

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
June 6, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, June 6, 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, Morgan Bengel, Ella DeSimone, Chloe Rapose, Karen Hines, and Carly McKenney. Program Coordinator Alicia Van Neil was also present. Marc Dlugolenski, Leona Bevins, Nicole Sokolowski, and Jon Webster were absent.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

A resident inquired about the status of the playscape at East Granby Farms. The board discussed some grant opportunities. One grant application has been submitted and the board is waiting to hear if they have been awarded it or not. Another discussion was held about the possibility of mending the current structure for this year.

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by K Hines to approve the May 2, 2024, minutes. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A Van Neil received an email from Tilson requesting permission to stage themselves in the lower lot while they decommission the cell phone tower on the ridge.

5. PROGRAM REPORT

A Van Neil reported that all after school programs have wrapped up. The new Seymour Spanish class was well-received. All other programs also went well. There is one more week for flag football. It ran well this year without the challenges seen in previous seasons. More referees are needed for the fall session because current referees are not returning. The running programs are back, including the spring trail running group that will go in June. There are a lot of last-minute registrations for summer programs, making planning for them challenging. Camp Granbrook still has low enrollment. It will also need to be relocated due to the broken water system. The new location is TBD. Tennis is going well. Fall programming is on hold until the town budget passes.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

No official report. A Van Neil requested a list to prioritize the spending of any funds left at the end of the fiscal year. The group came up with the following list: 1. Purchasing signs for the park rules for Parks and Rec properties, 2. Materials for bridge work at

Cowles Park, 3. Funds for Camp Granbrook, and 4. Purchasing signs for emergency markers at Cowles Park and the Farmington Valley Heritage Trail.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seger stated that the fence is still broken where the tree had fallen along the trail. A Van Neil noted that DPW will be fixing it soon.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update
 - b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- A Van Neil reported that the state awarded \$396,000 to repave part of the trail with a 4” base. She has a meeting with the town planner next week. The engineering company thinks the old plans can be used again since it is maintenance on the trail. The plan will need to go to the Inlands/Wetlands Commission, and possibly to Planning and Zoning. The trail is divided into 4 sections, and the work will probably be started on the two worst sections. There will be a zoom meeting on 6/27/24 to learn about the grant process. R Ravens-Seger offered to help on this project.

2. **Cowles Park** – C McKenney ran on some of the trails recently with run club and enjoyed the park and said the trails and bridges were in good shape. A Van Neil mentioned there is a section of the park that has a lot of Emerald Ash Borers destroying the trees that will need to be addressed soon, and she is still looking into how to remove the large tree that is falling near the open field. A Van Neil also mentioned that the joint mountain bike class with Simsbury is up and running.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- C McKenney started talking to the fire marshal, Ken Beliveau, and he said there aren’t any specific policies that need to be followed. He suggested asking an Eagle Scout to help with the project. He also showed her what Simsbury’s looks like as an example. A Van Neil mentioned the new dispatch system that the fire department uses has come up with a process for all the towns that they service. A Van Neil will get more information on this for C McKenney to follow-up on.

3. **Granbrook Park** – M Bengel shared that the park is beautiful, and grills are being installed soon. The park rules signs will be made and posted. Six bear-proof trash cans were delivered today.
 - a. **Softball Field** – No update.
 - b. **Opening Gate** – M Bengel reminded members to sign-up for weekend days to open the gate. June is all set, but July and August are not.

4. **East Granby Farms** – A Van Neil mentioned that the park is very busy with many groups of people, and it is nice to see so much activity.

- a. **Basketball Court Update-** A Van Veil shared that the new hoop with backboard has been installed and people are loving to use it.
- b. **Playscape Update-** A Van Neil discussed this above under 2. “Discussion with the Public”.
- c. **STEAP Grant-** The finalized plan was sent to the Inlands/Wetlands Commission last night. There is a 10-day waiting period to vote on it, so a special meeting will be held on 6/20/24. An RFP is needed as soon as possible because the state is questioning why the project is not underway yet.

5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies** – A Blood Born Pathogen Emergency Protocol is needed before 6/17. C McKenney offered to work on it.

6. **Program Committee** –

- a. **Summer Blast** – No update.

B. Update By-Laws – A discussion was held, and a vote was tabled until next meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee financials – This was discussed above under 6. “Treasurer’s Report”.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by R Ravens -Seeger and seconded by C McKenney to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovalski
Commission Clerk