PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
February 5, 2026, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, February 5, 2026, in the town hall, large conference room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Members also present were Leona Bevins, Amanda Mele, Ken Kovaleski, Robert Ravens-Seger, Jim Lindberg, Marc Dlugolenski, and Nicole Sokolowski. Alexa Bednarz, Ella DeSimone and Jennifer Derleth 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 January 8, 2026. L Bevins seconded. 7 approved, 1 abstained (M Bengel). Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   A Van Neil received a letter from Project Grad of East Granby, class of 2026, requesting a donation.

Motion: Marc Dlugolenski made a motion to donate $500 to Project Grad of East Granby, class of 2026. Leona Bevins seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

A Van Neil also received information from a resident next to East Granby Farms, who has been unhappy with tree and shrub overgrowth near their property. The Parks and Rec Commission supported a clean-up and an assessment this past year. The new correspondence is requesting additional work, including having trees removed, with the homeowners willing to pay half the cost. The total cost estimate is around $5,000. The members held a discussion and decided to hold off on a decision for now. M Dlugolenski suggested creating a sub-committee to organize a crew who could do some more clean-up and assess the whole area better.

Jennifer Derleth submitted her resignation for her position on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil reported that the winter programs are going well. Spring and summer programs will be posted in the March 2nd Lets Talk Turkey, and registration will be opened for them.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   A Van Neil reported that there have been no new expenses. Jason Hayes, First Selectperson, has approved a 25-hr, full-time, program coordinator. This position has increased hours from the current part-time position and includes benefits.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** – The park is still being used in the snow by bicyclists and snowshoers.

a. **Emergency Management Markers**- see under Farmington Valley Heritage Trail.
b. **Trails Day**- A Van Neil mentioned that dates for spring clean-up should be chosen as soon as possible to be able to advertise in the March 2nd Let's Talk Turkey.

B. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – R Ravens-Seger walked the trail today both south and north from Copper Hill Rd. A snowmobile had been on the trail, and Bob saw two cross-country skiers, a walker with a dog, and another walker. The fences along the trail look great.

a. Emergency Management Markers – L Bevins received quotes for signs, both for metal and plastic ones. She learned that plastic could become very brittle in cold weather. The price is the same for plastic or metal. The group decided on metal signs. L Bevins will work on the template and get the signs ordered.

b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- Will be completed after the emergency markers are purchased.

C. **Granbrook Park** – No update.

a. Playscape – Jason Hayes has requested floodplain maps of the park to make sure the playscape area is in the best location. He agrees with keeping the theme of a new play area as a more natural park. J Lindberg had a committee meeting last week. They are focusing on an old-style playground format with individual structures such as a rope-climbing apparatus and a slide. He will obtain quotes for 6-7 structures from the three different vendors that he has contacted.

b. Softball Field – No update.

D. East Granby Farms – A Van Neil mentioned that since farmers are no longer farming the property other than the area near Tuckahoe Road, overgrowth has become a concern. Amanda Thompson, town selectperson, is looking for farmers who would be interested.

a. STEAP Grant updates- M Dlugolenski reported that the electricity near the new courts has been turned on. M Bengel mentioned that there is about $8,000 left of the grant money to be used. Remaining ideas for the area will have to be prioritized and completed.

E. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** J Derleth will pass along the information she has to the other members of this sub-committee. A Bednarz would like to create a plan for a student coach program for a school project.

F. Program Committee –

a. Event Dates for 2026- A Van Neil shared a document with the sub-committee's suggestions:

Easter 2026- (preK-2nd grade) Saturday, April 4th, 2026, 10:00am
(grades 3-5) Thursday, April 2nd, 2026, 7:30pm

Summer Concert 2026 series

- **Wed, June 24, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**
- **Wed, July 22, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

- **Fri, August 21, 2026 6:00-8:00pm**

Halloween 2026 – Sat, October 24th, 2026

- **Rain date: Sun, October 25th, 2026**

Tree Lighting – Fri, December 4, 2026

- **Rain date: Sat, December 5, 2026**

Motion: A motion was made by Amanda Mele and seconded by Robert Ravens-Seger to approve all the dates for events in 2026 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

The group discussed the dates for Easter 2027 and decided to table a decision after suggestions were made to change up the event. M Bengel also passed around a sign-up sheet for members to choose at least three events that they will commit to helping at.

b. **Easter-** No update.
c. **250th Celebration-** No update.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. **Officer Elections-** Treasurer – L Bevins nominated Ken Kovaleski to the position. Ken accepted.

Motion: Nicole Sokolowski made a motion for Ken Kovaleski to be treasurer of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Robert Ravens-Seger seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

   B. **Student Member Recruitment-** A Van Neil has received some suggestions and will reach out to those students to see if they are interested.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by L Bevins to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk