

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
February 1, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, February 1, 2024, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Pat Gill called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members also present were Robert Ravens-Seger, Leona Bevins, Marc Dlugolenski, Karen Hines (remote), Morgan Bengel, Nicole Sokolowski, Jon Webster, and Ella DeSimone. Program Coordinator Alicia Van Neil was also present. Carly McKenney and Chloe Rapose were absent.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by L Bevins to approve the January 4, 2024, minutes. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Coordinator A Van Neil updated the group on the following programs: Ski Sundown has one more week, Basketball is going well overall, Flag Football registration is open for the spring, the tennis program for the spring is being ironed out, and after school activities are going well. The deadline to get summer programs finalized by is February 28th to be able to get the flyer in the "Let's Talk Turkey" in March. The hiring of summer staff will start soon.

- a. Free Program for Head Coaches** – A Van Neil shared several coaches have inquired about the program fee being waived for their own children. M Dlugolenski shared that for travel basketball, they waive the head coach's fee, and half of one assistant's fee. A discussion was held. A Van Neil mentioned she did not have any difficulty getting coaches this season. Also, if children fees are waived during Flag Football, program fees would have to increase for everyone else. The Commission has decided not to waive fees currently.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

L Bevins reported the budget has been 50% spent through the end of January, which is 7 months into the fiscal year.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seger stated that north of Copper Hill Rd has been plowed. Plowing is a liability if residents slip on untreated pavement and is causing damage to the pavement and bridge. South showed a lot of footprints in the snow and ice, no snowshoe, cross-country ski, or snow mobile marks noticed. One ATV trail was seen.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update
 - b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- The grant application will be submitted to repave the Farmington Valley Heritage Trail, fix the damaged bridge, and possibly add a trail from the bridge above the river down to Granbrook Park. A discussion was held about addressing how to stop the plowing if the trail is fixed so the new trail won't be damaged as well.

2. **Cowles Park** – Members shared the park is still busy.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update.
 - b. **ADA Bike Trail** – Not being pursued at this time.

3. **Granbrook Park** –
 - a. **Gate Attendant/charge Summer 2024** – M Bengel heard from community members: Police, Nourish My Soul, Land Trust, and Eden Wimpfheimer. Correspondence was shared. Options discussed: Charging non-residents (members decided not to pursue at this time), hiring security for evenings to check park and close gate, asking police to close gate, asking DPW to open gate during the week, and possibly establishing a volunteer chain list for opening the gate on the weekends.
 - b. **Softball Field** – No update.

4. **East Granby Farms** –
 - a. **Basketball Court Update**- No update.
 - b. **Playscape Update**- An application was submitted to the Bond Committee with our State Rep Tami Zawistowski. Other grant opportunities are being researched.
 - c. **STEAP Grant**- The committee is almost fully established and ready to start. Still seeking a chairperson.

5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies** – No update.

6. **Program Committee** –
 - a. **Approve 2024 Event Dates**-

Motion: R Ravens-Seger made a motion to accept the following list of event dates as submitted. M Dlugolenski seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

- Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 10am. Rain or shine.
- Spring Dance Recital – Sunday, June 2 (rehearsal is Friday, May 31)
- Summer Concert – Friday, August 23, 2024
 - Raindate: Saturday August 24, 2024
- Halloween – Saturday, October 26, 2024

- Raindate: Sunday October 27, 2024
- Tree Lighting – Friday, December 6, 2024
 - Raindate: Saturday, December 7, 2024
- Fall Dance Recital - TBD

B. Park Rules – M Bengel led a discussion on the list sent out to commission members. Approving the list was tabled until the next meeting. N Sokolowski suggested the commission could pursue establishing town ordinances to correlate to park rules to allow the police to enforce them.

C. Update By-Laws – Tables until next meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Assistant Program Director positions: The state changed the guidelines on using ARPA funding to cover staff salaries. These positions could be in jeopardy as early as the end of June 2024. Guidance from The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance will be sought.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by M Dlugolenski to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovalski
Commission Clerk