

**EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 8, 2019**

**Present:** Robert Pfanner, Chairman  
Jackie Curry  
Roger Nadeau  
Pat Larkin  
Thomas Beebe  
Sue Kumro

**FILED**

Aug 20 2019 AT 2:15 AM/PM  
Karen Melton  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**Absent:** Charles Fenick

**Also Present:** David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation  
Rachel Baer  
Claudia Catani  
Kathie Cassidy  
Bill Rinoski  
Jessica Todd

1. Call to Order. Chairman Pfanner called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of August 8, 2019 to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. Public Delegations. Mr. Putnam informed the Commission that Rachel Baer emailed him information on GRACE (Gratitude, Release, Accept, Challenge and Embrace) and gave him links to additional information about it.

Ms. Baer showed a plan of the GRACE Trail to Commission members, and she felt Bridebrook may work better because it is a quiet location. Ms. Kumro asked how long is the walk? Ms. Baer stated she did not want the walk to be too long. Mr. Putnam added it is .8 mile. Ms. Baer stated we presently have a story walk at that location. She uses cards for each lesson. Mr. Putnam felt it was a good idea.

**MOTION (1): Mr. Larkin moved to approve the concept for GRACE and authorizes Mr. Putnam to make arrangements with Ms. Baer. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (6-0) Unanimous**

Ms. Catani emailed Mr. Nickerson regarding dogs at McCook Park, and he referred it to this Commission. Ms. Catani stated so many people walk their dogs on the pathway to Hole-in-the-Wall. She requested that this be allowed all year long. Mr. Larkin informed her we have an eight-mile trail that individuals may walk their dog all year long. Mr. Nadeau asked does the area the dogs are walked include the pavilion? He was informed it does. Mr. Putnam felt some signage may need clarification. He felt it may be time to visit Parks and Recreation By-laws.

Ms. Catani stated she felt balloons were a more important issue. The state regulation allows each person to release 10 balloons per day. Mr. Putnam stated this Commission may not allow the release of balloons in our park.

Ms. Cassidy, Treasurer of the East Lyme Public Trust, suggested lighting the Boardwalk. She showed 8' lighting from a company from Georgia. The East Lyme Public Trust will seek grants and have fundraising. The lighting would be on the bench side of the Boardwalk. She estimated the cost of one lamp to be \$700-\$800. Ms. Kumro suggested testing the lighting since the street lights on Main Street have had problems due to road salting. Ms. Cassidy agreed to do more research. Ms. Kumro asked if AMTRAK would be opposed to lighting on the Boardwalk? Ms. Cassidy stated we only have preliminary information at this time. The batteries are guaranteed for two years. LED would last approximately 10 years. Mr. Rinoski stated originally there were lights on the Boardwalk, but they were removed. Mr. Pfanner felt lights were a great idea. Mr. Seery asked if the lighting had to be buried? He was informed lighting needed to be buried. Ms. Cassidy informed the Commission they have \$500 credit on a grant. They have an 8' foot and a 6' pole. Ms. Kumro suggested discussing details with Mr. Sheer. Mr. Putnam suggested having discussion with Mr. Mulholland and Police Chief Finkelstein. Mr. Larkin asked who would be responsible for replacing the batteries? Mr. Rinoski replied the East Lyme Public Trust.

**MOTION (2): Ms. Curry moved to investigate lighting for the Boardwalk. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (6-0) Unanimous.**

Ms. Cassidy showed photos from Gama Sovic Solar Lighting to Commission members. The East Lyme Public Trust will do more research and report back to this Commission.

3. Minutes of Meeting June 13, 2019. Mr. Pfanner asked for corrections, additions or deletions to the June 13, 2019 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Beebe should be noted as absent from the June 13, 2019 meeting.

**MOTION (3): Ms. Nadeau moved to approve the June 13, 2019 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. Ms. Kumro and Mr. Beebe abstained from voting. (4-0-2) Motion carried.**

4. Director's Report. See attached report.
5. Ex-officio Report. Mr. Seery reported the Board of Selectmen will be voting on the new Harbor Management Plan. It has been approved by the state and DEEP.

The Parks and Recreation request to purchase a lawn mower was approved.

6. Communications.
  - a.) E-mail from Mark Nickerson to Claudia Catani regarding dogs at McCooks Park. There was no further discussion on this matter.
  - b.) Facilities request from CPT Daniel DePasquale for an all-day BBQ at McCooks on 9/7/19.

**MOTION (4): Mr. Beebe moved to approve the Facilities request from CPT Daniel DePasquale for an all-day BBQ at McCooks Point Park on September 7, 2019. No alcohol is allowed. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (6-0) Unanimous.**

7. Unfinished Business.

- a.) Future Park Development. There was no discussion on future park development.
- b.) Miracle League Field. See attached Director's Report.
- c.) GRACE Trail-Rachel Baer. (See delegations).

8. Committee Reports. There were no committee reports.

9. New Business.

- a.) Acts of Kindness Campaign. There was no discussion on this matter.

**MOTION (5): Mr. Larkin moved to adjourn the August 8, 2019 Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (6-0) Unanimous**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**



**Director's Report**  
**August 8, 2019**

**McCook Point Park:**

- Beach stickers issued to date: 4,028 a little below previous years however; non-resident stickers issued have eclipsed the 500 mark with 504 issues @ \$115.00= \$57,960.00 in revenue
- Preliminary evaluation of the Beach Enterprise fund for Fiscal Year is as follows:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Revenue:         | \$207,000           |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | <u>\$196,002.66</u> |
| Total:           | \$10,997.34         |

I will have more concrete numbers at our next meeting.

- July 4<sup>th</sup> all three beaches filled up by noon time we took in almost \$10,000 in day pass sales for that day.
- The raft at McCook is starting to show its age, I will be pricing out options over the fall and winter.
- The two Copper Beech trees near the railroad tracks are in poor condition, the tree warden has evaluated with one defiantly needs to be taken down as a safety issue we presently have it fenced off.
- Niantic Bay Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, August 11.
- Celebrate was a success again this year, the heat kept crowds down staff did an outstanding job during the day.
- Theater Under the Shell concluded on August 4<sup>th</sup> it was well attended and ran smoothly.
- Wednesday and Friday night concerts remain very popular they continue through August 30.
- Family concert, movie and campout is scheduled for August 30.
- Three Solaware Stations have been installed at all three beach locations.

**Cini Park/Boardwalk:**

- We continue to receive very favorable feedback regarding the new facilities at Cini Park, beach staff does an excellent job of keeping the facility clean.
- East Lyme Public Trust is proposing to put lights on the Boardwalk.

**Athletic Facilities:**

- New fencing for Little League and Veteran's Field has been approved as part of our CIP, I hope to go out to bid in the next few weeks for a fall installation.
- New large area lawn mower has been approved and will be in the process of obtaining that piece of equipment shortly.
- East Lyme Soccer and Youth Football have started with Youth Football's first scrimmage taking place on August 16<sup>th</sup>, Youth Soccer starts games after the Labor Day weekend.
- We hosted a number of all-star tournaments for LL Baseball, Softball and Babe Ruth.
- Maintenance crew continues to do an outstanding job the fields are in great shape heading into the fall.

- War at the Shore continues to offer tournament we have hosted 10 tournaments to date.

**Miracle League Field:**

- Fundraising is moving close to the \$430,000 mark.
- We will be going out to bid in the next few weeks.
- Hope for a fall construction start.

**Programs/Miscellaneous:**

- Playground/Hangout program ends on Friday, August 9. Registration is over 300 campers.
- I CAN BIKE program starts on Monday, August 12 we have 33 riders registered.
- Men's Softball program ends in mid- August.
- Events magazine is due out in mid-August.
- ELRT just finished their production of How to Succeed in Business, Erin Stanley-Sousa continues to do an outstanding job with this program.