

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT  
MINUTES  
November 2, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, November 2, 2023, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Pat Gill called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Members also present were Nicole Sokolowski, Leona Bevins, Robert Ravens-Seger, Carly McKenney, and Karen Hines. Program Coordinator Alicia Van Neil was also present. Morgan Bengel and Marc Dlugolenski were absent.

**2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**

None

**3. APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion was made by N Sokolowski and seconded by C McKenney to approve the October 5, 2023, minutes. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

A Van Neil shared that she received five emails from people interested in becoming a board member. Correspondence will be shared later in the agenda.

**5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Program Coordinator A Van Neil stated the fall programs have gone well and are wrapping up. Soccer shots for preschool will restart January. Our new Playstrong Preschool program is going well and has a couple more weeks and then will also restart in January. Afterschool programs are all doing well. Basketball registration is low, but not abnormal at this time. The program starts December 4<sup>th</sup>. Registration is also low for the Ski Sundown program and may need to be cancelled if not enough members register. Adult programming is also doing well.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

A Van Neil shared that the camp employee line has been cleaned up and is back down to zero. She is still waiting to hear from First Selectwoman Eden Wimpfheimer to address the cost of the guard used at Granbrook Park. If that line is taken out of the budget it will be back on track. The commission is saving some money by removing the portable toilets soon, which is a month earlier than in the past.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Committee Reports**

1. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seeger stated that he walked the trail recently. Rain has caused even more deterioration in the area of the Great Marsh. The area is still highly used.
  - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update
  
2. **Cowles Park** – K Hines shared there have been many cars present in the parking lot and many walkers and bikers on the trails. The trails are in good shape except for some boardwalks on the orange trail. Tom Pavelchak has been working to repair the boardwalks.
  - a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update.
  - b. **ADA Bike Trail Updates**- The parking lot still needs to be surveyed. A Van Neil will contact Tom Pavelchak to discuss the work that needs to be done.
  
3. **Granbrook Park** – A Van Neil shared that Pat McKenney has been working on the playscape area with a resident who has also donated some funds for the work. They have pulled up some railroad ties, edged, and mulched around the playscape area. The resident also plans on painting the pavilion to cover the graffiti.
  - a. **Gate Attendant/charge Summer 2024** – A discussion was held on whether or not to charge non-residents to use the park to pay for the gate attendant. Discussion was tabled until February.
  - b. **Softball Field** – A Van Neil shared that the Wetlands application needs to be completed. She and P Gill will meet to do this. A Van Neil checked with the STEAP Grant guidelines to see if there was a possibility to put a softball field at the North entrance to EG Farms, but there is not.
  
4. **East Granby Farms** – A Van Neil stated that First Selectwoman needs to reduce Capital Fund requests per the Board of Finance, so there won't be enough funds for a new playscape or a van at this time. A discussion was held regarding attending the Board of Finance meeting. A discussion was held regarding other options after the tractor is removed.
  - a. **Basketball Court Update**- No update on available contractors.
  - b. **STEAP Grant**- No update on when the town meeting will be held to approve the use of this grant.
  - c. **Ball Field Updates**- Little League will donate \$500 to help fund the clean-up of the bushes and brush around the backstop. Pat McKenney has the job on his schedule.
  
5. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies** – Local towns of Granby, Hartland, East Hartland, and Suffield have agreed with East Granby to not hire high school students to referee basketball or flag football games for grades 3 and up. Adult referees will be found through connections with the WINS For Life program. The subcommittee will meet to continue to discuss coaching guidelines.

## 6. Program Committee –

- a. **Halloween-** Held at Newgate Prison on 10/28 from 4:30-7:00pm. This event went well. Some notes for next year are to rework mine tours, have the fire department come set-up a little earlier, and to better coordinate with NHS Trunk-or-Treat if they join at the prison again.
- b. **Tree Lighting-** To be held on 12/1 at 6:00pm. Details are still being finalized.

**B. Student Representatives** – A Van Neil received two applications from interested students.

**Motion:** N Sokolowski made a motion and L Bevins seconded to accept Chloe Rapose and Ella DeSimone as new board members of the East Granby Parks and Recreation Commission as student representatives. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**C. Park Rules** – No update at this time.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Vote on Meeting Calendar 2024:

**Motion:** L Bevins made a motion and R Ravens-Seger seconded to approve the attached meeting calendar through January 2025. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. Board Member Terms** – Two board members, N Sokolowski and C Leadbeater have terms that ended at the end of October. N Sokolowski decided to continue with another term, and C Leadbeater decided to step down. A Van Neil received three applications for potential new board members. After some discussion about the three applicants, **an anonymous vote was held.**

**Jon Webster**, with three votes, will be the newest member of the East Granby Parks and Recreation Commission.

**C. Nominating Committee for officers** – L Bevins has accepted the role of Treasurer. R Ravens-Seger nominated himself for the position of Vice-Chairman, and P Gill nominated himself for the position of Chairman. Voting will take place at the December meeting after absent members have been contacted.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by L Bevins and seconded by R Ravens-Seger to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Kovaleski  
Commission Clerk