

East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2014

Present: Robert Pfanner
Charles Fenick
Pat Larkin
Roger Nadeau
Jackie Curry
Milan Keser

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
APR 8 2014 AT 9:30 AM PM
KAREN WALSH, CLERK
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Deborah Walsh
Bruce and Sue Cohen
Greg and Mary Jane Swenson
Jim Elia
Tim and Robbie Swenson
Nancy and Al Crossley
Chip Mundell
Lisa and Jerry Fortier
Paul and Gigi Begin

Chairman Pfanner called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of April 3, 2014 to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. SERVICE TO YOUTH AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Putnam reported this Commission set up a Service to Youth Award twenty years ago. It is awarded on a nomination basis. A plaque is at Veterans Field naming individuals who have received this Award.

Mr. Putnam presented Al Crossley, who has been a member of the East Lyme Children's Theatre and regional theatre, with the Service to Youth Award.

Mr. Putnam presented Debra Walsh with the Service to Youth Award in recognition of her work with the Children's Theatre.

Bob Blodgett, who also worked with the Children's Theatre, received the Service to Youth Award, but was unable to attend this meeting.

Tim Swenson accepted the 2014 Service to Youth Award in recognition of his work as Coach and Treasurer of Lacrosse and Youth Basketball.

3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.

Mr. Putnam reported he has asked all sports organizations where they are at, what is important to the organization and how park development at Roxbury Road will work for them.

Mr. Mundell reported we have had 130 in tackle per year and six divisions, 30-35 flag players, 100 cheerleaders and eight coaches. We are currently using all the space we have. The flags have been using the fenced in area at Lillie B. Haynes. Two divisions share a field and four are within the fence. We stay off the Youth Football Field. We are using all the space at that facility.

When they built the Turf Field Mr. Formica informed them that they could use that field. We need concessions to pay our bills and also obtain a little profit. We have thought about using the High School field on Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. We could switch to Sundays and use the High School field. Many youth programs are using the High School field. Mr. Mundell informed this Commission we put a lot of money into the field we have. Mr. Putnam stated we are overseeding at higher rates than before, because we are not allowed to use pesticides. They cannot practice on their game field. Mr. Mundell informed the Commission that we are not asking for the High School field this year. Next year it is our turn to host the Superbowl and we will ask for the High School field.

Mr. Mundell asked whenever this is built, will it be available to us? He was informed it would be. Mr. Mundell stated the concession is our main concern. Also parking is difficult at the present time. Mr. Pfanner stated we plan to take Field 1 and turn it into a parking lot. Mr. Pfanner showed his plan of future park development. He felt this plan will go to Referendum in the next budget.

There was discussion on the use of helmets to avoid concussions for contact sports.

4. MINUTES

a.) Minutes of March 6, 2014 Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Keser moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of March 6, 2014, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Curry.

(6-0) Unanimous.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

See attached report.

Mr. Putnam informed the Commission, the Board of Finance supports full staffing of the Boardwalk and new beach area but do not want us to charge a fee. The Commission felt individuals who use the beach should pay a fee. Those who walk the Boardwalk should not. Mr. Nadeau suggested reserved parking for those with a beach pass. He felt you would need staff at that location. Ms. Curry suggested signs stating "Beach Parking" and "Boardwalk Parking".

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) Letter from David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation, to Andrea Stillman regarding pesticides on town parks.

b.) Letter from David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation, to Ed Jutila regarding pesticides on town parks.

Mr. Putnam stated we are only able to treat areas that are affected. These bills take away tools for managing our fields and will have a negative impact on the quality of our turf areas. He felt there was no science behind these bills.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Cini Park/AMTRAK Beach Recommendations Dog Park Area. There was no further discussion on this matter.

b.) Future Park Development. There was no further discussion on this matter.

c.) Budget Fiscal Year 2014/2015. There was no further discussion on this matter.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Facilities Request Form from June Morrone representing Integrated Day Charter School requesting use of McCook Point Park Pavilion for a school picnic on June 17, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mr. Putnam reported he has brought this request to this Commission because of the number attending. There is no conflict with this date. We will erect a tent for them.

MOTION: Ms. Curry moved to approve the Facilities Request Form for Integrated Day Charter School to use McCook Point Park and Pavilion on June 17, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for its Annual Picnic. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (6-0) Unanimous.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Curry moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of April 3, 2014 at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
April 3, 2014

McCook Point Park:

- 30x60 tent is being delivered and staff will be trained in erecting the tent. This will help alleviate pressure of the Pavilion being in the construction zone.
- Beach passes will go on sale Monday, May 5th.
- Restroom facilities have been opened.
- New path from the upper picnic area to the Hole in the Wall beach is completed along with drainage. This will provide better access to the beach.
- Playscape replacement for Peretz Park @ Bridebrook monies were appropriated on March 19th, Mike McDowell is working on a design.

Athletic Facilities:

- Fields were officially opened today maintenance crew has done an outstanding job of getting the fields ready.
- I have met with each sports organization regarding field usage and schedules and we are in pretty good shape. Babe Ruth has added and additional three teams and will be using Bridebrook more often. Weekly field schedules will be sent to each league rep.
- War at the Shore Baseball tournaments start this weekend.
- Varsity baseball team has been using Peretz Baseball for practices and scrimmages.
- New Restroom facility at Vets will be put out to bid in the next two weeks.
- East Lyme Youth Lacrosse will be donating Backstop netting for the behind each of the Lacrosse goals that abut the walking path. My crew will be installing.

Niantic Bay Beach and Boardwalk:

- I will order signs for the Boardwalk soon related to the No Dog State Regulation (see provided draft).
- Monies for the construction of the Boardwalk were approved at a Town meeting on March 19th. Town is working with the contractor on a start date.

Budget:

- Our budget review with the Board of Finance was conducted on March 20. The board seemed receptive to fully funding staffing Cini Park and the Niantic Bay Beach and Boardwalk. They expressed concerns and did not support the charging for parking for patrons going on the Boardwalk. I recently spoke with our Town Attorney who thought charging a parking fee is too close to charging an admission fee. The grant language for Boardwalk clearly states that it is to be free and open to the public. First Selectman recommended perhaps asking for donations for anyone wanting to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the Boardwalk.

Miscellaneous:

- Upcoming Special Events include:
 - Flanders 5K Road Race on Sunday, April 27
 - Connecticut Hike Day on Saturday, June 7 - Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve
 - Celebrate East Lyme on Saturday, July 19