

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2020

Present: Roger Nadeau
Jackie Curry
Sue Kumro
Todd Donovan
Thomas Beebe

FILED

Absent: Robert Pfanner
Pat Larkin

Aug 18, 2020 AT 2:07 AM (PM)
Brooke Stevens ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: 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 June 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the June 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Beebe. Mr. Beebe abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT. (See attached Report).

EX OFFICIO'S REPORT Mr. Seery reported the storm caused more damage than we expected. Eversource did not anticipate its impact in East Lyme.

Lillian's Restaurant will open when inside seating is allowed.

The owner of Dunkin Donuts has decided not to reopen.

We have had traffic on the Boardwalk. Mr. Putnam has ordered signs indicating that masks are required.

Mail in ballots for the primary were sent out. Ms. Galbo will submit a plan for absentee ballots for the November election.

COMMUNICATIONS.

- a) Facility request from the Charity Challenge organization for a Music Fest to be held on September 12 from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Putnam informed the Commission the Charity Challenge is for a Christmas Toy Drive for youngsters in the DCF system, kids in foster care and Tri Circle. The concert is sponsored by Mohegan Sun.

MOTION (2): Mr. Donovan moved to approve the Facility Request from the Charity Challenge organization for a Music Fest to be held on September 12 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., provided they submit a Covid Plan to Mr. Putnam. Seconded by Ms. Kudro. (5-0) Unanimous.

b.) A Proposal from The Promise of Tomorrow's Trees. Mr. Putnam reported they would like to offer three remaining cherry trees to McCook Park Cherry Lane along Columbus Avenue. He suggested accepting two trees.

MOTION (3): Mr. Beebe moved to amend Proposal 1 to allow two cherry trees at the direction of Mr. Putnam. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

c.) An email to Mark Nickerson and forwarded to Mr. Putnam from Patricia MacDonald dated August 10, 2020, regarding McCook's capacity. She stated twice she has not been able to get into McCook's beach or Hole-in-the-Wall due to being at capacity. She felt residents should take priority rather than out-of-towners. Mr. Seery felt Mr. Putnam knows what works best for his department. Mr. Putnam added its necessary to get in by 11 a.m. Ms. Kudros felt this is the best way it can be done.

d.) Email dated August 6, 2020 from Melissa Lawrence expressing concern with the recent decision to allow two-way traffic on the Boardwalk.

e.) Certified letter to Fatjon Rapo regarding not following Parks and Recreation's procedure for entering the beach.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

a.) Farming at Roxbury Road. Mr. Putnam reported Joe Smith has requested the use of 2 or 3 acres of the former state land on Roxbury Road for farming. The deed does not provide for farming. Mr. Smith plans to go to the state to request a waiver

b.) McCook Point Park Update Seasonal Beach Sales. Mr. Putnam compared 2019 and 2020 seasonal beach sales as follows: resident passes have increased by 314 this year and second passes have increased by 82, senior passes have decreased by 63, commercial passes have decreased by 62 and non-resident seasonal passes have decreased by 480.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

a.) Charlie Fenick Recognition Committee. Mr. Nadeau gave a draft of information on the accomplishments of Charlie Fenick. It was suggested that an athletic facility be named after him. Ms. Kudro suggested that Memorial Drive be named after him.

Mr. Nadeau agreed to meet with Mr. Pfanner and bring a recommendation to this Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. He asked everyone to think of the best way to honor him.

NEW BUSINESS

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): Mr. Beebe moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of August 13, 2020 at 8 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gherzi, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report
August 13, 2020**

McCook Point Park/Beaches:

Resident Sticker Sales Comparison:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020 ytd</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Resident	1075	1389	+ 314
Resident 2 nd	172	254	+ 82
Senior Pass	1661	1598	- 63
Commercial	90	28	-62
Non-Res. Seasonal	480	0	-480

- Revenue year to date is \$139,336 compared to 2019 at the same time \$182,755 a reduction of \$43,419. Non- resident seasonal passes in 2019 generated \$55,200 of revenue.
- Expenses ytd = \$129,344 compared to 2019 on the same date \$158,928.
- Under difficult circumstances the entire beach staff has done an outstanding job.
- At a maximum we are selling 30 day passes to non-residents 10 at each beach location.
- On occasion we have closed the beach facilities to prevent overcrowding, this is being done by observation with the Lifeguards, Security Personnel and Park Supervisors.
- Staff has done a tremendous job of keeping our restroom facilities clean and sanitized, they have gone above and beyond.
- We have experienced a significant decrease in our Pavilion rentals. We did not erect the tent this summer.
- Programs Cancelled this summer:
 - Concert Series exception of Levine Insurance sponsored event this Friday.
 - Niantic Bay Triathlon
 - Celebrate East Lyme
 - Touch a Truck
- Upcoming events:
 - Small show sponsored by EL Regional Theater in the Bandshell
 - Narcotics Anonymous Concert in the Bandshell

Athletic Facilities:

- Athletic Fields have been rented to the following groups:
 - War at the Shore AAU Baseball Tournaments (6 tournaments to date)
 - Batter Up AAU Baseball Tournament
 - CT Crush AAU Baseball Tournament
 - The PIT AAU Softball
 - CT Pride AAU Softball
 - Batter-up Baseball Camp (3 weeks at Peretz Park)
- Basketball Rims were re-installed on Monday, July 6th
- Maintenance Crew is doing a great job, weather has been a big challenge this summer.
- Restroom facilities at Peretz Park and Vets are open for use.
- New roadway for entry and exit from Vets Park has been created off Oswegatchie Hills Road making it much safer.

- Water project behind the Middle School has allowed us an opportunity to expand parking capacity along the lower road. We are working with engineering and water departments to plan for the additional parking.

Programs:

See attached sheet.

Budget:

- Fall work will continue on the fencing replacement project as outlined on our CIP, this will include a new backstop and fencing replacement along the baselines.
- Director's Vehicle has been ordered and expecting delivery in the next few weeks.

Miracle League:

- Phase 1 is complete the field is being used regularly, thanks to Commissioner Todd Donovan for volunteering his time for our two week Let's Play Program.
- Work has begun on the design of phase 2 which will include a restroom and playscape facility.