

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

**MINUTES
December 1, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, December 1, 2022, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members present were Marc Dlugolenski, Robert Ravens-Seger, James Gothers, Karen Hines, Christina Leadbeater, Nicole Sokolowski, Morgan Bengel and Carly McKenney. Program Director Alicia Van Neil was also present. M Bengel and C McKenney were welcomed to the board.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by N Sokolowski to approve the minutes of November 3, 2022, as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A Van Neil received a request from the East Granby Project Graduation Committee for a donation by the Commission. Historically, \$400 has been donated. A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by C Leadbeater to donate \$400 to Project Graduation on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director A Van Neil stated that fall is wrapping up and all is well. There is enough interest in the Ski Sundown program to run it. Switching the day to Fridays from Mondays did not draw more people as expected. The program will run for 5 weeks, starting in January. Basketball is starting next week. The only age group that will not have a team is girls' grades 5/6. There are 4 fifth grade girls that will move down to the 3/4 level. Hartland is joining in all team levels this year. The Y, Suffield, and East Granby are the other towns. If we need more games, Parks and Rec will go out to some of the other towns as in previous years. Gym time is a problem because there are no evening janitors at Allgrove and

Seymour right now. A Van Neil reached out to Andrew from travel basketball to use space for one time slot for 7/8 graders. The grade 7/8 team has 2 girls from Granby who also participated with them last year. All other after school programs will be out in the next month. These programs did not make the Talk Turkey again because of the lack of gym space. A Van Neil is working with the superintendent to see if Parks and Rec can be a building manager at Allgrove and Seymour to be able to use the gym spaces. Parks and Rec is currently able to be a building manager at the Middle and High Schools on the weekends.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

N Sokolowski stated that November hasn't closed yet, so no report update. Nothing else out of the ordinary to report.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seger stated he had nothing new to report. K Hines visited the area north of Copper Hill Rd and saw 3 holes. 2 had been filled in, but the 3rd has rocks sticking up out of it. K Hines will bring paint to mark the holes to warn people of the tripping hazard.
- 2. Cowles Park** – K Hines stated that there is still a lot of activity there, and always sees 2-10 cars in the parking lot, along with lights from bikes on trails at twilight. A Van Neil stated there will be a work group on December 11. Tommy from New England Mountain Bike Association used most of the encumbered money in the first order of supplies and will place a second order by the end of the year to use remaining funds. K Hines asked about the mile markers. A Van Neil will investigate.
- 3. Granbrook Park** – P Gill stated he walked the area with A Van Neil and with a contractor and excavator to discuss the addition of the softball field to the left as you come down into the parking area. Further discussion needs to be held with the town engineer about the wetlands in that area before moving forward. R Ravens-Seger stated he talked with the East Granby Land Trust about the potential softball field, and they were pleased with the prospect of increasing the foot traffic in that area. A Van Neil stated a town resident came forward to offer his time and possibly money to help enhance the park. There will be a committee meeting to discuss the overall picture of Granbrook Park on Monday 12/5, 12:30pm, at East Granby Farms. Amanda Thompson from the East Granby Land Trust will attend, as well as Alicia Cruz from Nourish My Soul. The location of the softball field would be near the new Land Trust property

that Nourish My Soul is also using. M Bengel joined the Granbrook Park Committee.

4. **East Granby Farms** – M Dlugolenski stated the reseeding of the flag football field will be done in the spring. A Van Neil stated at some point new tables and chairs need to be purchased.
 5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training** – C Leadbeater researched Sexual Abuse policies, and also reminded A Van Neil about the Mandated Reporter Training that summer staff completes, so current coaches will be taking that training (about a 30-minute video with a quiz). A Van Neil is working on an updated contract for coaches. Granby added signing a liability waiver to theirs. Granby's director has been involved at the state level and does not think other training would be necessary. Coaches will be provided with documented resources that are available for information. Background checks will be done every two years.
 6. **Program Committee** –
 - a. **Holiday Tree Lighting** – This event will be tomorrow, December 2, on the town green. The Train and Photo Booth will begin at 5:30pm. The Mad Science program, cosponsored with the Allgrove/Seymour PTO, will run from 4:30-5:30pm. The tree-lighting ceremony will begin at 6:00pm. Pat will say the blessing, as she has in the past. Nate Welsh will turn the tree lights on. The Marquis and EGHS Choir will be performing. P Gill will be the MC for introductions. N Sokolowski stated that luminaries have been sold and prepared. They will be set up in the morning, and the battery-operated tea-lights will be turned on at 3:00pm. M Dlugolenski used funds to purchase a sound system for around \$1600 from Perfect Vision and Sound in Canton. The system has 2 speakers, a receiver, 2 tripods, and 4 microphones. Unfortunately, the system will not arrive until end of December or January, but the owner of the company is lending his for use at tomorrow's event. Extension cords and lighting for use with the sound system will be purchased with the rest of the encumbered funds.
 - b. **Dance Program** – The dance program recital will be on Sunday, December 11, with a rehearsal on Friday, December 9. A Van Neil is looking for help making flower bouquets on Thursday or Friday before the event. Becky Hayes has been instrumental in getting ticket sales online. About 300 tickets have already been sold. The auditorium has 485 seats.
- B. **Student Representatives** – The discussion of adding student representatives will be tabled until February's meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Establish a Nominating Committee for Elections** – Elections for positions on the commission will be in January. K Hines and C Leadbeater will be the Nominating Committee. K Hines discussed the process of elections: The current position holders will be asked if they would like to be considered again, the board is asked for additional nominations, nominees are asked if they are interested in the position. Then the slate is presented in January. If there is more than one person interested in a position, there will be a ballot vote.
- B. Concert** – A discussion was held about the change in date for the venue. The Commission previously voted to move the concert to a later date in September. R. McKenney, who coordinates the concert, has requested the date be moved back to the weekend in August before Labor Day due to concerns including losing daylight for the end of the event. This discussion was tabled until January's meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by J Gothers and seconded by M Dlugolenski to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk