

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020

Present: Roger Nadeau
Jackie Curry
Pat Larkin
Sue Kumro
Todd Donovan

FILED

June 29, 2020 AT 1:35 AM/PM
Brooke Stearns ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Mark Nickerson, First Selectman
Kevin Seery, Ex officio
David Putnam, Director

Vice Chairman Nadeau called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. There were no public delegations.

MINUTES. Mr. Nadeau asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the March 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the March 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. Ms. Curry, Mr. Larkin and Mr. Donovan abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT. (See attached Report). Mr. Putnam asked the Commission to consider the fee for non-resident passes. Presently the fee is \$30 daily and \$40 on weekends and holidays. Mr. Donovan asked if you can open up the beaches, will you have times you will have to turn people away? Mr. Putnam replied he will. Mr. Nickerson added you have increased costs as a result of the Coronavirus and he suggested increasing the fee. Mr. Putnam recommended that only residents be allowed walk-in passes.

MOTION (2): Ms. Curry moved to sell non-resident day passes for \$40 daily and \$50 on weekends and holidays effective June 20, 2020 and that walk-in passes be at the discretion of Mr. Putnam. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (5-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (3): Ms. Kumro moved to sell commercial passes for \$60 for the 2020 season. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (4): Ms. Kumro moved to award K's Kart as vendor at Cini Park in 2020 for a fee of \$300, providing she obtains the necessary permits. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

EX OFFICIO'S REPORT. Mr. Nickerson reported the Town Hall will be re-opened to the public beginning June 17, by appointment only.

The Police Commission is reviewing its policies on use of force.

Celebrate East Lyme and summer concerts will not be held in July.

COMMUNICATIONS. There were no communications.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

a.) Farming at Roxbury Road. The Commission reviewed Substitute House Bill No. 7386, Special Act No. 07-11. An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land., Sec. 24. Mr. Putnam reported Mr. Joe Smith requested the use of 2 or 3 acres of the former state land on Roxbury Road for farming. He is willing to pay the Town \$600 per acre. Mr. Putnam informed Mr. Smith if he is able to obtain a waiver from the state, he may be able to farm at that location. Mr. Nickerson asked if there is water on this property? Mr. Putnam replied there is none. Mr. Nickerson felt it would be expensive to bring water in. He added that he has also been asked by an organic group for some use of that land.

b.) McCook Point Park Update. (See Director's Report).

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

a.) Charlie Fenick Recognition Committee. Mr. Nadeau reported he and Mr. Pfanner feel this cannot be done at the present time due to COVID-19.

NEW BUSINESS

a.) COVID-19 Update related to Athletic Fields/Outdoor Entertainment. (See Director's Report)

Mr. Donovan asked that 100 acres of land be considered for a park area, with nature trails and a kayaking area. It was suggested that a committee be formed to develop a Master Plan and that Darrow Pond be considered.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (5): Mr. Larkin moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of June 11, 2020 at 8 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report
June 11, 2020**

McCook Point Park:

Resident Sticker Sales Comparison:

| | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020 ytd</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Resident | 1075 | 927 | - 148 |
| Resident 2 nd | 172 | 163 | - 9 |
| Senior Pass | 1661 | 1253 | -408 |
| Commercial | 90 | 0 | -90 |
| NR Seasonal | 480 | 0 | -480 |

- The department continues to receive inquiries regarding non-resident seasonal beach passes. Most patron are understanding to the current situation, we have had one irate patron who refused to abide by the rule, Police were called and responded. The Police are in a tough situation as this is unenforceable by state statue.
- Wanted to discuss possible recommendations moving forward with the Commission:
 - Continue with existing policy (resident seasonal only) and respond on an as needed basis for the patron who will challenge the gate attendants on this policy. We will need some guidance on how to handle this situation.
 - Sell a select # of Non-Resident seasonal passes; possibility starting a certain date. Fee approved for a non-resident seasonal pass was \$120.00 at the January Commission meeting.
 - Sell a select # of Non-Resident Day passes daily, once the passes are sold - out we would no longer sell the day pass and only admit seasonal beach passes. Not sure what a magic number would be in this case.
 - At our last meeting we did not address the Commercial Pass for Town Businesses, I would like the Commission to address this and set a policy for this summer. The Commercial Pass was approved for \$60.00.
- I have put additional staff on during the weekdays at McCook to help with crowd control, we run into crowding issues once Rocky Neck closes on a nice day Rocky Neck usually closes before 11 a.m. We have had some smaller issues in regard to large groups, alcohol etc. especially at Cini Park.
- Restrooms are open except for Upper at McCook we will be sanitizing regularly. We have purchased a fogger/mister along with anti-bacterial liquid that we spray on the surfaces based on weather and usage.
- Lifeguards will start on Saturday, June 20. We will be following Guidelines set-up by the Department of Health for the safety of our guards.
- Guidelines released allow for groups of up to 25. I would recommend that we rent the Pavilion to such groups as of June 20th. I recommend that we keep the tent down until further restrictions are increased.

- We received a recommendation form Ledge Light Health District in regard to opening the Playgrounds. Their recommendation is that Playgrounds be re-opened as of June 17th with proper signage as it relates to capacity limits, social distancing, using at your own risk and masks.

Boardwalk/Cini Park:

- Boardwalk remains one-way walking from Hole in the Wall to Cini Beach. Recently we have request to open to two-way traffic. I would recommend we remain one way until additional restrictions are lifted.
- Last year's vendor at Cini Park (K's Kart) has requested permission again this year at half the fee of last year. Last year's fee was \$600.00.

Athletic Fields:

- The State of CT has specified Sports into three categories Higher Risk, Moderate Risk and Lower Risk. Moderate and Lower Risk sports will be able to start on June 17th, and Higher Risk sports can start on July 6th.
- Basketball Courts remain closed we have taken down the rims and they can go back up starting July 6th.
- Restroom facilities at our athletic facilities remain closed.

Programs:

- All Parks and Recreation Summer Camps have been cancelled.
- Celebrate East Lyme has been cancelled.
- Summer Concert on hold awaiting additional guidance.
- We will be starting up some of our exercise programs on a limited enrollment basis after July 4th.

Budget:

- Capital Improvement Items (Director's Vehicle and Utility Vehicle) have been approved by the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance for FY 2020-2021.
- Operating Budget for FY 2020-2021 has been reduced by \$11,049 from what I had requested in my initial budget submission.

Miracle League Field:

- Construction of field is 99% complete only small punch list items remain. Hope to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony and activities later this summer.