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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, March 5, 2026, in the town hall, large conference room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:27pm. Members also present were Leona Bevins, Ken Kovaleski, Robert Ravens-Seger, Jim Lindberg, and Ella DeSimone. Nicole Sokolowski, Marc Dlugolenski, Amanda Mele, and Alexa Bednarz 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 February 5, 2026. L Bevins seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   A Van Neil shared a follow-up on last month's correspondence with a neighbor to East Granby Farms. A Van Neil let the neighbor know what the Commission discussed at the last meeting. Jason Hayes, first selectperson, also spoke with the neighbor and will see if DPW can help to clean-up the area.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil passed out a print-out of all the spring/summer programs that will be in the next Let's Talk Turkey. She mentioned there are a few new adult programs being offered, like Qigong and Sound Bowl Healing, and Discover Mandalas: Intro to Dot Painting.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   A Van Neil mentioned that she hasn't been able to meet with K Kovaleski to transfer treasurer duties yet. A Van Neil reported that there have been no new expenses. Parks and Rec received a memo from Jason Hayes on 2/17, freezing all spending townwide due to the bad winter and extra snow removal.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** –
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- see under Farmington Valley Heritage Trail.
      b. **Trails Day**- K Kovaleski reported that there will be a Trails Day clean-up on Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 am. J Lindberg will reach out to Boy Scouts and other groups to join. A Van Neil will talk to Tommy to discuss possible bridge work.

   B. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – R Ravens-Seger walked the trail this morning. No one else was present. The trail is currently packed snow. The fences look great. People are not cleaning up after their dog waste.
      a. Emergency Management Markers – L Bevins reported that a template is being made, though the project is being reconsidered. If emergency

personnel can locate people by using GPS on cell phones, then the signs may not be necessary.

b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- If the emergency markers are not purchased then something else will have to be considered to complete the Grant requirements.

C. **Granbrook Park** –

a. Playscape – There is a town capital funding request for the playscape that will be voted on at tonight's Special Town Meeting.

b. Softball Field – The committee is meeting tomorrow to make sure there is enough funds to cover all the work that will be done. AFS will start working at the end of March or the beginning of April.

D. East Granby Farms –

a. STEAP Grant updates- A Van Neil said the committee needs to decide how to use the remaining funds to close out the grant.

E. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** M Bengel is still waiting to receive information from Jenn Derleth. No other update.

F. Program Committee –

a. Easter- 4/2 flashlight egg hunt; 4/4 regular egg hunt. The events have both been relocated to the fields behind Allgrove School. The Saturday event will coincide with the Veterans Breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

b. 250th Celebration (Summer 2026)- The committee is coming together and plans are being made. Parks and Rec will put all the town events for the 250th Celebration on their website, not just Parks and Rec events.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Member Recruitment- Regular member, 1 position open. Student members, 2 positions open in June. A Van Neil has been in touch with some possible adult members and has reached out to the superintendent and principals for student recommendations. She is hoping to send committee members completed applications by the end of April for approval at the May meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by L Bevins to adjourn the meeting at 6:49pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk