

MINUTES
East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission
East Granby, Connecticut
November 4, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, November 4, 2021 at the Sears House at East Granby Farms. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Members present were Vice Chairman Jay Brady, Karen Hines, Christina Leadbeater, Nicole Sokolowski, and Marc Dlugolenski. Also present was Program Director Alicia Van Neil.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

A presentation was made by Geoffrey Durante, a boy scout, concerning his desire to do his eagle scout project at Granbrook Park. His project would be leading three work groups who would clean up the Park including the grounds, playscape, and picnic tables, and paint buildings. A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by K Hines to approve Geoffrey Durante's Eagle Scout Project at Granbrook Park. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

3. APPROVE MINUTES

B Marsele stated that the minutes had two errors. In Section 4, Geoffrey Durant's name was misspelled: and in Section 8B, the date for the Halloween event should have been October 30, 2021. A motion was made by J Brady and seconded by K Hines to approve the minutes of October 7, 2021 as corrected. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A Van Neil received a request for a donation by the Commission to Project Graduation to which, historically, there has been \$400 donated. A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by K Hines to donate \$400 to Project Graduation. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director A Van Neil stated that the Halloween event was rained out on its scheduled evening of October 30, 2021. However, the National Honor Society allowed the Parks & Recreation event to join their Trunk or Treat event at the Middle/High School on the afternoon of October 31, 2021. The combined events were a big success and attended by nearly 275 children.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

None.

A motion was made by J Brady and seconded by N Sokolowski to appoint D Jacius to serve as Treasurer until the election of new officers in 2022. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion Carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – P Gill read a report submitted to him by B Ravens-Seger. The report stated that he walked the trail from Copper Hill Road north to the Suffield Town Line. The trail was well maintained with new fence rails in places; and surface divots have either been repaired or outlined for repair. It appeared as if the leaves had been recently blown off the trail.
2. **Open Space** – None
3. **Cowles Park** – K Hines stated that the Park has been well used.
4. **Granbrook Park** – J Brady stated that the Park is in good condition, and the damaged entry sign has been repaired. A Van Neil stated that the floor of the new shed was damaged by recent flooding. The Town DPW is doing the repairs.
5. **East Granby Farms** – M Dlugolenski reported about the potential cost for a new basketball hoop. A motion was made by M Dlugolenski and seconded by C Leadbeater to purchase a new hoop at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.
6. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training** – None
7. **Marketing** – C Leadbeater stated that she wants to develop a calendar of annual events for which she would be doing the publicity without duplicating A Van Neil's publicity. The two of them agreed that the best way to proceed with this is for C Leadbeater to publicize the large events, and A Van Neil to publicize the smaller programs. It was the consensus of the Commission that this was a good plan.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Parks & Recreation Survey** – C Leadbeater stated that she has a draft of a survey to be distributed by various means to residents asking them what Parks & Recreation events/programs they attend, what they like/dislike about them, and what events/programs they would attend if they existed. She will send the draft to Commission members for their review. She asked for feedback from the members; and there will be a discussion aimed towards a final draft at next month's meeting.
- B. Tree Lighting** – A Van Neil gave an overview of the December 3, 2021 event as planned, with potential additions. A motion was made by M Dlugolenski and seconded by N Sokolowski to approve not more than \$800 for the Tree Lighting event. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Halloween** – A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by K Hines to approve not more than \$800 for the Halloween event that occurred on October 31, 2021. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Men's Drop-in Basketball** – A Van Neil stated that she was seeking input concerning whether this program should be limited to Town residents and/or capped at a certain number of participants so attendees can play in more games than are possible when there are too many of them. There was a discussion, and the consensus at its conclusion was to have her find out the residence of attendees to help with the decision about who could participate; and to cap the attendance at 20 men. The issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by J Brady and seconded by N Sokolowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Marsele
Commission Clerk