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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, November 5, 2026, in the town hall, large conference room. Vice-chairperson Leona Bevins called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members also present were Robert Ravens-Seger, Ken Kovaleski, Jim Lindberg, Kayla Lengyel, Nicole Sokolowski, Marc Dlugolenski, and Jon Mazzaferro. Amanda Mele, Pat Arnott, and Morgan Bengel were absent. Alicia Van Neil, Program Director, was also present.

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

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**
   N Sokolowski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for October 1, 2026. K Kovaleski seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   None

5. **DEPARTMENT REPORT**
   - A Van Neil thanked everyone who helped at the Halloween event that had high attendance.
   - The kiosk has been ordered for the north entrance at East Granby Farms.
   - Temperature controlled AED units are being installed at each entrance of EG Farms and at Granbrook Park.
   - The large parking lot at EG Farms has been paved.
   - Fall programming is up and running.
   - Basketball registration will close in two weeks.
   - East Granby will no longer be participating in the Ski Sundown program due to not enough participation to compensate for the high cost of transportation and program fees.
   - Registration for winter programs, including indoor pickleball at Suffield Pickleball, will open soon.
   - There are concerns about drainage in the new parking lot at EG Farms, as well as safety concerns with the accessible ramp leading to the front door of the Sear's house.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   K Kovaleski reported that the budget is on track for this year so far. There will be an invoice soon for contracted bridge work in Cowles Park. A Van Neil stated that encumbered funds will be used to pay that invoice.

7. **MEMBER REPORTS (observations and reflections)**
   A. **Morgan Bengel-** absent
   B. **Amanda Mele-** absent
   C. **Pat Arnott-** absent
   D. **Kayla Lengyel-** Happy about the Halloween event. Nothing negative to report.
   E. **Nicole Sokolowski-** No comments.

F. **Marc Dlugolenski-** Pros: Likes that the town blew the leaves off the Rail Trail to avoid slipperiness. Con: The gate at the entrance on Copper Hill Rd. broke and it took DPW a few weeks to fix it. The gate could have swung open and hit someone. The temporary fix on the bridge is also deteriorating already. A Van Neil added that the Trails Grant is almost complete. Once it is, EG will be able to apply for another one, possibly to fix the bridge and other improvements along the trail.

G. **Ken Kovaleski-** The work party at Cowles park recently left the park in great shape. Some attendees said they thought the park is now in the best condition ever. A discussion was held about holding another work party on Nov. 14th. Ken will reach out to NEMBA (New England Mountain Biking Association) to see if one is needed. If not, some volunteers will need to at least remove broken wood pieces to the road for pick-up and disposal.

H. **Jon Mazzaferro-** The North Entrance at EG Farms looks great! And the Halloween even was well organized and attended by town residents. No cons to note.

I. **Jim Lindberg-** NEMBA did an amazing job cleaning up Cowles Park and patching bridges. The Halloween event was also great. Jim was impressed by the police presence and the Civil Air Patrol parking skills.

J. **Bob Ravens-Seger-** Noted the Rail Trail had 6 pedestrians, 2 dog walkers, and 2 bicyclists on his visit today. He noted that it looked like the trail had the leaves blown off it. A Van Neil confirmed DPW did the work. Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy updated their kiosks along the trail as well.

K. **Leona Bevins-** Pro: Happy to see the town events getting strong and popular. Con: Leona noted that bicyclists and pedestrians need to remember to hit the walk signal button before crossing Rt. 189 to avoid possibly getting hit by passing cars.

8. **UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS-**
   A. **Tree Lighting-** Dec. 4, rain date is Dec. 5. The library will be joining in the festivities. They will be decorating with an elf theme and are organizing professional carolers. The tree lighting will be at 6:00, followed by cookies and cocoa at the community center. The Youth Action Council and Youth Services will have letters to Santa again. Luminaries will be set up again as well. The High School chorus will be performing and the winners of an essay contest for grades 3-5 will be recognized.

9. **OLD BUSINESS-**
   A. **Previous Evaluation Review –** A final copy of "Granbrook Park" was shared and no members had anything to add.

10. **NEW BUSINESS-**
    A. **Monthly Evaluation Review-** A discussion on the Halloween event was led by K Lengyel. A donation of $1000 for candy was made, as well as other candy donations.
    B. **Next Month's Topic –** Tree Lighting
    C. **Other New Business**
       a. **Approve 2027 meeting dates-**

Motion: Nicole Sokolowski made a motion to approve the Meeting Dates for 2027 as

presented with one typo correction. Robert Ravens-Seger seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Decisions for summer concerts during 2027 need to be made. Funding has been secured for 3 events again, so dates need to be chosen and bands need to be booked soon.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by M Dlugolenski and seconded by N Sokolowski to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk