PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
March 6, 2025, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, March 6, 2025, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Members also present were Leona Bevins, Amanda Mele, Robert Ravens-Seger, Chloe Rapose, Carly McKenney, and Marc Dlugolenski. Nicole Sokolowski, Jon Webster, Karen Hines and Ella DeSimone were absent. Also present were Alicia Van Neil, Program Director.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**
   None.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**

   M Dlugolenski made a motion to approve the minutes for January 9, 2025. L Bevins seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   The Commission received email notification that Jon Webster has stepped down off the Parks and Recreation Board. He will be missed.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil reported that the Let's Talk Turkey will be in houses soon. It has all the spring and summer programming in it. The second full parks and rec edition will not be mailed to homes to save costs. There will be some copies for families to pick up and all programs are posted online. Spring tennis will not occur because the instructor will be traveling. A Van Neil is looking for a new program for cooking camp. Granbrook Camp is moving to Allgrove School this summer, with one day per week being held at Granbrook Park. Due to weather hazards, it has been deemed a necessity to have access to an indoor space. Applications for returning staff are due tomorrow and the process of hiring CITs and new counselors is beginning.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   A Van Neil gave a report in N Sokolowski's absence. The two of them met, along with M Bengel, to go over a spreadsheet that will be used for presenting the budget for the general fund going forward. The spreadsheet was shared with the group. A Van Neil mentioned that the "Recreation Field" line is not actually parks and recreation. The money in this category goes to DPW for maintaining school fields. In addition to the general fund, there is a program fund that will be reviewed annually.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** – No update
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update.

   B. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – R Ravens-Seger reported he was on the Great Marsh area of the trail today and noticed many new frost upheavals in the area. M Dlugolenski discussed the state of the bridge is a hazard. He also added

information about the parking area on Copper Hill Rd. DPW paved the parking area when they paved that section of road, but they haven't been plowing it during the winter. He also noted the crosswalk marks need to be added back to the road where the trail crosses.

a. **Emergency Management Markers** – No update.
b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- A Van Neil mentioned the people that oversee the Trails Grant let her know there could be a solar panel project that could affect the repaving. Part of the solar panel project at the old Monrovia farm will be to repave the path from Rt. 20 into Simsbury. In order to not delay our project, we may want to focus on the area from Rt. 189 towards the Granby line. The project will go out to bid at the end of June and construction is projected to start in 2027. If there is money left after doing the projected section, the bridge may be worked on, or work on the section from Rt. 189 to Rt. 20. DPW will get new quotes and a new start date. R Ravens-Seger mentioned that the Suffield section is getting repaved this summer. M Bengel suggested asking if an Eagle Scout would want to work on the bridge decking.

C. **Granbrook Park** – M Bengel mentioned the resident that has been helping in the park is looking for another project to do. He may add/replace some pieces to the playscape. The Middle School Youth Action Council will be holding an earth day clean-up/celebration after school on April 22 from 3:30-5:00. M Bengel asked members of the commission to attend if they can. There will be a clean-up of the park, some crafts, snacks, music, and a nature scavenger hunt. The Land Trust arranged for DEEP to stock trout in the brook that day.
    a. **Police Gate Fundraiser**- Correction to header: **Summer Gate Plan**: M Bengel asked the group if they wanted to close the gate at night again this year like they did last summer. It was agreed to continue the same plan.
    b. **Softball Field –** A Van Neil met with Pat Gill, a Little League representative, and Pat McKenney. The bases have been ordered, and pricing is being obtained for dugouts, a batting cage, and a scoreboard. The goal is to have the field ready to use for the start of the season.

D. East Granby Farms – A Van Neil mentioned one of the side basketball hoops has fallen but will be up-righted soon. M Dlugolenski suggested putting these hoops under the overhang of the Barn roof out back next winter. A Van Neil mentioned a future project to be considered is fixing the flag football field. The grass is lacking. M Dlugolenski thinks the area needs irrigation.
    a. **STEAP Grant updates-** The RFP has been submitted. An additional check list needs to be completed before the project can move forward. The committee chairperson, Erika Fairle, is currently working on it with the town planner.

E. EG Farms Playscape Fundraising/Update – L Bevins mentioned that a resident stepped in to help fundraise. He has been a huge help and has been successful at raising money. He and Leona went out to businesses to ask them directly for donations. Most feedback from businesses/residents has been positive. C McKenney mentioned Amped Fitness is holding a fundraiser on behalf of the playscape on 3/22. Timothy Richards will be holding a fundraiser as well. A Van

Neil reported that Miss Cindy, the parks and rec dance teacher, is holding a dance-a-thon for youth at EG Farms on 4/27 to raise money as well. There will be pizza, music and snacks. Drago's Kitchen made a cash donation and will also hold a week-long fundraiser where a portion of their proceeds will be donated to parks and rec for the playscape. Riverside Reptiles will hold a free show and collect donations for the playscape. A Van Neil also mentioned a couple of grant applications are going out as well.

F. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** A Van Neil mentioned DCF has a new background check policy and there is a chance that parks and rec will be able to perform their background checks through DCF as well. She will be looking into it. A Van Neil also mentioned there are a couple of bills in the State legislature right now that if they pass there will be impacts on EG summer camps.

G. Program Committee –

- **a. Easter-** L Bevins reported that the event will be held at EG Farms. Thurs, 4/10, there will be a flashlight egg hunt for older kids. Saturday morning, 4/12, will be the egg hunt for the younger kids. Members of the commission are encouraged to help at either event. A company called Sunny Bunny will be stuffing about 3000 eggs for us. Parks and Rec will add the remaining 3000 eggs.
- **b. Summer Concert-** A Van Neil and L Bevins are scouting bands for the event.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sub-committee Sign-ups: M Bengel led a discussion about the sub-committees. She passed out descriptions of each committee and asked if anyone had any comments or questions about them. No one had any. Then board members discussed with sub-committees they would each like to be on. M Bengel will follow up with absent members to finish creating the sub-committees.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by L Bevins to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk