

**East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2017**

Present: Robert Pfanner  
Thomas Beebe  
Charles Fenick  
Jackie Curry  
Pat Larkin  
Roger Nadeau

FILED

Mar 15 2018 AT 10:15 AM/PM  
Kenneth Putnam  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Greg and Ceil Decker  
Kevin Seery, Ex officio  
David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. Mr. Pfanner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He asked for a moment of silence for Milan Keser.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. **Delegations.** Mr. Decker expressed concern about the loud volume from the PA system at Veterans Field. He showed how he and his wife are unable to enjoy their home. He and his wife have lived at 8 Memorial Park Drive for 39 years. He lives 500' away from the PA system. He has requested that the volume be lowered, but has been ignored. On July 10, 2013 he wrote an email to Mr. Putnam to request that something be done. One of the speakers was then turned towards the woods. The volume was then turned up. He taped the loud volume from his home for the Commission to hear. At times after a game the youngsters play with the PA system.

He emailed Mr. Putnam on July 2, 2015 informing him the problem has continued and asked for a permanent resolution.

On June 27, 2017 the Veterans boys were broadcasting throughout the neighborhood. Mr. Putnam spoke to the President of Babe Ruth. They increased the volume even though they were asked to turn the volume down. Repeated requests have failed to be effective. He asked the Commission to suspend the use of both PA systems at Veterans Field.

Mrs. Decker stated it is very hard to enjoy the summer time at their home because of the volume from the PA system.

Mr. Pfanner informed Mr. and Mrs. Decker that there now are new PA systems available.

3. **Minutes.** Mr. Pfanner asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the November 9, 2017 Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Curry moved to accept the November 9, 2017 Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. Messrs. Pfanner and Larkin abstained from voting. (4-0-2) Motion carried.**

4. **Director's Report.** (See attached).

5. **Ex-Officio Report.** Mr. Seery reported next Wednesday at 7 p.m. the Board of Selectmen will meet to discuss bathrooms at Cini Park, a pick-up truck for Parks and Recreation, a dump truck for the school system and a dehumidifier for the pool. The budget was cut \$1.1 million, and may be cut again.

6. **Communications.**

- a.) Memo from Dave Putnam, Director to Karen Galbo, Town Clerk, regarding 2018 dates for Parks & Recreation meetings.  
b.) Facility request for McCook's Tent for Earth Day on April 21, 2018 from 10 a.m. To 2 p.m.

**MOTION (2):        Mr. Fenick moved to approve the Facilities Request  
                         from Save the River to use McCook's Tent for Earth Day  
                         April 21, 2018 from 10 a.m. To 2 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Beebe.  
                         In Favor: Beebe, Fenick, Nadeau, Curry and Larkin.  
                         Opposed: Pfanner. (5-0-1) Motion carried.**

7. **Unfinished Business.**

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

8. **Committee Reports.**

- a.) Penn & Main Street. Mr. Beebe reported the Committee is continuing to work with Mr. Sheer of the Public Works Department.

9. **New Business.**

- a.) Beach Fees 2018. The Commission reviewed McCook Point Park Parking Permit/Pass Comparison from 2008 to 2017.  
b.) 2018-2019 Budget. After discussion of the Enterprise Fund, the Operating Budget was reduced by - 21.50%.  
c.) PA System at Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Nadeau felt a system where the Parks and Recreation Department sets the volume and no one else is able to raise it needs to be considered. Mr. Pfanner felt modern equipment is needed. Further discussion will be held at the January 2018 meeting of this Commission to allow an opportunity to check into new equipment. It was felt that the new PA system should be paid by the user group. Mr. Nadeau suggested inviting Babe Ruth and Little League to the January meeting.

**MOTION (3):        Mr. Beebe moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks  
                         and Recreation Commission Meeting at 8:50 p.m.  
                         Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (6-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report  
December 14, 2017**

**McCook Point Park/Beaches:**

- All restroom facilities have been winterized for the season.
- The Band Shell and Hole in Wall received a significant amount of graffiti the vandals were caught and sent to Juvenile Court. Lussier Development Corp and our staff did a great job of cleaning off the paint. Many thanks to ELPD for their quick apprehension of the suspects.
- 4<sup>th</sup> annual Jingle Bell Run was conducted on Saturday, December 9 – they had 776 participants.

**Cini Park:**

- Restroom project is moving forward, approval for the trailer style restroom has been approved by the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 20 for final approval.

**Budget:**

- I have provided draft copies of the operating budget, new beach enterprise fund, beach fees and the Capital Improvement Budget for your review and discussion. Preliminary Budget is due to the Finance Office in shortly.
- Present budget has been reduced by \$32,778.00 based on the following adjustments:
  - Resignation of Parks Foreman and hiring of Jason Alves at a lower rate per hour.
  - Resignation of Parks Maintainer II position
  - Reduction of \$4,000 in our Overtime Account for Maintainers

**Athletic Facilities:**

- Renovations to the Basketball Courts at Peretz Park has gone very well, they have completed concrete work to the base. They will come back in the spring to paint the top and install the backboards.
- Maintenance Crew has completed our fall sod work and have winterized our irrigation systems.
- Miracle League Field at Flanders School continues in the fundraising stages to date we have raised over \$64,000 towards the project. Our first Board of Directors meeting was held on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 24 people attended we have set-up committees for fundraising, public relations, building and programming.

**Miscellaneous/Programs:**

- Winter edition of our Events Magazine has been distributed.
- Niantic Light Parade was a huge success after being postponed to Sunday night.
- We have hired Jason Alves as our new Parks Foreman/Turf Specialist see provided letter.
- We have two Maintainer II positions presently open, I will posting the first one on Monday, December 18, the second I hope to post in mid-March.

