

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2021  
Via Zoom

Present: Thomas Beebe, Chairman  
Jackie Curry  
Todd Donovan  
Pat Larkin  
Roger Nadeau

FILED

Jan 21 20 21 AT 2:40 AM/PM  
Karen Miller  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Robert Pfanner  
Sue Kumro

Also Present: Kevin Seery, Ex officio member of the Board of Selectmen  
David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Beebe called the January 14, 2021 meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Mr. Beebe thanked Bob Pfanner who has been a member of this Commission for thirty years and Roger Nadeau who has been a member for 25 years for volunteering on this Commission and being an integral part of building this Commission and doing their best for the Town.

**2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.

**3. MINUTES.** Mr. Beebe asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the December 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1):** Ms. Curry moved to approve the December 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (4-0) Unanimous.

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** (See attached Report). Mr. Putnam informed the Commission he has been contacted by someone who is interested in being a vendor. He did not accept any vendors for 2020 because of COVID. He recommends that the fees be increased by \$25 in 2021 because of the increase in work.

**MOTION (2):** Ms. Curry moved to increase the Vendor's fees by \$25 for 2021, as recommended by the Mr. Putnam. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (4-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Larkin asked if non-residents are being charged enough to rent the pavilion and tent? Mr. Putnam recommended \$25.

**MOTION (3):** Mr. Donovan moved to accept the \$25 increase in fees for the Pavilion and Tent for 2021 as recommended by Mr. Putnam. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (4-0) Unanimous.

**5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT** Mr. Seery reported all town buildings remain closed. Appointments can be made. Taxes may be deferred until April 1 without interest. If they are not paid by April 1 interest from February 1 will be included.

Within the next month the Niantic River Bridge will be closed for two weeks. Emergency services has been made aware of this.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS.

a.) Facebook message – concerns Boardwalk. The Commission reviewed Catherine Marrison’s concerns regarding masking on the Boardwalk and dogs on the Boardwalk, as well as aggressive individuals. She was informed the matter will be brought to this Commission’s attention. She was also invited to attend this meeting.

Mr. Donovan asked who is responsible for matters of this type? Mr. Putnam replied it would be a police issue. Ms. Curry stated it is not possible to separate too much on the Boardwalk. Ms. Marrison was informed of other areas in Town to walk.

Commission member Roger Nadeau joined the meeting.

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) COVID-19 Updates. Mr. Putnam reported his office has been closed to the public but allows appointments.

b.) Parks and Recreation budget review. Mr. Putnam met with First Selectman Mark Nickerson and Finance Director Anna Johnson.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

a.) Charlie Fenick Recognition Committee. The Commission reviewed the revised information on recognizing Mr. Fenick. Ms. Curry suggested after the initial “Charles” the name should be changed to “Charlie”. Mr. Donovan reported he reviewed the obituary of Mr. Fenick and suggested that some of its information be incorporated.

Mr. Putnam made the following suggestions: that a field be named after him, a plaque or proclamation be made by the Board of Selectmen or put on the website. Mr. Larkin suggested a Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Seery replied there is no Volunteer Hall of Fame. Mr. Larkin suggested having a Volunteer Hall of Fame. Mr. Putnam stated we have a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Donovan agreed to work with Mr. Nadeau on the Charles Fenick Recognition and bring it back to the Commission.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Donovan asked that Mr. Lemire’s presentation be placed on the next Agenda for further discussion. Mr. Larkin asked if there has been discussion with the Town? Mr. Seery informed him he brought it up to the Board of Selectmen. They wish to know the area being considered. He suggested bringing a presentation to the Board of Selectmen in early March, because they are busy with budgets at this time.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (4): Ms. Curry moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of January 14, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report  
January 14, 2021**

**McCook Point Park/Beaches:**

- Included with my report is my recommendations for Vendor Fees and Pavilion/Tent Rental fees for 2021.
- Restroom Trailer from Cini Park has been winterized and is stored inside at the Old Town Garage on Roxbury Road.
- Seasonal Contracts have been issued to returning Lifeguards and Gate Attendants. Minimum wage increases on August 1 to \$13.00 per hour.
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Light Parade was conducted on Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> as a reverse parade inside McCook Point Park, we have received very favorable feedback and had close to 1,500 cars partake. A huge thanks to Dominion Energy for their sponsorship.

**Athletic Facilities:**

- Fencing project on the Vet's Softball field is almost complete, remaining is the installation of the backstop overhang and placing of the safety tops, project will be complete prior to the spring season start-up.
- I have received a facility request for use of our Baseball Fields from War at the Shore, they have increased their tournaments from 13 to 17. As always local leagues take priority use in scheduling.

**Programming:**

- All current programs running are on Zoom, municipal buildings remain closed to the general public.

**Budget:**

- Budget review conducted with the First Selectman and Finance Director was held on Wednesday, Jan. 13. I will keep the Commission informed on reviews with the Board of Selectman and Finance once they have been scheduled. Proposed operating budget stands at a modest 0.33% increase. The current budget does not include any salary increases as the Union's contract expires on June 30 of this year.

**Miracle League:**

- Phase II which includes a fully accessible playscape and restroom facility is up before the Zoning Commission a public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, January 21.
- The MLSECT has applied for 501 c 3 status.
- Spring Programming to include:
  - Baseball
  - Lacrosse
  - Kickball (potentially)
  - Little League T-Ball