

MINUTES
East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission
East Granby, Connecticut
June 3, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at the Recreation Building at East Granby Farms. 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, 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 D Jacius to approve the minutes of May 6, 2021 as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director A Van Neil stated that her Spring Programs have begun and are doing well. Summer Camp registrations are filling in and new COVID rules are being shared with parents as they occur.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

R McKenney stated that she is working on assembling a fully updated financial report so that how much money remains in the budget can be known before the end of the fiscal year. It has come to her attention that the fence in front of one of the Granbrook Park baseball dugouts was vandalized to the extent that it needs to be repaired immediately. The unexpected cost of this repair will further diminish the remaining budget. She recommended that a subcommittee volunteer to consider the priority of potential expenditures once the budget remainder is known.

A Van Neil stated that she has been approached by someone who is going to work on the writing of a grant request from The Hartford Foundation to help pay for a new basketball court at Granbrook Park.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – B Ravens-Seeger stated that the surface south of Copper Hill Road along the swamp is continuing to deteriorate. It is more of an issue for cyclists than pedestrians. There appears to have been some spraying of the poison ivy; but there needs to be more.

A Van Neil stated that First Selectman Jim Hayden approved the MS Walk which will take place during the coming weekend.

2. **Open Space** – R McKenney stated that the Board of Selectmen approved the expenditure of money from the Open Space Fund to purchase a pre-fab building for Granbrook Park and add electricity to it. The expenditure will now be presented for approval by the Board of Finance.
3. **Cowles Park** – D Jacius stated that she was not aware of any parking issues currently at the Park. A Van Neil stated that work is being done on the safety trail signs.
4. **Granbrook Park** – J Brady restated the information he learned last month about the basketball and tennis courts. He added that the firm with which he consulted indicated that the remediation could be very expensive. Various members of the Commission stated that there are a variety of fund raising options which could be pursued if the Commission wants to proceed with the remediation.

A Van Neil stated that the East Granby Land Trust is pursuing a grant from The Hartford Foundation to create a trail from the Park to Seymour School.

5. **East Granby Farms** – There was no report. However, A Van Neil started a conversation about renting the use of recreation buildings by non-residents. While the building at The Farm cannot be rented by non-residents, there is apparently no such restriction for the building at Granbrook Park. The Commission thought that, just as there is a higher fee for non-residents who participate in Recreation Programs, there should also be a higher fee for non-residents who rent the building at Granbrook Park. The resident fee is \$25 per hour.

A motion was made by J Brady and seconded by B Ravens-Seeger to charge a \$40 per hour fee to non-residents who rent the building at Granbrook Park. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

6. Sports Programs/Coaching/Training – No report

- 7. Marketing** – C Leadbeater stated that she is working on updating the waiver that parents sign for their children to participate in Recreation Programs. The current waiver does not include permission for the use of photos of the children in the publicity of programs. She has explored how such waivers are written by other towns and organizations which offer programs for children. Once she has the waiver updated, she will submit it to the Town Attorney for review.

She stated that she and R McKenney are preparing advertising for the two summer concerts which will take place on August 6 and 27.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. BYLAWS

C Leadbeater reviewed the updates that she and K Hines made to Articles X-XV. There were changes recommended by Commission members.

A motion was made by R McKenney and seconded by D Jacius to adopt the Bylaws as updated. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by D Jacius and seconded by J Brady to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Marsele
Commission Clerk