

MINUTES
East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission
East Granby, Connecticut
October 7, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, October 7, 2021 in the large conference room at the Town Hall. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Members present were Vice Chairman Jay Brady, Treasurer Rosalie McKenney, Robert Ravens-Seger, Christina Leadbeater, and Nicole Sokolowski. Also present was Program Director Alicia Van Neil and prospective member Marc Dlugolenski.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by J Brady to approve the minutes of September 2, 2021 as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A Van Neil stated that she heard from Jeffrey Durante, an eagle scout, who sent a proposal to clean Granbrook Park. She expects to have more information at the next meeting.

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Van Neil stated there are an abundance of programs for people of all ages underway. She has an issue involving youth basketball because, although she has received permission to use the gym at Allgrove School for the youngest children, the gym typically used at the Middle/High School for older children is currently being used as an overflow cafeteria because of Covid social distancing requirements. She has a meeting coming with school administrators this week to try to find a way to have the program continue as it always has. Commission members offered ideas for possible solutions to this issue, and she said she will discuss them at the meeting.

She also may need to find a solution to the Governor's Executive Order 13G which states that all staff must be vaccinated or tested. This would include her student staff unless the Superintendent of Schools waives the requirement.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

R McKenney stated that she has received a report; but it contains errors that have to be reconciled with her records. She is conducting the review with D Jacius who will be assuming Commission Treasurer's duties when R McKenney leaves at the end of this month.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – B Ravens-Seeger stated that the trail is being well used by walkers, runners, and bicyclists. It persists in being bumpy in the swamp area.
- 2. Open Space** – R McKenney stated that, although she will no longer be a member of the Commission after this month, she will be able to send reports to the Commission about the Open Space money as part of her position as Assistant Treasurer for the Town.
- 3. Cowles Park** – A Van Neil stated that, although recent heavy rain has made conditions very wet, the park is busy.
- 4. Granbrook Park** – R McKenney stated that the new barn was painted by the DPW.
- 5. East Granby Farms** – M Dlugolenski stated that he could provide R McKenney with the specific information she needs to order the new basketball hoop.
- 6. Sports Programs/Coaching/Training** – No report.
- 7. Marketing** – C Leadbeater stated that she is preparing advertising for both Halloween and the Tree Lighting

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2022 Meeting Dates

P Gill reviewed the proposed dates for meetings in 2022. There was a discussion about the time to meet, and at what location.

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by C Leadbeater to schedule meetings on the first Thursday of every month in 2022, except July, at 6:30 pm, at the Sears House at East Granby Farms. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Halloween

A Van Neil stated that the event will be held on October 29, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Newgate Prison. There will be food and games and all kinds of scary happenings in keeping with the Halloween theme.

C. Tree Lighting

R McKenney stated that the event will be held outside on December 3, 2021 at 6:00 pm. In addition to the lighting itself, there will be a Holiday Train making runs with a costumed elf aboard, a collection of letters to Santa, a temporary tattoo artist, free photos of attendees, hot cocoa served, and a toy drive by the police.

9. ADJOURNMENT

P Gill thanked R McKenney, who was attending her last meeting as a member, for her many years of service to the Commission. Those sentiments were echoed by the Commission members.

A motion was made by J Brady and seconded by N Sokolowski to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Marsele
Commission Clerk