

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
April 4, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, April 4, 2024, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Pat Gill called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members also present were Robert Ravens-Seger, Leona Bevins, Marc Dlugolenski, Karen Hines, Nicole Sokolowski, Jon Webster, and Carly McKenney. Program Coordinator Alicia Van Neil was also present. Morgan Bengel, Ella DeSimone, and Chloe Rapose were absent.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

A resident inquired about the STEAP Project. He was wondering if the proposed parking lot could be made smaller. P Gill, member of the committee working on the project, responded that the parking lot will probably be scaled down because the current size was based on more basketball and pickleball courts than can be funded by the grant money. The resident then inquired if it is possible to use some of the grant money towards a playground at the south entrance. A Van Neil explained STEAP Grant rules will not allow funding to be reallocated to what is considered a different phase. Money can be shifted to other elements of the proposed project at the North entrance to the park, such as fencing or lighting.

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by C McKenney to approve the March 7, 2024, minutes. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A Van Neil received an email from Eden Wimpfheimer, First Selectperson, regarding changing the process to use open space funds. She spoke with a lawyer who does not recommend changing the process- any requests still must be approved by the BOS and then go to a vote at a town meeting. A Van Neil also received a request from the High School Youth Action Council, which will be discussed under New Business.

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Coordinator A Van Neil shared that the summer program edition of "Let's Talk Turkey" came out a couple weeks ago and is available online. There are also links to the program guide in the online newsletters for each school. Spring programs are underway. Programs at Allgrove are going well. Some programs at Seymour have low attendance. A Van Neil also mentioned that some of the more specialty programming is being offered jointly with Granby to help with low attendance issues. Two trips are being offered to town residents in the next few months- New York City in May and the Bronx Zoo in August.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

L Bevins reported that the budget is on track. A Van Neil mentioned that subcommittees should meet and discuss possible upcoming expenses before the next meeting to be included in the next budget cycle.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seeger stated that he walked the trail North of Copper Hill Rd and the surface is in similar deteriorated condition as the trail South of Copper Hill Rd. The decking on the bridge is also beat up.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update
 - b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- A Van Neil reported that the state confirmed they received the application, and there is no further update.
2. **Cowles Park** – C McKenney reported the parking lot barriers are still in disrepair. A Van Neil mentioned the port-o-potty has been added in the parking lot for the season. One was also added at Granbrook Park. The one for the Farmington Valley Heritage Trail has not been placed yet due to consideration of the location of it.
 - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- C McKenney discussed how there are three separate parties who are interested in having these markers in the park, so she will meet with each one to compile ideas and suggestions.
3. **Granbrook Park** – A Van Neil mentioned that the water system project was approved by the BOF meeting and will now go to the next town meeting for public approval. In the meantime, Ray from DPW will hook up a spigot by the basketball court for the scout groups using the firepits.
 - a. **Gate Attendant Summer 2024** – A Van Neil mentioned there is no update from E Wimpfheimer if the police have agreed to help close the park or not. DPW has agreed to open the gate during the week.
 - b. **Softball Field** – No update.
4. **East Granby Farms** –
 - a. **Basketball Court Update**- M Dlugolenski will get a quote for installation next week.
 - b. **Playscape Update**- A Van Neil stated they are still waiting to hear back about the Urban Act Grant that has been applied for.
 - c. **STEAP Grant**- P Gill mentioned the committee met last night to start discussing a plan of action.
5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies** – A Van Neil spoke with Kelly Jacobs about Risk Management Training. They are going to start with coaches'

contracts and more detailed policies and procedures. M Dlugolenski mentioned the background check company does offer this training.

6. Program Committee –

- a. **Easter** – P Gill mentioned that the event was well attended. L Bevins said a lot of Food Pantry donations were received.
- b. **Summer Blast** – No update.

B. Park Rules – No update.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Funding Request- Easter – A Van Neil requested \$250 to cover the additional cost of chocolate for filling the Easter eggs.

Motion: A motion was made by J Webster, and seconded by R Ravens-Seger to allocate \$250 more towards the cost of chocolate for the Easter eggs. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Funding Request- Movie at the Farms (High School Youth Action Council) – A Van Neil received a request for Parks and Rec to help fund and cosponsor the HS YAC for their spring project. They are holding an outdoor movie event at EG Farms on 5/3, Raindate TBD. The movie will be the 2004 Spongebob Movie. The budget for the project is estimated to be \$1500 for movie licensing, equipment, and activities.

Motion: A motion was made by J Webster, and seconded by L Bevins to donate \$750 to the HS YAC for their outdoor movie event. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Student Representative Terms – Both Ella DeSimone and Chloe Rapose have agreed to stay on the board for another year. They need to submit a brief paragraph about why they would like to continue.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by M Dlugolenski and seconded by J Webster to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk