PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
October 1, 2026, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, October 1, 2026, in the town hall, large conference room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Members also present were Robert Ravens-Seger, Pat Arnott, Ken Kovaleski, Jim Lindberg, Kayla Lengyel, Nicole Sokolowski, Marc Dlugolenski, Jon Mazzaferro, and Amanda Mele. Leona Bevins was absent. Alicia Van Neil, Program Director, was also present.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**
   Wayne Hayes was present, but no comment.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**
   R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for September 3, 2026. M Bengel seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   None

5. **DEPARTMENT REPORT**
   - A Van Neil reported that most of the fall programming is up and running: preschool soccer shots, playgroup, K-8 basketball, dance, birding/wildlife, flag football. There is a new coach for the running program that also does fitness and weight training as well. Seymour's Hangout group was cancelled, and Allgrove's group will be next week.
   - K Kovaleski and A Van Neil met with the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) to discuss repairs and trail clean-up in Cowles Park. The group will also link their Facebook page with the Parks and Rec page.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   K Kovaleski reported that the budget is on track this month. There have been minimal expenses. A Van Neil added that field maintenance contractor now has a combined contract with the town, which will enable the expense to be more consistent every month.

7. **MEMBER REPORTS (observations and reflections)**
   A. **Morgan Bengel-** is excited about the Granbrook Park updates and sad that the Community Day/Duck Derby has been delayed so much.
   B. **Amanda Mele-** The all-town events sub-committee met, and they are working on the details for the Halloween event. 40-50 MS students have turned in applications to volunteer at the event. The Tree Lighting event will be next to plan.
   C. **Pat Arnott-** The coach's subcommittee met. Establishing the baseline of dos and don'ts is the current goal. The group would also like to help residents understand that they can help in the program by volunteering as coaches. M Dlugolenski added that Parks and Rec accepts anyone willing to volunteer. The goal is to educate the volunteers on how to be a great coach.

D. **Kayla Lengyel-** Feels positive about the Granbrook Park revisions and to keep making the coaches be the best of the best.
E. **Nicole Sokolowski-** The Duck Derby is tomorrow- come if you can.
F. **Marc Dlugolenski-** Would like to tackle improving the grass at the North entrance of East Granby Farms near the new pickleball and basketball courts. The landscapers planted the type of grass and timing of planting based on the STEEP Grant Committee's requests. Most of it is now crabgrass. Commission members discussed aerating and overseeding themselves. There are also a few cosmetic eyesores that could be addressed. Putting a solar light on the entrance sign could help encourage people to use the new area. Adding court lights at some point would help night play.
G. **Ken Kovaleski-** Noted the new pickleball courts are being used. He noticed there is no way for basketballs to stop as they roll off the court. A discussion by members noted that maybe adding benches or bleachers near the court could help.
H. **Jon Mazzaferro-** The coaching meeting was a good way to create central ideas to teach new coaches. He enjoys playing on the pickleball courts with friends.
I. **Jim Lindberg-** The finishing touches on Granbrook Park came out nice.
J. **Bob Ravens-Seger-** Noted the bike trail is getting lots of usage. He walked 30 min from Copper Hill Rd up and back and saw 14 bicyclists and several walkers. He noted there weren't as many branches down from the storm as he expected. The poison ivy is under control this year. M Dlugolenski added that the gate has been open periodically on Copper Hill (the chain on the post). If any members see it open, please close it.
K. **Leona Bevins-** absent.

8. **UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS-**
   A. **Halloween-** Oct 24, rain date of Oct. 25. Members will be needed to help volunteer at the event from 3:30-7:30. Outside groups have been contacted to help as well. Candy donations are currently being accepted from the public.
   B. **Tree Lighting-** Dec. 4, rain date is Dec. 5. Parks and Rec is working with the Library and the Women's Club to combine winter events for a Winter Kick Off Weekend.

9. **OLD BUSINESS-**
   A. **Previous Evaluation Review –** Last Blast of Summer.

10. **NEW BUSINESS-**
    A. **Monthly Evaluation Review-** Granbrook Park- J Lindberg led the group in a discussion about the updates in Granbrook Park.
    B. **Next Month's Topic –** Halloween (K Lengyel)
    C. **Other New Business**
       a. **Current Member Reappointments**- A Mele, R Ravens-Seger, K Kovaleski are all up for reappointments.

Motion: Morgan Bengel made a motion to reappoint Amanda Mele for another term in the Parks and Recreation Commission. Marc Dlugolenski seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion: Morgan Bengel made a motion to reappoint Robert Ravens-Seger for another

term in the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ken Kovaleski seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion: Morgan Bengel made a motion to reappoint Ken Kovaleski for another term in the Parks and Recreation Commission. Pat Arnott seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Expenses- A Van Neil requested funds for the bounce houses and petting zoo that were rented for the concerts come out of the Rental Fund.

Motion: Amanda Mele made a motion not to exceed $2500 to move money from the rental fund to the round fund to cover the expenses of the bounce house and petting zoo rentals used at the concerts. Morgan Bengel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. NYC bus trip- An anonymous person donated a bus for a trip to NYC at Christmastime. Tickets for the trip will be $60-70 per person.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by A Mele to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk