

**EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 9, 2020**

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

FILED

January 17, 20 20 AT 12:10 AM/PM  
*Brooke Stearns* ATC  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**Also Present:** David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation  
Kevin Seery, Ex officio

1. Call to Order. Chairman Pfanner called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of January 9, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Mr. Donovan was welcomed as a new member of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission.

Election of Officers. Mr. Putnam asked for nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020.

**MOTION (1):** Mr. Nadeau moved to nominate Robert Pfanner as Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (7-0)

There were no other nominations. Mr. Pfanner was unanimously elected Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020.

Mr. Putnam asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020.

**MOTION (2):** Ms. Curry moved to nominate Mr. Nadeau as Vice-Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020. Seconded by Mr. Pfanner. (7-0) Unanimous.

There were no other nominations. Mr. Nadeau was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020.

Mr. Putnam asked for nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020.

**MOTION (3):** Mr. Pfanner moved to nominate Ms. Curry as Treasurer of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (7-0) Unanimous.

There were no other nominations. Ms. Curry was unanimously elected Treasurer of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission.

2. Public Delegations. There were no guests.
3. Minutes of Meeting November 14 2019. Mr. Pfanner asked for corrections, additions or deletions to the November 14, 2019 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (4): Ms. Curry moved to approve the November 14, 2019 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. Messrs. Pfanner and Beebe abstained from voting. (5-0-2) Motion carried.**

4. Director's Report. See attached report.

The Commission reviewed the recommendations of Mr. Putnam for McCook Point Park Permit/Pass Price Comparison.

Mr. Larkin suggested that the non-resident seasonal pass be raised to \$150.

Mr. Beebe asked Mr. Putnam if these fees have been compared to other municipalities? Mr. Putnam stated they have. Mr. Seery added because the minimum wage is increasing this increase is necessary. Its also necessary to get more information on the sales tax. Mr. Donovan suggested rounding off the charges.

The Commission reviewed the recommendations of Mr. Putnam on increasing the pavilion and tent fees at McCook Point Park.

Mr. Seery suggested that a non-resident full- day rental rental for the pavilion be raised to \$250 and a non-resident rental for the tent for a full- day be raised to \$325.

**MOTION (5): Mr. Larkin moved to accept the increases for entry to McCook Point Park. Seconded by Mr. Beebe. (7-0) Unanimous.**

The Commission reviewed a 14 Year Vendor Comparison for McCook and Peretz Park and Mr. Putnam's recommendation on increasing the minimum bids for McCook Point Park Vendor to \$2,700, Peretz Park Vendor to \$1,200 and Cini Park Vendor to \$700.

**MOTION (6): Mr. Larkin moved to accept the increases to vendors' fees for McCook Point Park, Peretz Park and Cini Park. Seconded by Mr. Beebe. (7-0) Unanimous.**

The Commission reviewed East Lyme Parks and Recreation and Youth Services Budget for 2020-2021. with an increase of 3.14%.

5. Ex-officio Report. Mr. Seery reported the Board of Selectmen voted in December that Charles Fenick be Emeritus of this Commission.

The Town has had a loss of revenue for the dock at Cini Park. It will lose \$50,000 for one slip.

The Niantic Motel has been purchased by Best Western.

Wells 1 and 6 upgrades have been approved.

EEE is expected to be around for three years.

6. Communications.

a.) Facility request from the Hartford Marathon Foundation to use McCook Point Park on August 8, 2020 and August 9, 2020 for the Niantic Bay Triathlon.

Mr. Putnam reported the Hartford Marathon Foundation has had very little impact to our park facilities. They arrive on Friday night to set up and Saturday night for the Triathlon from 5 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. It was felt if they are using the tent, they should be charged for it.

**MOTION (7): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the Facilities Request form from the Hartford Marathon Foundation to use McCook Point Park on August 8, 2020 and August 9, 2020 for the Niantic Bay Triathlon, providing they pay \$110 for use of the pavilion and \$160 to use the tent for each day. Seconded by Mr. Beebe. (7-0) 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

8. Committee Reports.

- a.) By-law revision committee. Messrs. Larkin and Nadeau will give their recommendations to the Commission at its next meeting.

9. New Business.

- a.) 2020-2021 Budgets. There was no further discussion on the 2020-2021 budgets.
- b.) 2020-2021 McCook Point Park fees. There was no further discussion on McCook Point Park fees.
- c.) Meeting calendar for 2020. The Commission reviewed the 2020 meeting schedule for this Commission.

**MOTION (8): Mr. Larkin moved to accept the 2020 meeting schedule for the Parks and Recreation Commission, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (7-0) Unanimous.**

Mr. Larkin asked that removal of the ballads be placed on the next Agenda.

**MOTION (9): Ms. Curry moved to adjourn the January 9, 2020 Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (4-0) Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report**  
**January 9, 2020**

**McCook Point Park/Beaches:**

- All restroom facilities have been winterized, last restroom facility closed was the Hole in the Wall building just after the Light Parade.
- The restroom trailer at Cini Park was winterized in late November. The trailer is currently being held inside at the old Highway Garage on Roxbury Road.
- Please see my recommendations on beach pass entrance fees for 2020. I would like to delay approval until our February meeting. We are trying to get clarification on a proposed new state tax on municipal parking lots.
- Please see provided tent/pavilion and vendor fee recommendations for your approval for the 2020 season.
- Seasonal employment contracts have been issued for all returning lifeguards, gate attendants and beach clerks.

**Athletic Facilities:**

- New fencing project at the Little League Fields is 95% complete. Our maintenance crew did an outstanding job of removing the old fencing. Remaining as part of the project is the installation of the foul poles.
- New fencing project for Vets Baseball has started, our crew has taken down the backstop on the Baseball Field. The contractor will be installing the new backstop prior to the opening of the baseball season.
- Fall clean up has been completed, fields are in great shape heading into the spring. Because of the EEE alert the fields experienced a significant drop in usage.

**Miracle League Field Update:**

- Bid's for the project have been received and reviewed; a Contractor is being interviewed on Monday. We hope to sign a contract in the next few weeks with an early spring start.
- "Playing for a Miracle" benefit held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Mohegan Sun raised over \$80,000.00
- Currently fundraising for phase 2 of our project which includes a playscape and restroom facility.

**Budget:**

- My budget submission is included in your packets. I met with the First Selectman and Finance Director earlier today for our initial review.

**Programs/Miscellaneous:**

- The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Light Parade was held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, we have received very favorable feedback. Dominion sponsored the fireworks again this year.
- We partnered with the Children's Museum on the Count to Noon program on 12/31.
- We are in the planning stages for the Niantic Bay Boardwalk 5K held on Sunday, April 26.