

MINUTES
East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission
East Granby, Connecticut
April 1, 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, April 1, 2021. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Members present were Treasurer Rosalie McKenney, Karen Hines, Robert Ravens-Seger, James Gothers, Christina Leadbeater, Doreen Jacius and Nicole Sokolowski. Also present was Program Director Alicia Van Neil.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes of the February 4, 2021 were corrected by K Hines. The phrase concerning parking in the Cowles Park report should have stated that the vehicles were parked within the Park entrance. A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by C Leadbeater to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting as corrected. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

A motion was made by D Jacius and seconded by N Sokolowski to approve the minutes of March 4, 2021 as submitted. R Ravens-Seger abstained and the remaining members voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Van Neil stated that this was the last of five weeks of basketball. About one hundred children K-8 participated. Wellness Wednesdays have been attended by the full 16 children currently permitted and are closing because the schools are returning to five day in person learning. However, after spring break, she anticipates being able to run half day Wellness Wednesdays in the afternoon for either 6 or 8 weeks. Cooking classes, adult art classes, and dance classes are continuing. Summer activities, camps, spring tennis, and flag football are being posted on the website as the information about them firms up and registrations are happening.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

R McKenney stated that to date, approximately 54% of the budget has been spent.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – B Ravens-Seeger stated that he walked from Route 20 to the Suffield line. The trail was crowded, especially in the afternoon hours now that the clocks have changed. The frost heaves and divots persist and fences are in good condition. He saw electric bikes and suggested that the Commission revisit their use.

A Van Neil stated that various individuals are continuing to do their parts towards mapping the trails for emergencies.

There was a brief discussion about an email passed to First Selectman Jim Hayden and further passed to the Commission concerning the possibility of adopting the umbrella name being used for the trail system since it crosses multiple communities and states. It was the consensus that since it was not a mandate of any kind, renaming the trail should not be done.

K Hines stated that she walked from Route 189 to Floydville Road. She recommended that any signs to be posted should be placed on the east side to avoid Railroad Avenue. She noted a variety of things which need to be repaired or filled in or fenced to create better safety. R McKenney stated that the DPW goes out along the trail in the spring to paint the heaves and divots and repair or add to the fencing. She suggested that K Hines contact Ed Hubbard with her list to be sure they address these safety issues.

2. **Open Space** – R McKenney stated that lots in existing subdivisions are continuing to sell and money continues to accumulate as new dwelling permit applications are approved.
3. **Cowles Park** – D Jacius stated that the trail crews have been busy clearing the trails from the debris caused by the very windy days. Trail Hub and Facebook sights have had trail condition updates posted and mountain bikers have been good about not using the trails on muddy days.
4. **Granbrook Park** – P Gill stated that he went up on the bridge to look at what could be seen from there and things looked to be clean and in pretty in good condition.

R McKenney stated that she met with A Van Neil and Ed Hubbard at the ball field to look at the outfield drainage which needs work. DPW is going to do some work on the outside of the right field fence to see if that improves the drainage until the end of the season. After that, more intensive work will need to be done to create a more complete and permanent solution.

5. **East Granby Farms** – R McKenney stated that she was in contact with TJ Baressy again about updating the Master Plan. He was still unavailable to work on the update; but they hope to meet again to discuss the update before next month's meeting.
6. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training** – No report
7. **Marketing** – C Leadbeater stated that the original ability to share posts from the Parks & Recreation Facebook page to the East Granby Community Facebook page is no longer possible. Posts will have to be done separately.

She stated that there was a desire to create a logo for the Commission. She reached out to the high school art teacher to ask if there could be a contest or something else involving her students to come up with a logo. The teacher was enthusiastic about this; but it is late in this COVID year to plan something. She asked to be approached again in September and she would gladly work on it.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Bylaws** – C Leadbeater reviewed the proposed changes to Articles IV through VI. There were various recommendations by the members. She and K Hines will rework these Articles relative to these recommendations and then email the revisions to the members for further review at the next meeting.
- B. **Easter** – A Van Neil reviewed the plans for Operation Egg Drop on Friday April 2, 2021 and the Egg Hunt, which will consist of three waves of different aged children on Saturday, April 3, 2021.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by J Gothers and seconded by R McKenney to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Marsele
Commission Clerk

