PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
December 4, 2025, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, December 4, 2025, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members also present were Ken Kovaleski, Ella DeSimone, Robert Ravens-Seger, Jim Lindberg, Alexa Bednarz, Marc Dlugolenski and Amanda Mele. Nicole Sokolowski, Jennifer Derleth, and Leona Bevins were absent. Alicia Van Neil, Program Director, was also present.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**
   None

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**
   R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for November 6, 2025. M Dlugolenski seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   None

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil reported that basketball is up and running. Grades 3-8 started this week. K-2 starts in January. Teams will play games against Hartland, Suffield, Granby and grades 7-8 girls will also play Longmeadow teams. The Ski Sundown program was not offered this year due to consistently low enrollment and raising program costs. In January there will be a new art program being offered by an elementary school staff member instead of through Art Ventures. Families will be charged less for the program.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   N. Sokolowski (absent). A Van Neil shared she thinks we are where we normally are at this time of year. There are a couple of upcoming expenses that will be discussed later in the agenda.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** – J Lindberg said all is well.
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- see under Farmington Valley Heritage Trail.
      b. **Trails Day**- J Lindberg reported that the event went well. More than 10 adults and 10 teenagers helped clear out a section in about two hours. J Derleth and J Lindberg brought snacks and drinks to share at the end. The two holes that were in the parking lot were filled nicely by DPW. Dates will be chosen for a couple more clean-up days in the spring. Bridges are still in disrepair and need attention.

   B. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seger walked the trail from Rt. 20 and headed north. He didn't see any people but saw many human, dog and deer footprints, as well as bike tire marks, so the trail is still being used in the snow. The internal fences look great. DPW replaced many rails. There is one at the entrance facing Rt. 20 that the rails are down.

a. **Emergency Management Markers** – A Van Neil mentioned we will be using in-house funds to purchase these signs to go towards our in-kind funds for the CT Rec Trails Grant. K Kovaleski will double check a few of the rail marker locations.
b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- All the work is done for the grant. The last piece that needs completing is about $1,000 more for in-kind funds. Purchasing the Emergency Management Markers should finish that. A Van Neil mentioned that the CT Greenway Group has volunteers that work cleaning up along the trail in East Granby. She will try to ask these volunteers (about 7 families) when help is needed.

C. **Granbrook Park** – M Bengel reported that the park is well.
   a. **Playscape** – J Lindberg is acquiring quotes from local companies.
   b. **Softball Field –** J. Lindberg reported all items have been purchased for the softball field and will be installed in the spring. A Van Neil reported the administrative approval that was received is all that is needed according to the Inland/Wetland Commission, so that is all set.

D. East Granby Farms –
   a. **Funding for sign at Playscape-** A Van Neil discussed the need for a sign at the new playscape announcing donors who donated over $5000 and the playscape rules. She is asking the commission to approve up to $3500 out of the Rec Center Fund. This fund can be used because the playscape is used by the people that attend programs and events at the Rec Center, and the funds that come from the programs and the rental fees.

Motion: M Bengel made a motion to spend up to $3500 to purchase a sign to put up at the site of the new playscape to announce donors who donated over $5000 as well as the playscape rules. A Mele seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

   b. **STEAP Grant updates-** M Dlugolenski reported that everything is done for the season. The lines on the courts still need to be painted. The windscreen may be changed to a larger one. Light poles still need to be installed. A Van Neil suggests putting in a kiosk with a QR code link to pickleball rules. A Park Rules sign is also needed. M Dlugolenski will reach out to the Boy Scouts in town to see if an Eagle Scout would like to make an "East Granby Farms" entrance sign. DPW has been clearing trees across from the courts to open the area up a bit more.
   c. **Gate at North Entrance-** A Van Neil discussed the possibility of putting a gate in that closes and locks at night since the lighting and security cameras have not been installed yet. The cost of the gate would be around $600. The ground already may be too frozen to install a gate, though. The gate would have to be easily opened for emergency access up the mountain. The gate would have locks with codes that can be given to emergency personnel.

E. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** No update.

F. **Program Committee –**
   a. **Tree Lighting-** The event will be on Dec. 5th. A Van Neil reported that help is needed between 5-7pm to put up lights and the sound system outside, as well as set up crafts, cocoa, and cookies inside.
   b. **Dance Recital-** A Van Neil mentioned the need for help from members 12-2 out front and 11-2 with the young dancers behind the auditorium.
   c. **Nutcracker-** The event will be on 12/20 around 3:00. Help is needed out front with treats. There will be professional dancers so no help with young children is needed.
   d. **250th Celebration-** The three bands and dates for concerts have been chosen. 6/24 is Shout, 7/22 is Southern Boys Band, 8/21 is Mass Conn Fusion. Food trucks have also been secured.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. **Officer Elections-** Leona has agreed to stay on as Vice-Chairperson. No other members were nominated.

Motion: R Ravens-Seger made a motion to appoint Leona Bevins as Vice-Chairperson for the calendar year of 2026. M Bengel seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Morgan Bengel agreed to stay on as Chairperson. No other members were nominated.

Motion: R Ravens-Seger made a motion to appoint Morgan Bengel as Chairperson for the calendar year of 2026. A Mele seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

   B. **Member Recruitment-** not needed at this time.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by M Bengel to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk