

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT**

**MINUTES
October 6, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, October 6, 2022, at the Large Conference Room in the East Granby Town Hall. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Members present were Marc Dlugolenski, Robert Ravens-Seger, Karen Hines, Christina Leadbeater, and Nicole Sokolowski. Program Director Alicia Van Neil was also present. Members absent: Vice Chairman Jay Brady and James Gothers.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by M Dlugolenski to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 7, 2022, as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried. The minutes of the meeting on June 2, 2022, were tabled until next meeting due to a lack of quorum of members present from that meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director A Van Neil stated the summer programs went well. Fall programming is underway. Flag football is going well, there are about 100 kids playing from East Granby, Suffield, and Granby. The spring only had about 50. One change from the spring is that teams are broken out into 3 age divisions: ages 6-8 (4 teams), 9-11 (3 teams), and 12-14 (4 teams). After school programs are starting. Skills and Drills started a couple weeks ago at Seymour with about 26 students and at the Middle School (MS) with 22-23 students. Three other programs are starting next week at the elementary schools. There will be no more partnership with the MS clubs and sports. The MS will be running their programs independently this year. Parks and Rec will keep the running program with Jennifer and meets 3 days a week at the Farms. There are 16-17 children participating and they will also have meets and races. The fall adult programs are also underway, same as in the

spring. Basketball registration is now open, K-8. Suffield may combine their younger teams with East Granby, as well as 5th and up that have been combined in the past.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

N Sokolowski has agreed to take on the treasurer position and will speak with Rosalie McKenney, the past treasurer to go over the procedures. A Van Neil mentioned the only budget item that went over recently was an additional portopotty added at Granbrook Park over the summer. A Van Neil stated that the encumbered funds from Cowles Park were allocated. Money spent towards the work there, \$1000 spent towards camp, and \$2750 is left to go towards a sound system. A grant was also obtained from the Women's Club for \$1000 to go towards the sound system. A total of \$3750 is available to purchase a portable sound system for use at town events. M Dlugolenski will look at options from Perfect Division and Sound in Canton, a business he has used before.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – B Ravens-Seeger stated that he checked out Great Marsh and it appears the edge of the west side is deteriorating faster. He has the same concerns as before. DPW will be contacted in the spring after the trail weathers winter. M Dlugolenski offered to spray paint newly developed holes along the trail. A Van Neil will get him paint. A Van Neil stated that Fire Marshal, Ken Beliveau, reminded her that trail markers should be added along the trail for emergency purposes.
- 2. Cowles Park** – K Hines stated nothing new and reminded the group that the boardwalk needs replacing. A Van Neil stated this is another area that trail markers need to be added and that the park is still well used.
- 3. Granbrook Park** – A Van Neil stated the water fountain is broken, leaking constantly. The water will be turned off next week.
- 4. East Granby Farms** – M Dlugolenski stated nothing new. P Gill commented that the area seems to be well-utilized since he has seen a lot of cars and people there in the evenings- flag football and mini soccer. A Van Neil mentioned there are about 45 preschoolers there on Thursday nights for soccer.
- 5. Sports Programs/Coaching/Training** – n/a

- 6. Marketing** – A discussion was held about removing marketing from the committee reports (and adding it to A Van Neil’s report) since Becky Hayes has been doing marketing as part of her position. A Van Neil said this could probably work and asked for an update on the logo contest. C Leadbeater stated the logo contest is down to one student, and it has been a lengthy process with many delays. B Hayes is working with the student to revise the logo. This logo may not be what the commission had in mind and possibly need to be open for other suggested logos, perhaps from the public. C Leadbeater will follow up with B Hayes.
- 7. End of Summer Concert** – A Van Neil stated that it rained and therefore the event didn’t take place. A Van Neil suggested that the commission may want to move the date of the event away from the last weekend of summer since many residents were away then. A lot of people who said they could volunteer in the survey were away during this weekend. The group had a discussion and C Leadbeater made a motion to move the date of the End of Summer Concert to Friday, 9/8/2023. M Dlugolenski seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Student Representatives-** A discussion was held about the possibility of adding student reps to the commission. This discussion would need to be brought to a town meeting, and the commission may need to change their by-laws to accommodate them. A Van Neil will need to gather more information and bring it to a future meeting before next steps are taken.
- B. Halloween-** The parks and rec event will be held at Newgate Prison this year on 10/29/2022, 6-8pm rain or shine. A Van Neil met with Morgan at Newgate and learned the pumpkins in the mine event at the prison will be available that night. A Van Neil reached out to the groups who have been involved in the past: fire department is in, ambulance is in, Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts is in, there are no older girl scout troops, Women’s Club is not in, the library will be there, civil air patrol will help with parking, and the Lion’s Club will have a table to collect donated eyeglasses and canned goods for the food pantry. Applications are available for middle school students to fill out that want to help run the games at the event. They are due back in a couple of weeks, 30-40 volunteers are expected. Volunteer hours will be broken into two sessions instead of having the MS volunteers come at 1:00pm and staying to the end. The National Honors Society will be doing their own program at the high school the next day. If commission members are available for helping during the night of the event, they should contact A Van Neil and plan to arrive at 5:00, or 4:30 if they would like to tour the pumpkins in the mine before the event opens to the public. Morgan at Newgate Prison stated they can accommodate all attendees in the allotted time of the event and pre-registration is not necessary. When people arrive, they will get their bag (stuffed by the MS Youth Action Council) and then be given a timed ticket for

entering the mine if they would like a tour. There will be no additional show at this event since there will be the pumpkins in the mine. About 300 children are expected to attend.

- C. Holiday Tree Lighting-** Friday 12/2/22 6:00-8:00pm, at the town complex. A Van Neil is waiting to hear back from Allgrove/Seymour PTO about having a family show before the tree lighting ceremony from 4:30-5:30pm. There will also be the roaming train, and either a photo booth or Elf. A discussion was held about purchasing luminaries that sit on the ground to put around the town complex, and possibly offering them to the public to purchase and put dedications on them. R McKenney will talk to John Welsh about the possibility of transitioning away from the tree lighting being a memorial. The high school choir will be singing again with Brianne Gilbert leading them. A program may be added with the history of the tree written in it. A Van Neil will talk to the state police to try to have the Stuff-a-Cruiser event as well.
- D. 2023 Commission Vacancies/Renewals-** J Brady, P Gill, and B Ravens-Seger terms are up for renewal. J Brady will not be continuing. P. Gill and B Ravens-Seger would like to continue for another term. P Gill will e-mail Eden Wimpfheimer to add the renewals to be voted on at the next BOS meeting. There are therefore 2 vacancies to be filled. A Van Neil has 3 people interested in joining the commission: Morgan Bengal, Leona Bevins, and Karly McKenney. M Bengal sent her statement and A Van Neil read it. A Van Neil is waiting to receive the other two statements. This discussion has been tabled until next meeting. P Gill will submit the Parks and Rec Commission recommendations to the BOS, and then they will take a vote.
- E. STEEP Grant-** R McKenney suggested the commission consider filling out an application for a STEEP grant when it comes available next year (June 2023) possibly for phase 3 of East Granby Farms. The plans and estimates need to be updated before then. R McKenney offered to help fill out the application. Along the same lines, A Van Neil sits on the unofficial facilities subcommittee for the BOE, and at the last meeting the BOE did agree to put on the agenda for the next meeting to consider filling out an RFP to have a company come in to look at an overall big picture plan of East Granby (fields, building usage, passive spaces, etc.), and to make the committee an official committee.
- F. Softball field-** P. Gill is waiting to hear back from E Wimpfheimer about possibly adding softball fields to Granbrook Park.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by N Sokolowski and seconded by K Hines to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk