

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2021

Present: Thomas Beebe, Chairman  
Jackie Curry  
Sue Kumro  
Kathleen Kovalanka  
Rob Tukey

FILED

Sept 14 2021 AT 12:05 AM/PM  
*[Signature]*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Todd Donovan  
Pat Larkin

Also Present: Kevin Seery, Ex officio member of the Board of Selectmen  
David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Art Carlson  
Bruce Dasinger  
Ron Licich

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Acting Chairlady Curry called the September 9, 2021 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** Mr. Carlson, a member of the East Lyme Land Trust, showed Commission members a map of Major Watershed and Aquifers in East Lyme. He informed the Commission that the Town is now able to secure the most desired open space on the Plan of Conservation and Development. He added we plan to have discussion with each board and/or commission to request that they write a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating that it is important that the town secure the Hathaway property. We developed a science-based mythology for open spaces, and it has been the top piece of property for the last twelve years. Open space provides our drinking water supply. Open space can be used as farm land or active passage recreation. Biodiversity requires open space. We have looked at 65 parcels of land in town. This property has 120 acres and 3' of waterfront on Lake Pattagansett and the Pattagansett River. When we put in a bid to DEEP, we received a call from the USDA. Mr. Carlson showed a Plan of Pattangansett Lake Community Forest. One of its characteristics is it is directly over a 44' aquifer. The town has Well #5 off of Boston Post Road. All the water that falls north of this well goes into this well. If you look at the Plan of Conservation and Development 2-1 citizens want more open space. Mr. Putnam asked Mr. Carlson what are you asking this from this Commission? Mr. Carlson replied we are asking this Commission to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen that it is in the Parks and Recreation's plan. The town will need to put up \$1 million for the property which is valued at \$1.62 million. DEEP had been giving 60% for a very good proposal. Four weeks before the money was awarded, they changed the rules and this percentage was reduced to 22%. \$1 million at 2% will cost taxpayers \$5 a year for twenty years. Mr. Putnam asked Mr. Carlson if there are any stipulations on the purchase of this property? Mr. Carlson replied it will have a conservation easement. Ms. Kumro asked what is the plan for the property? Mr. Carlson informed her if we don't purchase it, a developer could put houses on it. This will cost us for educating youngsters and community services. This property can be used for passive recreation. If you take land and use it for open space, taxes will go down. Mr. Seery stated he would like to see it preserved as it is. Ms. Kumro asked are there any buildings on this property? Mr. Carlson informed her there is one but it is not included in the sale. Ms. Curry asked is there a time limit on the sale of this property? Mr. Carlson replied there is. Ms. Kumro asked are their

other individuals that want this property? Mr. Carlson informed her there are not. Mr. Seery added this purchase would have to go to Referendum. Mr. Carlson stated we plan to have a Public Forum on September 30, 2021 in the Senior Center Room. He informed the Commission if you put land into open space, taxes will be reduced. No additional teachers or policemen are needed. Any real estate next to open space is valued at a 5% increase. Mr. Putnam added open space is under the purview of this Commission. Mr. Seery suggested receiving information from Ann Johnson, Finance Director, on the financial impact to town. Mr. Carlson added this property is adjacent to the Yale property, to Darrow Pond and the Goodwin Trail. Ms. Curry suggested that the Commission make a decision on this matter at its next meeting.

**3. MINUTES.** Ms. Curry asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the August 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission.

**MOTION (1):** Ms. Kumro moved to approve the August 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as presented.  
Seconded by Mr. Tukey. Ms. Kovalanka abstained from voting. (3-0-1)  
Motion carried.

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

Chairman Beebe joined the meeting.

**5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT** Mr. Seery reported on October 6 a Town Meeting will be held on funding from the American Rescue Fund. The American Legion is requesting \$9,000 to support veterans' families. Our share to fund the pump-out boat is \$12,000. Ledge Light is requesting \$54,000. During the two storms with 8" of rain Latimer Brook, Bush Hill and East Pattagansett were impacted. Bush Hill is requesting \$30,000 for repair costs to clear areas to enable residents to be able to exit out.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS.** There was no new correspondence.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a.) COVID-19 Updates. Mr. Putnam reported everyone is required to wear masks indoors. The Oyster Fest will be held on September 26. There will be 19 vendors and 3 bands.

b.) Summer/Beach Season. Mr. Putnam informed the Commission we had some damage to the tent. We will need parts to repair it. There was wash-out from the beaches. Luckily, we received additional sand.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

a.) Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Putnam reported Mr. Donovan is away and unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Seery reported the southern end of Darrow Pond is a two-way and will need to be coordinated with the Police. There was an accident at that location involving a garbage truck and car. Mr. Bragaw mows it a few times a year. Mr. Putnam felt a Master Plan is needed for the 300 acres. If the property is turned over to Parks and Recreation, it will remain as passive recreation and for environmental issues. One hundred acres is Town owned, and there will be an easement on the remaining two hundred acres. Mr. Dasinger expressed concern about invasive species.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a.) East Lyme Land Trust presentation-Hathaway property Pattagansett Lake. A decision will be made at the next meeting of this Commission.

b.) Garbage cans. Ms. Kumro asked for a volunteer to work with her to find a better way to remove trash. The State of Connecticut has imposed an environment fee. Money collected in town will be given to the town for recycling waste. Ms. Kumro felt there were too many trash cans and the cans were unsightly. Mr. Tuckey agreed to work with her. Mr. Putnam felt carry in, carry out may be an option. Mr. Putnam asked if we had a dumpster, where will it be placed? Ms. Kumro observed individuals putting trash in the recycling bins.

Ms. Kumro informed the Commission there will be a Corn-Hole contest at the VFW on September 26 at 2 p.m. to benefit the VFW.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Ms. Kumro moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of September 9, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kovalanka. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Directors Report  
September 9, 2021**

**Staffing:**

- Prevention Coordinator Position and Clinical Therapist Position was approved at Town Meeting on 9/1. I will be moving forward with filling the positions as soon as possible. Full-time Maintainer II position will be posted in early November with an early January start date.

**McCook Point Park:**

- Beach Revenue Comparisons over the last three years:
  - 2021 \$241,042
  - 2020 \$152,769 difference of \$88,273
  - 2019 \$204,302 difference of \$36,740
- Season Passes issued for this summer:
  - Resident 1748
  - Resident Senior 1875
  - Non-Resident 688
  - Resident Handicap 234
- Day Pass Revenue Comparisons over the last three years:
  - 2021 \$52,860
  - 2020 \$56,790 +\$3,930
  - 2019 \$61,302 +\$8,442
- Wednesday and Friday night concerts remain very popular because of weather postponements the concerts will continue through Friday, September 17.
- Summer staff did an outstanding job this year very pleased.
- Upcoming events include:
  - Whiskey, Wine and Coke concert 9/10
  - East Lyme Girl Scout Camp-out Jamboree 9/10-9/12
  - Second Chance concert 9/15
  - Fusion Concert 9/17 sponsored by the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation
  - Bright Music Festival and Out of the Darkness Suicide Walk 9/19
  - Niantic Bay Boardwalk 5K 10/16

**Athletic Fields:**

- Fall sports leagues are in full gear with regular season games starting this weekend.
- We will be deep tine aerating, top dressing and overseeding all athletic facilities in the next few weeks.

**Programs:**

- I Can Bike Camp ran the week of August 9-13 with 25 campers and over 25 volunteers
- Inclusive Kayaking Camp ran the week of August 16-20 with 8 campers
- All fall programs are up and running with good enrollments
- Hiking Club on Wednesdays has 15 enrolled.

**Events Magazine:**

- Fall issue has been distributed.