters next week. A Van Neil updated that the public denied the use of open space funds to fix the water system. No organized functions can be held until Ray from the DPW can temporarily fix the system. A Van Neil is waiting to be advised by the board of selectmen how to proceed.
 - a. **Gate Attendant Summer 2024** – The state trooper has agreed to do the best they can to lock the gate at night. DPW will open it during the week. Residents will open it on the weekends. It will be locked approximately dusk to dawn, Thursday 5/23/24 to Sunday 9/15/24
 - b. **Softball Field** – No update.
- 4. **East Granby Farms** –
 - a. **Basketball Court Update-** A Van Veil relayed M Dlugolenski's information. The quote to remove the old basketball hoop and install the new one is a lot higher than expected at \$6,230. A second quote will be obtained.
 - b. **Playscape Update-** A Van Neil stated they are still waiting to hear back about the Urban Act Grant that has been applied for. In the meanwhile, 3 quotes for a new playscape have been obtained. A discussion will be held with DPW to remove the wooden tractor or temporarily fix it.
 - c. **STEAP Grant-** P Gill mentioned there have been a few meetings. The bill for the park design is going to the Board of Selectmen next week since money cannot be used from the STEAP Grant until next year. The committee is finalizing details of the design.
- 5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies** – No update
- 6. **Program Committee** –
 - a. **Summer Blast** – The committee will be meeting next week to finalize details.

B. Park Rules – M Bengel mentioned the Board of Selectmen approved the list of Park Rules and signs can be made. A clarification is needed if this list applies to all East Granby Parks or only to Granbrook Park.

C. Update By-Laws – Tabled until next meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee financials – A Van Neil noted that subcommittees should put together a list of projects to use money on if there is money leftover from this year's budget to be encumbered. Some items mentioned for Cowles Park: Fill the section of trail by the open field to prevent flooding, and purchasing some materials for Tom Pavelchek to finish the bridges he has been fixing. Another item mentioned is more bear-proof garbage cans at Granbrook Park.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by J Webster and seconded by L Bevins to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk