

**MINUTES**  
**East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**East Granby, Connecticut**  
**January 7, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held via Zoom and telephone call-in on Thursday, January 7, 2021. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Members present were Vice Chairman Jay Brady, Treasurer Rosalie McKenney, Karen Hines, Robert Ravens-Seger, James Gothers, Chrissy Leadbeater, and Doreen Jacius. Also present was Program Director Alicia Van Neil.

**2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**

None

**3. APPROVE MINUTES**

It was determined that the minutes of the meeting on November 12, 2020 had not been transcribed. The Clerk was requested to do this transcription and distribute as usual. A vote to accept these minutes will be taken during the February, 2021 meeting.

A motion was made by B Ravens-Seger and seconded by J Gothers to approve the minutes of 12/03/2020 as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

P Gill read an email from Brandon Freeman in which he gave a formal notification of his resignation from the Commission. Mr. Gill and in turn, those present, expressed gratitude for his service and offered best wishes for him in the future.

**5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A Van Neil stated that, due to the closing of all Town buildings to the public by First Selectman James Hayden because of COVID-19, all in-person recreation programs and meetings scheduled to begin this week have been suspended indefinitely. She and Mr. Hayden will monitor the potential for resumption in February, with the thought to inform instructors and participants a couple of weeks in advance so they can make plans.

The winter theater workshop which started in December is continuing in Zoom. Yoga classes have switched to Zoom because of the Governor's mask requirement.

The remote program for students that was discussed during the summer has begun on Wednesdays when Allgrove and Seymour School students are remote for schooling. To date, there are 19 students registered. The program will be evaluated monthly and its continuation will depend on student interest and the availability of staff.

Typically, summer camps are planned by the end of January. This is proving to be a challenge this year because of the pandemic. She expects to publish what will be possible and in what format later than usual.

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

R McKenney distributed the December report. The only expenditures were for the parking and field maintenances through the summer into the fall. Little League ran later than usual which pushed maintenance later than usual. Expenses vs available funds shows that more remains than what was spent.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Committee Reports**

- 1. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – B Ravens-Seeger stated that he has walks the trail and the usage appears to be heavy. He noted that he saw the use of an electric bike; and when it was snow covered, he saw snowmobile tracks. The fencing looks good except one spot which will need repair; and the usual heaves and divots are still bad.
- 2. Open Space** – No report
- 3. Cowles Park** – K Hines stated that the trails are still in heavy use, including after bad weather. The parking along the street which was a problem is not happening now.

A Van Neil stated that she has been approached by Ken Beliveau from Emergency Management about developing an emergency plan for search and rescue along the park trails, including maps with existing or created markers for hikers and first responders to use. She will coordinate a meeting with him and the subcommittee as well as a few other persons who would be helpful addressing this need.

- 4. Granbrook Park** – No report

**5. East Granby Farms** – No report

**6. Facebook/Promotions** – R McKenney stated that when the Parks & Recreation facebook page was created, the posting became her responsibility by default. She is not very proficient doing the posting and although A Van Neil also posts on the site, neither of them can devote the proper time to ensure that all the desired information is posted, as well as to post the same information more than once or twice to ensure the saturation of that information to readers. She suggested that C Leadbeater, who often takes pictures and posts them plus other information on the site, take over for her and become the conduit through whom Parks & Recreation information is made available on social media. C Leadbeater stated that she would be happy to do this new subcommittee.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Election of Officers** – K Hines stated that she pursued candidates for the positions of Officers for the Commission, including asking the current Officers if they would want to continue to serve if voted to do so. She proposed the following slate of candidates: Patrick Gill as Chairman, Jay Brady as Vice Chairman, and Rosalie McKenney as Treasurer.

A motion was made by B Ravens-Seger and seconded by J Gothers to accept the slate as proposed. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. Vote to accept Barbara Marsele as the new Clerk for the Commission** – A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by B Ravens-Seger to accept Barbara Marsele as the new Clerk for the Commission. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**C. Next meeting date** – February 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by B Ravens-Seger and seconded by R McKenney to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Marsele  
Commission Clerk

