

**East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission
East Granby, Connecticut**

MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 6, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, January 6, 2020, in the Sears House located at East Granby Farms, 79 North Main Street, East Granby, Connecticut. At 7:00 P.M., Patrick Gill called the meeting to order. Members present were Patrick Gill, Bob Ravens-Seeger, Brandon Freeman, Rosalie McKenney, Doreen Jacius, Jay Brady, Karen Hines and Chrissy Leadbeater

Director of Parks & Recreation, Alicia Van Neil, was also present.

2. DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC – None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 7:01 P.M., Mr. Ravens-Seeger made a motion to approve the December 5, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Mr. Freeman. Motion passed 6-0-2. Ms. Leadbeater and Mr. Brady abstained.

Approval of the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes was tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE - None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Program Director, Ms. Van Neil, gave an update on NEMBA, and shared information from their report. She reported that basketball is underway and she is receiving positive feedback from Granby and Suffield. After school program is strong. Homework club and intramurals will be funded internally at the Middle School. Programs being offered are Greenhouse and Sciences, Gaming club, Baking and Crafts. Parks and Recreation are offering the following programs: Baton and Cheer club Dance program; five classes will be running pre-K through adult. There will be a recital at the end of the program. Ms. Van Neil aims to have the website updated by March 2nd, with camp information available, there will be applications for new and returning counselors to fill out and there will be a new counselor's online training. There will also be a CIT program available. Ms. Van Neil explained the minimum wage increase which will take place over the next couple years, discussion was had about increasing non-resident fees and creative ways to absorb the increase of wage pay. Spring sports that will be offered are flag football, tennis and sports of all sorts.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - Ms. McKenney passed the budget out to the Commission. She reported that the recreation center bills coming in will get paid through parks and recreation and then get reimbursed.

7. OLD BUSINESS -

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A. Committee Reports

1. ***Farmington Valley Heritage Trail*** - Mr. Ravens-Seeger reported that the divots continue to increase and there are some frost heaves present. Mr. Ravens-Seeger also reported that north of Copper Hill was plowed last month.
2. ***Open Space*** - nothing new to report
3. ***Cowles Park*** - Ms. Hines and Ms. Jacious reported that cars are present every day in the parking lot and they're trying to keep awareness of trail conditions. Currently the park is closed for biking which is posted on trail hub. Discussion ensued about how to physically deter bikers from using the trails when trail conditions deteriorate. Discussion was had about how to police the trail being closed and how to monitor use. There is a mountain biking clinic coming up in April, it will be posted in Talk Turkey.
4. ***Granbrook Park*** – Ms. McKenney gave an update on the baseball field at Granbrook park. Ms. McKenney and Ms. Van Neil visited the field with the town engineer to discuss the flooding issues. The field is saturated. The option of bringing in fill is not allowed because it is in a flood zone. There was discussion about clearing the area out, but without a solid freeze, heavy equipment hasn't been able to get in there because the ground is too wet. Trenching was also discussed, but the cost is astronomical. Next week there is a meeting taking place between Department of Public Works and the town engineer to discuss the option of abandoning the current ball field and replacing it on the other side of the flag football field where a clearing already exists. If this is possible, estimates will be needed.
Ms. McKenney discussed concerns about not being able to use that field this year. Other options were discussed for baseball field use, including using the field for the younger children at Allgrove.
There was discussion had about applying for a STEAP grant to further ball field phase II, with parking and lighting at East granby Farms as an alternative.
5. ***East Granby Farms*** –Ms. McKenney reported that the A/V equipment was ordered, has arrived, and will be installed February 14, 2020.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Easter Egg Hunt, April 11, 2020** - At 7:33 P.M., Mr. Ravens-Seeger made a motion to approve \$900 to be used for the East Egg Hunt. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. **Uconn tickets** - Ms. Leadbeater contacted UCONN for incentive tickets. She is waiting to hear back from them.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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At 7:39 P.M., a **motion** was made by Ms. McKenney and seconded by Mr. Freeman to adjourn. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rathbun
Commission Clerk