

MINUTES
East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission
East Granby, Connecticut
May 6, 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, May 6, 2021. Vice Chairman Jay Brady called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

A motion was made by B Ravens-Seger and seconded by C Leadbeater to approve the minutes of April 1, 2021 as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director A Van Neil stated that all programs for adults and children are back in person at this point, including competition for four flag football teams which will begin in two Saturdays and run until the middle of June.

All summer programming is currently on the website. Granbrook Park is the most likely location for Camp Granbrook as it is the best option. It would be entirely outdoors as opposed to being indoors at the schools. Also, the availability of the schools has yet to be approved.

COVID-19 restrictions, indoors and outdoors, are continuing to change, and these changes will be followed by all programs. Parents are told to stay informed and that they will be notified concerning program changes relative to COVID.

3. APPROVE MINUTES ADDENDUM

K Hines, having joined the meeting after the vote to approve the minutes of April 1, 2021 as written, stated that there is a correction that needs to be made.

Under 7.A.1, paragraph four, the correct phrase should state that “the safety markers should be placed on the west side of the trail.”

A motion was made by K Hines and seconded by B Ravens-Seeger to approve the minutes of April 1, 2021 as corrected. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

6. TREASURER’S REPORT

No Report

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – B Ravens-Seeger stated that he walked the trail from Route 20 north and found that, although there were root heaves and divots, they were typical and had been marked by DPW. The fences looked good.
There was a discussion about the increased use of E-bikes (electric bikes) on the trail. There was concern that, although they are not allowed, there may not be much that can be done to prevent their use. K Hines will contact the Trails Council to seek their advice about this issue.
K Hines asked about the distance planned between safety markers. She thought that the planned quarter mile between markers was too short and that a third or a half mile might be more appropriate. A Van Neil stated that safety subcommittees including the Fire Chief’s were going to meet again and she will address this issue with them.
- 2. Open Space** – R McKenney stated that this report will be part of A4.
- 3. Cowles Park** – No report
- 4. Granbrook Park** – R McKenney stated that she was at a meeting at the Park to discuss several needs there and how both the Open Space and perhaps Hartford Foundation grant money, if awarded, could be used. Among the needs discussed were to improve the basketball court, convert the tennis courts to pickle ball courts, and add a large building for A Van Neil to use as she currently has no indoor space there. A presentation is going to be made by A Van Neil and R McKenney at the Board of Selectmen meeting requesting that they grant an expenditure of money from the Open Space Fund to purchase a prefab building and add electricity to it. Among its uses would be the ability of the Town to rent it out to groups and organizations like the recreation center.
J Brady stated that he researched what could be done with the sports areas by contacting Hinding Sports Builders which has done work in Bloomfield

and Avon. He learned that the basketball court is not long or wide enough to be called a full size court. Their recommendation was to put a full size basketball court where the current tennis courts are and the pickle ball courts where the current basketball court is. As neither surface is usable, he suggested that any estimate for the work not include digging them up. He thought the Town could do that part. The builders are supposed to get back to him with some numbers which he will report to the Commission at the next meeting.

5. East Granby Farms – R McKenney stated that she met with several representatives of Little League who stated that they wanted to fund ball field improvements. They want to run electricity to the field for making announcements and operating practice equipment. She gave them information about cost and possible layout which had been developed when this improvement had been explored before by the Town. They also want to fund replacing the current dugouts with bigger ones. She asked that they keep the Town informed as they move forward with these improvements.

6. Sports Programs/Coaching/Training – A Van Neil stated that she met with P Gill, J Gothers, and N Sokolowski to begin the exploration of how to best proceed with this subcommittee. They each have assignments to research and will be meeting again.

7. Marketing – No report

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. BYLAWS – C Leadbeater stated that she and K Hines have continued their review and she presented their recommendations for changes and clarifications. The Commission discussed the recommendations for Articles VI through VIII.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by J Gothers and seconded by R McKenney to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Marsele
Commission Clerk

