

East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2017

Present: Charles Fenick
Pat Larkin
Bill Willetts, Emeritus
Robert Pfanner
Roger Nadeau

Absent: Jackie Curry
Milan Keser
Thomas Beebe

Also Present: David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Thibault
Valerie and Charlotte Zisholtz
Frank Crandall

FILED
June 20 20 17 AT 10:25 AM PM
(Amen Yulko, at)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pfanner called the June 8, 2017 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Mr. Pfanner presented the Service to Youth Award to Dr. Thomas Thibault in recognition of his 25 years of service to East Lyme youths. He was informed that his name will also be placed on the plaque at Veterans Memorial Park. Dr. Thibault stated it was rewarding for him to have worked with these youngsters.

Mr. Putnam informed the Commission that the East Coast Watercross group wishes to run an event in Niantic Bay Beach for a watercraft racing event on September 23 and 24, 2017. Mr. Crandall was present to answer any questions from the Commission.

Mr. Crandall informed the Commission he met with DEEP and will seek a permit through DEEP. Commission members reviewed information he provided. Mr. Crandall informed the Commission this body of water is sanctioned by the Coast Guard. He felt September was a great time for this event because most of the beachgoers have left the beach. He stated this event is family oriented. Those participating need to have a competition license, which is a safety factor. They will keep part of the beach open for anyone who wishes to swim. DEEP requires that they remain 200' away from the channel. They will be 500' away from the channel. He has spoken to the Fire Marshal who supports this event. He informed the Commission an EMT will be on site. He stated there will be

two marshals on jet skis. The East Coast Watercross group carries a \$500 million of insurance. It is a regional race and participants are from thirteen states.

Mr. Putnam asked about parking for attendees. Mr. Crandall reported DEEP requires that 50% of parking is to be in a separate area. The President of East Coast Watercross will leave a rig close to the launch area and drop them off.

Mr. Pfanner asked how many participants do you anticipate? Mr. Crandall replied they had 143 racers last month. He estimates 300 racers and attendees and 100 vehicles. Mr. Putnam felt some may have to park at Hole-in-the-Wall. Mr. Crandall stated we have guidelines that need to be followed. We have patrol boats with flags and a PA system. There is a mandatory safety meeting prior to the race. The race begins at 10 a.m.

Mr. Putnam felt this was a good event to hold in East Lyme during its off season.

Mr. Crandall reported he is a veteran and a racer. He has checked with Rocky Neck and camping is available. Individuals will come on Friday night to set up the course. The event will take place rain or shine. No alcohol may be consumed. No glass bottles are allowed. No pets are allowed.

Mr. Pfanner suggested that Mr. Crandall work with Mr. Putnam on parking.

Mr. Willetts asked will you require additional toilet facilities? Mr. Putnam felt porta potties could be available.

Mr. Larkin suggested that trailers be off site so that vehicles will have more room to park.

MOTION (1): Mr. Nadeau moved to allow the East Coat Watercross Group boats to tour Cini Park, providing it meets with the Fire Marshal, Police Chief and Harbormaster and that a Certificate of Insurance is provided to the Parks and Recreation Department prior to the event. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (4-0) Unanimous.

3. MINUTES

a.) Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 11, 2017. Mr. Pfanner asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the May 11, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (2): Mr. Larkin moved to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2017, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. Mr. Pfanner and Mr. Nadeau abstained from voting. (2-0-2) Motion carried.

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

Mr. Putnam informed the Commission his staff is doing a great job.

MOTION (3): Mr. Nadeau moved to only have a meeting in July, if necessary. (4-0) Unanimous.

5. EX-OFFICIO REPORT

Mr. Seery was unable to be present, and there was no report.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) Facility Request from the Brian Dagle Foundation to use McCook Point Park on September 16 from 12-5 p.m.

MOTION (4): Mr. Fenick moved to approve the Facility Request from the Brian Dagle Foundation to use McCook Point Park on September 16 from noon to 5 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (4-0) Unanimous.

b.) Email from Judith Rondeau regarding a public survey in July at the Niantic Boardwalk by the Niantic River Watershed.

Mr. Putnam had no objection to this request as long as it is voluntary. Mr. Nadeau suggested a sign stating it is not mandatory. There was a general consensus of the Commission that this public survey be allowed providing the set up is to be determined by Mr. Putnam.

c.) East Coast Watercross tour for Cini Park. There was no further discussion on this matter.

d.) Email from June Hoyer, dated June 8, 2017, regarding request for trees behind Columbus Avenue sign. This matter was tabled until the Commission determines how the trees already planted do.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

b.) Budget 2017-2018. To date the State of Connecticut has not approved its budget.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Food truck policy for McCook Special Events. Mr. Putnam reported we do not have a Food Truck Policy. Mr. Putnam suggested that a fee be charged to come into the park for a special event, set up and sell. Mr. Nadeau suggested that they bid on this matter.

MOTION (5): Mr. Larkin moved to charge \$50 for a vendor to sell at McCook's Special Events and that Mr. Putnam approve the vendor, providing they have the appropriate permitting and insurance. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (4-0) Unanimous.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (6): Mr. Nadeau moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of June 8, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
June 8, 2017

McCook Point Park/Beaches:

- As of this morning we have issued 2100 Seasonal passes, we are behind last year by a few hundred.
- We have sold only 8 day passes over the past two weekends.
- Touch-A-Truck was held on May 20th it has very well attended.
- Niantic Bay 10K will be held on Friday, June 9th starting at 5:30 p.m. at McCook.
- Bright Music Festival to bring awareness to Mental Health Issues was held on June 4th it was well attended.
- Band Shell Grand opening occurred on Friday, May 26th . We had a good turnout despite the weather. I have received very favorable feedback from the patrons and the band performing.
- Swim buoys and raft was put out last week.
- Lifeguards will start full-time on Saturday, June 17th.

Boardwalk:

- New signs are in the process of being installed regarding the Dog Ordinance approved by the Board of Selectman.
- Additional porta-potties will be delivered this week along with our storage container.

Athletic Facilities:

- East Lyme Youth Lacrosse will be holding their Coastal Jam Jamboree this weekend at Bridebrook. This will complete their spring season.
- Deep tine aeration has been completed on the Middle School Soccer Field, Bridebrook and Youth Football Field.
- Fields have held up very well this year, I have canceled field usage this spring 10 times due to wet field conditions.

Miscellaneous:

- CT Trails Day Hike was conducted on Saturday, June 3rd at the Oswegatchie Hills Trail Head we had 30 hikers participant in our annual event we co-sponsor with the Friends of Oswegatchie Hills. An additional hike was conducted at Darrow's Pond Goodwin Trail and they had approximately 40 hikers.
- Celebrate East Lyme is scheduled for Saturday, July 15.
- Playground and Hangout Program begin on Monday, June 26th
- Typically we do not meet in July does the Board want to continue with this.