

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2021  
Via Zoom

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

Absent: Robert Pfanner

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

FILED

Feb 19 2021 AT 9:00 AM/PM  
*Karen Mullen*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Beebe called the February 11, 2021 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

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

**3. MINUTES.** Mr. Beebe asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1):** Ms. Curry moved to approve the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. Ms. Kumro abstained from voting. (5-0-1) Motion carried.

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** (See attached Report).

**5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT** Mr. Seery reported on February 17 the Board of Selectmen will discuss turning over a piece of property at Darrow Pond to the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Nickerson wishes to be sure the Town will have a piece of property at Darrow Pond in case it is needed by the Town.

Mr. Seery informed the Commission he spoke to Steve Mansfield who feels the COVID-19 virus will be with us for a long time. The vaccine has been working well.

He reported the Grand List has gone up by 2.14%.

There were no major concerns with the recent snow storms.

**MOTION (2):** Mr. Donovan moved to add to this evening's Agenda, item 10. Executive Session for the purpose of this Commission's self-evaluation. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (6-0) Unanimous.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS.** There were no communications.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a.) COVID-19 Updates. (See Ex officio report)

b.) Parks and Recreation budget review. Mr. Putnam reported he will contact Commission members when he has dates for this Commission's budget review by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Mr. Seery stated they are normally held in March.

#### **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

a.) Charlie Fenick Recognition Committee. Messrs. Nadeau and Donovan gave copies of the revised information on Charlie Fenick for review by the Commission. Commission members were asked to contact them with any additional comments or questions. Mr. Nadeau suggested he be recognized in the East Lyme Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Putnam felt it is appropriate to recognize him in the East Lyme Sports Hall of Fame and suggested that a plaque indicating his years of service be placed in the Parks and Recreation Office. Mr. Beebe suggested that the information on Charlie Fenick be used at Charlie's Race on June 11 to honor him. Mr. Larkin suggested submitting a newspaper article about him. Mr. Putnam felt it should be place on the Town website.

b) Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Donovan reported he met with residents via Zoom to discuss Darrow Pond. Mr. Goeschel, Mr. Putnam and he were present. Ideas were shared. A survey was created in order to obtain as many ideas as possible. It went out to those in attendance prior to the meeting. Our ultimate goal is to meet when the weather improves to see the Darrow Pond area. Ms. Kumro asked to be included. Mr. Donovan asked that in the next Parks and Recreation newsletter that there be information on Darrow Pond together with the survey.

**9. NEW BUSINESS** There was no discussion of new business.

#### **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**MOTION (3):** Ms. Kumro moved to go into Executive Session at 8 p.m. for the purpose of this Commission's self-evaluation and that David Putnam, Director be invited to attend. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (6-0) Unanimous.

**MOTION (4):** Mr. Larkin moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. with no action taken. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (6-0) Unanimous.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (5):** Ms. Curry moved to adjourn the February 11, 2021 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:09 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report**  
**February 11, 2021**

**McCook Point Park/Beaches:**

- Seasonal Contracts have been issued to returning Lifeguards and Gate Attendants. Minimum wage increases on August 1 to \$13.00 per hour.
- Projected starting dates for staff:
  - Gate Attendants – May 29
  - Lifeguards – June 19
  - We will monitor usage and put staff on as needed.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Special Event tentatively scheduled will be the Niantic Bay 10K “Charlie’s Race” named in honor of Charlie Fenick on Friday, June 11.
- We are proceeding with scheduling our summer concert series on Wednesday and Friday nights starting July 7.

**Athletic Facilities:**

- I am hoping to open athletic fields the first weekend of April.
- I am starting to coordinate with our spring sports leagues.

**Programming:**

- We are hoping to decide on Celebrate East Lyme in early March.
- We offered a successful Knitting Program this winter and have added two additional sessions.
- We are planning on offering group hikes starting in March, “Hump Day Hikes” on Wednesdays will led by Parks and Recreation Staff, utilizing area trails.
- We will be offering an Earth Day Challenge encouraging families to get outside (see attached)

**Budget:**

- Budget review conducted with the Board of Selectman was conducted on Monday, Feb. 8., First Selectman’s recommendation puts our budget at a .90% decrease.
- Attached please find information regarding the posting of the Recreation Program Coordinators position.

**Darrow Pond:**

- First committee meeting was held last night via zoom, Todd Donovan has put together an outstanding group of citizens interested in developing this area.

**Miracle League:**

- Phase II which includes a fully accessible play area and restroom facility received approval at their January 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting.
- Spring Programming to include:
  - Baseball (presently have 23 kids registered)
  - Lacrosse
  - Kickball

**East Lyme Sports Hall of Fame:**

- Committee has selected their fourth-class congratulations to Commission member Roger Nadeau for his selection. Additional members include: Thorr Bjorn, Kyle Reagan, Kevin Jensen, Kelly Bartlett, Steve Curry, Chris Kelly, Jack Stabach and Liz Buckley. Ceremonies to take place in the late fall/early winter of 2021.