

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

MEETING MINUTES

Subject to Approval

Meeting Date: September 3, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regularly scheduled meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, May 7, 2020. At 7:01 P.M., Patrick Gill called the meeting to order. Members present during the meeting were Patrick Gill, Doreen Jacius, Karen Hines, Chrissy Leadbeater, Bob Ravens-Seger and Rosalie McKenney.

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

2. DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC - *none*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes approval of the August 6th, 2020 meeting were tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE - *none*

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Program Director, Ms. Van Neil, gave an update about the current status of programs. All Summer Programs are complete. Ms. Van Neil noted that Summer Theatre Camp was a huge success, an additional week was added. Changes made to programs regarding Covid-19 were well received and everything ran smoothly.

Ms. Van Neil advised the Commission that space is the largest issue for Fall Programs, and leaving enough time for proper cleaning routines to be followed.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - Ms. McKenney advised that the only update to the Treasurer's report would be salaries, and it is too early in the month for anything else.

7. OLD BUSINESS -

A. Committee Reports

1. ***Farmington Valley Heritage Trail*** - Mr. Ravens-Seger reported that he was recently on the trail from route 20 to Suffield and back. He noticed some fence rails are down and that there are noticeable frost heaves in the trail. There is also a large paper wasp nest on the trail; Ms. Van Neil will advise public works to manage the issue so nobody gets hurt.
2. Ms. McKenney thanked Mr. Ravens-Seger and Ms. Hines for volunteering for the 2020 Bike Ped count being done by CRCOG.

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3. **Open Space** - *nothing to report*
4. **Cowles Park** - Ms. Hines and Ms. Jacius reported that the parking lot for Cowles has been very full when they have passed by. Discussion ensued about crowds seen within Cowles Park and how to deter crowding and overuse of the park. Ms. Jacius noted that more clearing has been done of the trails since the trees came down from the storm. Volunteers have been out working on it. There have been unauthorized trail braids being closed off by laying brush and logs across them to maintain the trail system in place. Mr. Gill advised that he had a conversation with First Selectman, Jim Hayden, about DPW expanding the parking lot and placing signs along route 187 to discourage parking along the road. Discussion ensued among the Commission about ideas of how to limit overuse of the park. Several members of the commission noted that they did not agree with an expansion of the parking lot.

Ms. McKenney suggested drafting a letter to the Board of Selectman regarding the Commission's opposition to the parking lot expansion. Mr. Gill to draft the letter.

Mr. Gill made a **motion** at 7:16 p.m. to expand the Cowles Parking lot. The votes against were unanimous (0-5), and the motion did not pass.

4. **Granbrook Park** – members noted that the Park appeared busy when driven through.
5. **East Granby Farms** –Ms. McKenney reported that the swingset hasn't arrived yet but all parts have been purchased. Construction should start next week on the playground. There is also a need for mulch in the playground area.

Ms. McKenney suggested an increase in the cost of renting East Granby Farms recreation hall. It was also noted that a cleaning fee may be added to the cost due to the increased cost/time of cleaning between events. It was noted that the Community Center will be doing the same.

8. NEW BUSINESS -

- A. **Drive-In Movie Night**- In conjunction with the East Granby Library and Mark's Auto Parts, a Drive-In Movie night is planned for Friday, September 25, 2020 at Mark's Auto with a rain date of October 2, 2020. Movie has not been decided on yet, information to be sent out on Website, social media and email blast. Pre-Registration will be required for this free event, with a suggestion of donation collection; possibly the food pantry. Discussion ensued about pre-packaged popcorn, bring your own snacks, rules, port-o-potties and time schedule.
- B. **Halloween**- Discussion ensued about the Annual Halloween event to take place Friday, October 30, 2020. Ideas were discussed by the Commission. Ms. Leadbeater suggested a family scarecrow contest throughout the town. Other ideas discussed were trunk or treat, not so spooky party with a scarier theme later in the evening

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and a corn maze. The East Granby Fire Department has voted to participate, other groups to be contacted.

- C. Programs on Distance Learning Days** - Ms. Van Neil discussed ideas about programs that could be offered on Distance Learning Days. These programs would offer childcare during times when parents are working. Ms. Van Neil noted that Mike Fish, Center Shops, has offered additional space for these programs to run. More information to come.

Ms. Leadbeater left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 P.M., a **motion** was made by Mr. Ravens-Seeger and seconded by Ms. Hines to adjourn. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rathbun
Commission Clerk