

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2019

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

FILED

Jan 29 2019 AT 10:20 AM/PM
Kenneth M. M...
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation
Beth Shluger
Anne Lambert
Liurong Luo
Sophie Lambert
Rose Zhou
Lilly LaFemina
Kathleen Kovalanka

1. Call to Order. Chairman Pfanner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. Delegations. Ms. Kovalanka, East Lyme Middle School teacher, introduced members of the East Lyme Middle School Service Club. A Lending Library Information Sheet was submitted to Commission members for their review. The students plan to build a Lending Library in the new East Lyme park (near the shed) on Main Street. They plan to hold a book drive at their school to get the first books for the Lending Library. Extra books will be donated to a local public library. The possible dimensions are: 20" wide x 18" tall x 8" deep. They estimate having the Lending Library built by Memorial Day. Kathleen Lambert informed the Commission that her father will build the Lending Library. Ms. Kovalanka stated the students are looking for guidance from the Commission. There will be communication with Mr. Putnam and/or Mark Nickerson.

Ms. Kumro asked if it was felt the location would be better at the new park or located in or near the gazebo? Ms. Lambert replied we were thinking of having it near the new park. Ms. Kumro asked if someone was at the park but didn't have a book to exchange could a book still be taken? Ms. LaFemina replied you may still take a book. We plan to come back for a few months to assure there are sufficient books. Mr. Putnam reported the proposed Lending Library is the same size as other lending libraries in town. It will hold thirty books. Mr. Nadeau suggested that the depth be larger. Ms. Kumro asked who will monitor the type of books available. Mr. Putnam replied his department does. Ms. Kumro asked what will happen to the Lending Library once the students go on to High School? Ms. Kovalanka replied it would be continued. Mr. Larkin felt the gazebo has a lot more traffic.

MOTION (1): Mr. Nadeau moved to approve the students' plan to build a Lending Library to be located in Town, providing the location is approved by Mr. Putnam.

Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (7-0) Unanimous.

Ms. Shluger reported on behalf of the Hartford Marathon Foundation that she attended the Police Commission Meeting prior to this meeting and they did not have any concerns about the Hartford Marathon. She informed the Commission we discussed the concerns of this Commission, and she was informed that the Police Commission has jurisdiction over the event. They issued a permit without an issue. She understood St. Agnes Church has concerns and Ms. Shluger will meet with their Board. She felt this is a great event for the community with 200 participants and 2,000 visitors.

She informed the Commission Chief Finkelstein felt the new route would be unsafe. Chief Finkelstein would not allow the proposed route change. Mr. Nadeau suggested asking the pastor of St. Agnes to change the time of services on that date. Ms. Shluger did not feel that would be fair to the church members. The reason we begin at 7:30 a.m. is there is normally less traffic. The bike riders begin at 7:40 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. and return at 8:30 a.m. and 9:10 a.m. At the end they come up Main Street. Ms. Kumro reported it took her 45 minutes to leave her home. Mr. Larkin asked if the Niantic Bay Triathlon could be changed to a Saturday. Ms. Shluger replied Sunday has less traffic. She added we will have an ambassador at the church to guide people to a better route. Mr. Nadeau stated individuals are coming to church late. Mr. Beebe suggested that a letter be sent to the Hartford Marathon Foundation expressing its concerns. Mr. Pfanner stated he has had delays of up to twenty minutes going through Town. He suggested moving the Niantic Bay Triathlon to September. Ms. Shluger stated we could not get lifeguards in September. Mr. Putnam stated he had no complaints and he felt it was a good event. Mr. Larkin asked what does it do for the Town? Ms. Shluger replied participants begin early and may go to hotels the night before. She felt the majority of participants are from East Lyme. It was noted the Facilities Request Form stated 500 will be in attendance with 50 from East Lyme. She felt that was not accurate. Ms. Kumro felt it would be nice if the Hartford Marathon Foundation could make a donation to the Miracle League or another charity in Town? Ms. Shluger replied we are a not-for-profit organization and cannot do that. Mr. Larkin asked what is the entrance fee for participants? Ms. Shluger replied \$60 to \$80. Mr. Larkin asked what percentage of that goes to a charity? Ms. Shluger replied 100% goes to free running programs in schools throughout Connecticut. They pay police and lifeguard costs, and she agreed to change the date to August 11. She stated there is a parking charge by St. John's Episcopal Church.

MOTION (2): Mr. Nadeau moved to approve the Facilities Request from the Hartford Marathon Foundation to use the lower parking lot at McCook Point Park on August 10, 2019 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the entire park on August 11, 2019 from 4 a.m. to 12 p.m. for the Niantic Bay Triathlon, and that there will be discussions with the Pastor of St. Agnes Church. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (7-0) Unanimous.

Election of Officers for 2019. Mr. Putnam asked for nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019.

MOTION (3) Mr. Fenick moved to nominate Robert Pfanner as Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (7-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Putnam asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none. A vote was taken and Mr. Putnam was elected Chairman.

Mr. Putnam asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019.

MOTION (4): Mr. Pfanner moved to nominate Roger Nadeau as Vice Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (7-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Putnam asked for any other nominations, and there were none. A vote was taken and Mr. Nadeau was unanimously elected Vice Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Putnam asked for nominations for Treasurer of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019.

MOTION (5): Mr. Pfanner moved to nominate Jackie Curry as Treasurer of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019. Seconded Mr. Nadeau. (7-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Pfanner asked for any other nominations for Treasurer of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019, and there were none.

Ms. Curry was unanimously elected Treasurer of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019.

4. Minutes of Meeting December 13, 2018. Mr. Pfanner asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the December 13, 2018 Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (6): Ms. Curry moved to approve the December 13, 2018 Parks and Recreation Minutes, as presented. (7-0) Unanimous

4. Director's Report. (See attached)

MOTION (7): Mr. Fenick moved to approve the revisions to the Parks and Recreation Commission McCook Point Hole-N-Wall Beach Ice Cream/Food Vendor Proposal, as submitted by Mr. Putnam. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (7-0) Unanimous.

5. Ex-Officio Report. Mr. Seery reported a Forum will be held on the Public Safety Building on January 15 at East Lyme High School. The Board of Selectmen will have a Special Meeting on January 22 on the Public Safety Building.

The bathrooms for Cini Park have arrived. Parking will be in effect at Cini Park.

The pitching piers have been redone.

Former East Lyme Town Clerk Lesley Blais has passed away. Calling hours will be from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday January 11, 2019 at Neilan Funeral Home at 48 Grand Street, Niantic, Connecticut.

6. Communications.

a.) Request from the Hartford Marathon Foundation for a tent rental on August 10, 2019 and August 11, 2019 for the Niantic Bay Triathlon. There was no further discussion on this matter.

7. Unfinished Business.

- a.) Future Park Development. There was no discussion on this matter.
- b.) Miracle League Field. (See Director's Report)
- c.) Niantic Bay Triathlon. There was no further discussion on this matter.

8. Committee Reports. There were no committee reports.

9. New Business.

- a.) Vendor policies: McCook's, HIW, Cini and Peretz Park. There was no further discussion on this matter.

MOTION (8): Mr. Fenick moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of January 10, 2018 at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (7-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
January 10, 2019

McCook Point Park:

- Maintenance crew has done an outstanding job of clearing out brush and removing invasive plantings between the Hole in Wall Beach and the path leading to the upper picnic area.
- I have included a revision to the McCook Point Park vendor policies for your review and potential approval.
- Maintenance crew has completed work to the Labyrinth area approved in the open area on the path leading from the band shell area to the Hole in Wall Beach.

Boardwalk/Cini Park:

- Restroom facility at Cini Park is on the Public Works schedule to start construction the first week of April.

Athletic Facilities:

- Maintenance crew has completed fall clean up and sodding of high traffic areas. Turf blankets have been installed on Keser and Firehouse Fields.
- I will be sending out facility request needs for our local sports leagues for the spring, we usually shoot for a late March early April opening.
- Maintenance crew is presently going through every piece of equipment making sure we are ready to go for the spring. They are doing an outstanding job.

Miracle League Field:

- Application for approval from the Zoning Commission has been submitted and read into the record. We are scheduled for their February 7th regular meeting for approval.
- Upcoming fundraisers include:
 - February 8 Palazzo's Italian Night at the Community Center
 - March 1 Magic Night sponsored by the Elementary Schools
 - March 16 Prom Dress Extravaganza
 - April 13 Niantic Rotary Gala
 - April 28 Niantic Bay Boardwalk 5K
- Fundraising to date has eclipsed the \$310,000 mark.

Budget:

- Initial review with the First Selectman and Finance Director is scheduled for Monday, January 14.

Miscellaneous:

- We partnered with the Children's Museum of SECT on the Count Down to Noon program it was their largest crowd in the 5 year history.