

East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2016

Present: Robert Pfanner
Charles Fenick
Roger Nadeau
Thomas Beebe
Milan Keser
Pat Larkin

FILED

Aug 25 2016 AT 8:50 AM/PM
KAREN GULLEY, CLERK
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Jackie Curry

Also Present: David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Kevin Seery, Ex officio
William Willetts, Emeritus
First Selectman Mark Nickerson
Donna Rossi

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pfanner called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of August 11, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Discussion - beach issues

Mr. Nickerson suggested to residents to come before this Commission to express their concerns. He also understands the law states that the beaches are open to all.

Ms. Rossi stated she is upset with the fact that non-residents are allowed in our beaches. She felt Mr. Putnam and his staff take care of residents concerns, and that the lifeguards and gate attendants do all they can do. She has lived in East Lyme since the sixth grade.

On weekends the largest volume of those coming into our beach is from Rocky Neck. Residents feel the beach is a gathering place. She tends to stay away from the beach on weekends. There was an individual who consumed alcohol at the beach, who was also smoking and threw his cigarette into the water. She felt the role of the lifeguards are not to handle this type of situation and that the gate attendants are busy checking in people and taking care of garbage. She would like to see a retired police officer patrol the beach and to have discussions with individuals who are drinking, smoking, using profanity and inappropriate music. She felt this was the responsibility of law enforcement.

She observed individuals coming through a small opening at the upper level and suggested that the gate be open for individuals with day passes. She suggested that the lower level be a parking areas for those individuals with season passes.

She has seen individuals coming in with a car load of people. She felt if there were eight or more walk ins, they should be charged by head count.

The bathrooms on high volume days need extra care. They are being used as a changing station.

Residents felt more manpower is needed on the Boardwalk and at Cini Park, especially during Celebrate East Lyme and July 4. She also observed trash on the Boardwalk. Mr. Putnam will contact Rocky Neck Park. He stated part of the lifeguard's responsibility is dealing with individuals who do not obey the rules. Mr. Nadeau felt individuals who are not obeying the rules are generally rude.

Mr. Nickerson stated we do have a large mass of individuals on busy days. Parks and Recreation have had significant income. He suggested using \$10,000 to pay for security on the busiest days. He would like to see volunteers monitor the Boardwalk and call if there is an issue. Ms. Rossi did not want East Lyme to be known as a location that you can do whatever you want with no consequences.

Mr. Larkin suggested fixing the gate at the upper level and on busy weekends periodically have the bathrooms cleaned. When this Commission attended its Board of Finance hearing, our budget was cut. Mr. Keser felt this Town is an exceptional Town. It receives subsidies from the state and cannot refuse public access to our beaches.

Mr. Nickerson suggested considering non-residents using the entrance at the upper level and using the lower parking area for residents. There are individuals who park downtown and walk to the beach.

Mr. Putnam stated during July 4 and Celebrate East Lyme, there was a struggle with parking. He suggested using private security on the five busiest times of summer. Ms. Rossi stated every resident is pleased with Parks and Recreation, they just have too much responsibility.

Mr. Nickerson stated he has received praise for the work of Mr. Putnam and his staff. He also appreciates what this Commission has done.

Mr. Larkin asked how many days have we turned people away from McCook's because of no parking? Mr. Putnam replied once at McCook's and twice at Cini Park.

3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Mr. Pfanner would like to see bathrooms at Cini Park. Mr. Seery felt DEEP would get involved with that project, because it is in the flood plain. Mr. Putnam stated water is not available at this time at that location. Mr. Pfanner felt a portable water tank can be used.

4. MINUTES

a.) Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 16, 2016. Mr. Pfanner asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the June 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2016, as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. Messrs. Beebe, Keser and Larkin abstained from voting. (3-0-3)
Motion carried.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (See attached report.)

There was a general consensus of the Commission that remembrance items on the fence of the Boardwalk be removed within a week.

6. EX-OFFICIO REPORT

Mr. Seery reported the Selectmen met last week for a Town Meeting and a fire truck for Flanders was approved, as well as the purchase of LED street lights with funding to be taken from the Public Works budget.

Mr. Nickerson signed a lease with the Masonic Temple.

Mr. Seery felt the police need to be involved with security at the beach especially at busy times.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) McCook Communications. Email from Christine Barrows dated July 16, 2016 regarding beach pass.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to waive the no refund policy for Christine Barrows. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (6-0) Unanimous.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Future Park Development. There was no discussion of future park development.

b.) Band Shell Location McCook Point Park. Mr. Putnam reported Town Attorney stated the deed restricts the suggested location for the band shell. The suggested new location is next to the pavilion in a flat area.

Mr. Larkin, liaison to the Band Shell Committee felt the original location was better.

MOTION: Mr. Keser moved to approve the new location for the Band Shell, unless we can obtain a waiver of the deed before construction. Seconded by Mr. Fenick.
In Favor: Pfanner, Beebe, Keser, Fenick and Nadeau.
In Opposition: Larkin (5-1) Motion carried.

c.) Service to Youth Award. Mr. Fenick reported the Committee recommends David Costa and John Lang for the Service to Youth Award.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to award David Costa and John Lang for the Service to Youth Award. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (6-0) Unanimous.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Putnam stated since we now have a message board at Town Hall, as of October 1 there are to be no signs on the Town Green. He will give non-profits notice.

MOTION: Mr. Nadeau moved since we now have a message board at Town Hall, as of October 1 there will be no signs allowed at the Town Green. (6-0)
Unanimous.

Mr. Putnam reported the following individuals will be in the Sports Hall of Fame: Sarah McTurk, Carl Reichard, Paul Christensen, Pete Walker, Dennis Long, Christine Ashburn, Edward Dzwilewski, Scott Borden and Robert Tobin.

Mr. Putnam reported he has had a lot of interest in WIFI at McCook's. There was a general consensus of the Commission not to have it.

10. NEW BUSINES

There was no discussion of new business.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of August 11, 2016 at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau.
(6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
August 9, 2016

McCook Point Park:

- Fiscal Year end revenue for beach pass sales from July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016 totaled: \$191,954.00. The projected estimated year-end total was \$133,750.00 a difference of +\$58,204.
- Beach Stickers issued to date 4,289, the first time we have been over 4,000 stickers issued. Non-Resident season stickers totaled 422 and increase of 92 issued over last year an increase of \$9,200.00.
- Last Day for Lifeguards:
 - Niantic Bay Beach will be Sunday, August 14th.
 - Hole in Wall Beach Sunday, August 28 (Labor Day weekend will be staffed)
 - McCook Main Beach Sunday, August 28 (Labor Day weekend will be staffed)
- Special Events
 - Celebrate East Lyme
 - Niantic Bay Triathlon
 - Wednesday Night Concerts
 - Movie nights Friday's in September
 - Jeffrey's Rainbow Run on September 16th
 - Family Camp out and movie on Friday, September 2nd
- Staff has done an outstanding job of managing a busy summer to date.
- Recommendation from Band Shell Committee on new location.
- Future discussion on remembrances being left on benches and near the plaques on the Boardwalk.
- Two new Volleyball Courts have been installed at the Niantic Bay Beach.

Athletic Facilities:

- Irrigation system for the Youth Football and MS Soccer Fields has been under repair for most of the summer. Hope to have up and running by early next week.
- Dugout roofs for the six dugouts at Peretz Park have been completed. Lussier Development Corp did an outstanding job. This was the last renovation project that included the Pavilion, Parking Barriers and the Basketball Court.
- EL Youth Soccer conducted a tournament to raise monies for Maddie Guarria on August 6 and 7.
- Youth Football and Soccer have begun their seasons, first Youth Football game is on Sunday, August 21st.
- Update on Verizon Wireless plan for a cell tower at Peretz Park (see schematic provided), has already been approved by the Commission.
- War at the Shore tournaments are continuing everything has run smoothly to date.

Miscellaneous/Programs:

- Seven week Playground and Hangout Programs concluded on August 5th. Staff for both programs did an outstanding job enrollment totaled: 385
- Fall Events magazine should be mailed out in Mid to Late August.
- Men's Softball Program is currently in the Playoffs and hope to have completed by the early part of next week.
- East Lyme Regional Theater Program conducted their sixth annual production of Hairspray the weekend of July 29-31st. I heard very favorable feedback on the production. We will be renting space at the Masonic Temple for this and other Parks and Recreation programs.