

East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2014

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
June 9, 2014 AT 4:00 AM/PM
Lesley Blais
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Present: Robert Pfanner
Charles Fenick
Pat Larkin
William Willetts

Also Present: David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Ed Grund
Michelle Han
Paula Nowakowski
Deb Levandowski

Chairman Pfanner called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of June 5, 2014 to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Mr. Grund who lived in Hamden prior to moving to Niantic felt the fields in East Lyme were much better even though Hamden had approximately 25 employees.

Ms. Nowakowski reported she has a disabled grandson who lives in Niantic and loves to go to the beach. She was disappointed that the Parks and Recreation Department does not give out walking passes anymore. Mr. Willetts stated it has become more expensive to produce the pass than the income received. Ms. Levandowski stated it cost \$1200 for walk in passes last year.

Ms. Nowakowski is a nurse and feels many elderly individuals who live at Crescent Point and could walk to the beach should be given passes to the beach. She has lived in Niantic since 1979 and has enjoyed this Town. She does not want to have to drive her grandchildren to the beach. Mr. Willetts informed her they do not need a pass only proof that they live in Town.

She asked if you are a non-resident, and you wish to walk into the beach where do you get a pass on Saturday or Sunday? Mr. Putnam replied at any beach location.

Michelle Han represents East Lyme High School Class of 1994 for its 20th class reunion. Commission members reviewed the Facilities Request Form for McCook Point Park to request the use of the lower parking lot on August 22, 2014 from 8-11 p.m. Ms. Han stated Mr. Kline would like to recreate the beach dances they attended while in school. Mr. Putnam asked that the speakers be located away from the water to insure neighbors are not disturbed.

Mr. Putnam stated his only concern is a staff member will need to lock the gate at 11 p.m. He also stated if they plan to erect a tent 30 X 60 or larger a building permit will be needed. If the tent has sides, it will also need a building permit.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to approve the East Lyme High School Class of 1994 class reunion to use the lower parking lot on August 22, 2014 from 8-11 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (4-0) Unanimous

3. MINUTES

a.) Minutes of May 1, 2014 Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Larkin moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of May 1, 2014, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. Mr. Willetts abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

See attached report.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) Email from Donna Rossi to Dave Putnam, East Lyme Parks & Recreation regarding Walk In passes.

b.) Email from Nathan Witcraft to Dave Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation, and Paul Formica East Lyme First Selectman, regarding Walk In passes.

c.) Letter from David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks & Recreation to the Editor of the New London Day regarding Robert Blodgett.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Cini Park/AMTRAK Beach Recommendations Dog Park Area. Mr. Putnam reported six signs have been erected regarding the state's No Dogs' Regulation.

b.) Future Park Development. Mr. Putnam has had a request that a pickelball be added to the park development plan.

c.) Boardwalk Construction Update. Mr. Putnam reported he met with Messrs. Weis and Sheer, and they plan to start construction on June 16. The engineer will have office space at the garage at Hole-in-the-Wall.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Facilities Request Form from Jennifer Bush representing East Lyme High School requesting use of McCook Point Park Pavilion for a Student Exchange picnic on July 7, 2014 and July 18, 2014 from 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Larkin asked if they will be using a tent? Mr. Putnam replied they have grills. As ordered by the Fire Marshall, the grills cannot be located near the tents. Signs have been posted to that affect.

MOTION: Mr. Willetts moved to approve the Facilities Request Form from Jennifer Bush representing East Lyme High School to use the McCook Point Park Pavilion for a Student Exchange picnic on July 7, 2014 and July 18, 2014 from 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (4-0) Unanimous.

b.) Walk-in Passes. Mr. Larkin asked why the non-resident walk in pass is only \$20? Mr. Putnam replied because we only sell 35 of them.

Mr. Putnam stated the new procedure for walk-in passes is residents must show proof of residency; a non-resident daily pass is \$10, which allows up to four adults. Youngsters 16 and under are free.

A non-resident seasonal walk-in pass is \$20 which allows up to 4 adults. Youngster 16 and under are free.

c.) East Lyme Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Putnam reported Mr. Keser presented him with framed certificates for the East Lyme Sports Hall of Fame. One will be at the Town Hall and one at the Community Center.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Willetts moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of June 5, 2014 at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
June 5, 2014

McCook Point Park:

- Stickers went on sale Monday, May 5th as of 8 a.m. today 1915 parking permits have been issued. We are a little ahead of last year's totals
- The department needs clarification on the Walk-in pass for residents who have purchased a beach sticker, in the past 2 walk-in passes were issued for each sticker sold. As of today no walk-ins have been issued to residents, they only need to show ID at the gate. Niantic Inn in the past has purchased walk-in passes for their guest. I recommend we issue them 20-30 walk-in for the season.
- Swim area buoys, the raft at McCook and the swim lines have been installed.
- Gate Attendants started on Saturday, May 24. Lifeguards will begin on Thursday, June 19.
- Touch-A-Truck was conducted on Saturday, May 17 it is the seventh annual event co-sponsored with the Child and Family Agency of SE Connecticut. The event continues to grow each year.
- Budget was approved at referendum we will be staffing all three beaches on a full-time basis.
- NO Dog State Regulation signs have been posted at all three beaches.
- Upcoming events include the Niantic Bay 10K on Friday, June 13, Celebrate East Lyme on July 19 and the Niantic Bay Triathlon on Sunday, August 3.

Cini Park/Niantic Bay Beach and Boardwalk:

- Additional porta-potties have been delivered we have a total of six at this location, they are cleaned twice a week.
- Dog issue in the parking lot and the fishing pier finger on the Niantic River side, do we allow dogs in this area or enforce similar to the beach area?
- Board of Selectman at their June 4th meeting approved \$100,000 in improvements to Peretz Park @ Bridebrook. Improvements in our Capital Improvement plan include: Replacing the concrete parking barriers, addition of Picnic Shelter/Gazebo, addition of dug out roofs, crack sealing and re-surfacing of the basketball court and to replace the chain link fencing between the park and the Fire Station. This is part of a bonding package for fiscal year 14/15. Next step is approval from the Board of Finance at their June 11th meeting and approval at a town meeting to be determined.

Athletic Facilities:

- We have hosted four War at the Shore Baseball tournaments to date, things have run smoothly.
- Bids for the restroom facility at Vets are due next Friday.

- Safety netting for behind the goals at Peretz Park were donated by East Lyme Youth Lacrosse and installed by Parks and Recreation maintenance staff. The three net systems protect walkers on the walking path.
- All potential bills on extending the pesticide ban to High Schools and all municipal grounds at the state level were either defeated or not brought to a vote.

Programs:

- Playground and Hangout program registration began yesterday, we have some weeks of Hangout filled and Playground enrollment remains steady.
- Men's Softball Program started on May 12th we have 12 teams.
- CT Trails Day Hike is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 12(noon) at the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve trailhead at Veterans Memorial Park.