

MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 5, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, September 5, 2019, in the Sears House located at East Granby Farms, 79 North Main Street, East Granby, Connecticut. At 7:02 P.M., Chairman Pat Gill called the meeting to order. Members present were Alicia Van Neil, Joan Krogh, Rosalie McKenney, Bob Ravens-Seger, Doreen Jacius and Jay Brady and Brandon Freeman.

2. DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC – None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 7:04 P.M., a **motion** was made by Mr. Ravens-Segar and seconded by Ms. Krogh to accept the minutes of the May 2nd, 2019 meeting as is. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Van Neil gave updates on the three summer programs offered over the summer; Nature Camp, Music & Theatre Camp and Camp Granbrook.

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Program Director, Ms. Van Neil, gave an update on the Land Trust's involvement with the Nature Camp. She noted that there is discussion about offering an after school program. An update was also given on the Music & Theatre program. Ms. Erin Dugan took over for Mr. Michael Lamb. There were approximately 30 children in the program. The next theme is being discussed, possibly Disney, and an after school program is also being discussed. Camp Granbrook did well with the numbers of enrollment increasing. Ms. Van Neil noted that the cost of transportation has also increased. Local resources were tapped into for the education and activities of the Camp Granbrook campers. Ms. Van Neil discussed the possibility of grouping ages differently in future years since there is such a large gap in ages and grades of the campers.

Ms. Van Neil noted there is going to be fall after school programs. At Seymour Programs offered are baton twirling, mad science, and Art. At EGMS, several programs will be offered including "Kids run the Nation." The middle school will offer Volleyball, Tennis, Flag Football and Cooking.

Ms. Van Neil is currently working on Adult Programming.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. McKenney reports that the budget for the new year is in, and no funds have been cut. Ms. McKenney passed around a picture of a message center that has been purchased, which will be located at the Center of Granbrook Park.

7. OLD BUSINESS

East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission
East Granby, Connecticut

A. Committee Reports

1. *Farmington Valley Heritage Trail* -

Trail conditions were discussed. Mr. Ravens-Segar stated that the trail conditions look great. Mr. Gill asked about whether there is vandalism in the parks, but it seems to be mild compared to surrounding towns.

Ms. McKenney added that Jason Norton filed a complaint against the Commission due to the "No Hunting signs" off of Copper Hill. Ms. Van Neil noted that she had been in contact with Peter Picone from the DEEP, and agreed to bring it before the Commission; the Commission opted not to take any action regarding the posted signs.

2. *Open Space* - Nothing to report.

3. *Cowles Park* - Cowles has been very busy. There is a large amount of bike traffic on the trail, and there are several activities and events planned (5 events were scheduled, 1 event was cancelled).

4. Discussion was had about E-Bikes on the trail systems and how to keep everyone safe. Pros and cons were noted, including the benefit of allowing those with mobility issues access to the trail. Discussion will continue to figure out how to best ensure there is a cohesive area between the walkers, dog walkers, runners, bikers and E-bikers.

4. *Granbrook Park* -

Mr. Brady reports that there is flooding in the one of the fields, and Public Works is taking care of that. It is believed to be a large community well. There is also an Eagle Scout Project in the works to make the blacktop where the tennis courts used to be more usable by cleaning the area and adding blacktop games to the pavement including hopscotch and four square. Progress is dependent on the individual completing his Eagle Scout.

Ms. McKenney noted that there was an issue with the water fountains at Granbrook Park which is now fixed.

5. *East Granby Farms* -

Ms. Van Neil noted that Youth Services had some left over funding from grant and fund money. Parks and Recreation was able to work with Youth Services to identify items which would enhance both town services. Plans are being made to install a high end home projector screen; Christian Robinson is consulting on the products and installation as well as pricing.

Ms. Van Neil praised K.E.C. Party Rentals for their flexibility and price breaks for bounce house and waterslide rentals for the camp. K.E.C. discounted their costs by 50%.

Ms. Van Neil noted that on September 21st, there will be a large event happening at East Granby Farms, The Granby Marquis will be holding a Muster there. They will be providing parking attendants, port-o-potties, bringing in bales of hay, camping overnight on the grounds, and hosting the fife and drum core for adults and youth, parade and tattoo. The Marquis are partnering with the Historical Society. There is no charge for this event. There will be no open flames or alcohol allowed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Halloween Party

Ms. Van Neil has the Halloween Party scheduled for Saturday, October 26th, 2019 from 5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. This year Parks and Recreation will be partnering with Old Newgate Prison for this event. It will take place at the prison. East Granby Fire Department and the Resident State Trooper have been contacted. The event will be publicized as East Granby Family Night, no charge for East Granby residents, bracelets will be provided. There will be a fee for non-residents. The Land Trust is exploring options for a Trail to for a nature walk. Cost for this event would be approximately \$600.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Freeman to approve the request made by Ms. Van Neil to move forward with plans for the Halloween Party hosted at Old Newgate Prison. Ms. Krogh seconded the motion. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Holiday Tree Lighting-

Ms. McKenney reported that there will be some changes to the tree lighting this year. The Town Hall has become too small to host this event. It will now take place on the Friday following Thanksgiving at the Community Center, on Friday, November 29th at 6:00 P.M. There will be fun activities planned for children, such as a "Letters to Santa station." A resident named Jesse Sanzo, who owns a local tree company has volunteered to trim the tree and add lights to the tree every year.

The Marquis will kick off the event again this year and then residents will move to the Community Center to enjoy the activities planned.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brady and seconded by Mr. Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 P.M. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rathbun
Clerk

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EAST GRANBY, CT

2019 SEP 12 AM 7:58

COL. _____ PG. _____

Michael J. Gagliardi
Mayor