

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021
Via Zoom

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

FILED

APR 20 2021 AT 3:05 AM (PM)
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Robert Pfanner
Roger Nadeau

Also Present: Kevin Seery, Ex officio member of the Board of Selectmen
David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation
Richard Williams, President Darrow Pond Committee
Michael McDowell, Special Events Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Beebe called the April 8, 2021 meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. Richard Williams.

3. MINUTES.

a.) Minutes of the March 11, 2021 Meeting. Mr. Beebe asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the March 11, 2021 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the March 11, 2021 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (5-0). Unanimous.

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

MOTION (2): Mr. Larkin moved to approve the Vendor Proposal from Flavor King for McCook Point Park Hole-N-Wall Beach in the amount of \$2,700. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (3): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the Vendor Proposal from the Walsh Waffle Wagon, LLC for Samuel Peretz Park @ Bridebrook in the amount of \$1,500. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

The Commission reviewed the job description for Recreation Supervisor.

Mr. Beebe asked if the salary range should be in the job description? Mr. Putnam replied it is not in the job description.

MOTION (4): Ms. Curry moved to approve the Job Description for Recreation Supervisor, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (5-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Putnam has received fifteen applications and set up an interview panel. The deadline for applications is April 16, 2021. The first interviews will be held on April 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Olive Chendali Room. He asked for a

Commission member to be present. Ms. Kumro and Ms. Curry volunteered. Mr. Beebe asked if Mr. Putnam had a format for the interviews. Mr. Putnam replied each applicant will be asked the same questions. The interviewers will have a ranking sheet. Mr. Seery suggested that Human Services be in attendance.

5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT Mr. Seery reported Mr. McDowell has organized a Drive In Trivia Night outdoors at McCook's Point Park on Friday April 23 at 7:45 p.m. This event will take approximately one hour. There will be a screen to view and attendees will use their radio for sound.

Mr. Seery reported the East Lyme/Waterford bridge closure has been completed. There may be one lane at times.

On March 15 the state purchased and closed the Starlight Motel and a nearby empty restaurant. The state is in the process of condemning them and demolition will take place as soon as possible.

He informed the Commission that the Town has received \$1.8 million from the American Rescue Plan. It may receive additional funding from New London County. Care & Share and the soup kitchen have informed the Town of their needs. Mr. Putnam reported there is a need for social workers to assist with coming out of the COVID pandemic. Main Street has expressed its needs. He asked the Commission to think of a form for organizations who have a need for funding.

La Llorona a Mexican Restaurant opened yesterday and they were very busy. Outdoor dining will be allowed.

The Public Safety Building is expected to be completed by late June or early July.

Mr. Seery informed the Commission to merely re-sod the High School outfield it will cost \$63,000. A long-term solution for that field is needed.

Mr. Seery stated East Lyme is doing better than most towns with COVID-19 because many residents have received the vaccine. The mortality rate has gone down.

He added Governor Lamont may give the Town extra time for the Budget Referendum.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. See attached email from Bruce Dasinger.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) COVID-19 Updates. Mr. Putnam reported we are monitoring COVID-19.

b.) Parks and Recreation budget review. Mr. Putnam reported the Parks and Recreation Board of Finance Budget Review will be held on April 19.

c.) Summer/beach season. Mr. Putnam reported we are waiting for information from the state. Beginning on May 10, we expect it to open up. On May 29 beach passes will be sold. We encourage people to obtain them on-line. He stated we also plan to have a drive through.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

a.) Charlie Fenick Recognition Committee. (Bob and Roger) Mr. Putnam reported his recommendation is to name Charlie's Race after him and have a proclamation at the race and a plaque in the Parks and Recreation Office. There was a general consensus of the Commission that Mr. Putnam's suggestions were appropriate. Ms. Curry asked what is the date of the race. Mr. Putnam replied June 11 beginning at 6 p.m.

b) Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Donovan reported we would like to establish a subcommittee for the Darrow Pond project that will include Commission members, residents and staff. Mr. Putnam stated once we establish this subcommittee, we will need to post an Agenda and record minutes. Mr. Seery stated this Commission appoints an Ad Hoc subcommittee and its members. Mr. Donovan submitted the following individuals for the subcommittee:

Commission members: Todd Donovan, Robert Pfanner and Pat Larkin.

Residents: Bonnie Dombrowsky, Christine Naktensis, Jill Johnson, Megan Hatt, Nila Kaczor, Marc Salerno, Bruce Dasinger and Richard Williams.

Staff members: Mike McDowell, David Putnam and Gary Goeschel.

MOTION (5): Ms. Kumro moved to set up a subcommittee for the Darrow Pond property with the roster provided by Mr. Donovan. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Donovan reported we received more than 400 responds to the survey. One-half of those who responded have visited the property. We received some of the following suggestions: hiking, cycling, disk golf, a dog park, camping, fishing, rock climbing and a nature preserve. Seventy-five percent are willing to financially support the project. He stated we wish to preserve the beauty and nature of the property. Mr. Donovan would like to meet with this Commission prior to its next meeting to walk the property. He suggested a Mother's Day or Father's Day walk. We are waiting for the Board of Selectmen to turn the property over to Parks and Recreation. Ms. Curry asked to see the survey. Mr. Donovan agreed to provide it to her.

Mr. McDowell reported we have above average usage of Darrow Pond. The response was a balance between families and the older residents who are worried about disturbing the habitat of animals. Mr. Putnam felt this could be a tremendous opportunity for the community to provide a first-class facility and enhance activities. Mr. McDowell agreed to provide the Commission with a screen shot of the results of the survey.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Vendor Approval. There was no further discussion on the vendors approval.

Ms. Kumro reported the following businesses sponsored Northswell: Niantic Public House and Lillian's Café. They want to have a Clean Up Day on May 22. Northswell is a tee shirt appeal by Jeff Maynard who is very involved in East Lyme. The beach clean up is a way to give back to the Town. Ms. Kumro will refer them to Mr. Putnam.

Mr. Larkin felt the weeds on the Boardwalk need to be removed. Mr. Putnam stated it is on his list of things to take care of. Mr. Larkin added there are a lot of rusty locks. Mr. Putnam added we have discussed cutting them.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (6): Ms. Curry moved to adjourn the April 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
April 8, 2021

McCook Point Park/Beaches:

- Vendor permit for McCook Point Park (Doc's Flavor King), received on April 8, need Commission approval.
- All restroom facilities have been opened for the season.
- Tent has been installed reservations have been brisk to date.
- We will be hosting the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association Entertainment Showcase in the Band Shell and Tent on Thursday, April 15.
- I have hired new Co-Head Lifeguards they will be Annalise McCaffrey and Alexandra Chambers.
- Starting dates for beach staff:
 - Gate Attendants – May 29
 - Lifeguards – June 19
 - We will monitor usage and put staff on as needed.
- Summer concerts are booked schedule/flyer is provided.
- Restroom Trailer at Cini Park is operational.

Athletic Facilities:

- Vendor permit for Peretz Park (The Walsh Waffle Wagon, LLC), received on 3/26, need Commission approval.
- All spring sports are in full swing.
 - Varsity Softball first game at Vets – 4/10
 - Varsity Baseball first game at Peretz Park – 4/13
 - JV Baseball first game at Vets – 4/13
 - War at the Shore 1st tournament of the year on 4/10 and 4/11
- Backstop at Vets Softball is complete the next phase of our fencing project will be the Backstop on Field 1 at Little League
- All restrooms are open for the season.
- Maintenance Crew has done an outstanding job of getting field prepped.

Programming:

- At a recent Celebrate East Lyme committee meeting it was recommended that we not conduct Celebrate East Lyme this summer, the consensus of the committee centered on Sailfest cancelling, the uncertainty of gatherings, and crowd control.
- We are getting back to a somewhat normal with our program offerings, we are in the process of planning for our Playground Program.

Budget:

- Budget review with the Board of Finance is scheduled for Monday, April 19.
- Please see job description for Recreation Supervisor position.