

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2021

Present: Thomas Beebe, Chairman  
Jackie Curry  
Kathleen Kusalanka  
Todd Donovan  
Pat Larkin

FILED

OCT 22 20 21 AT 11:00 AM/PM  
Bruce Dasinger ATC  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Rob Tukey  
Sue Kumro

Also Present: Kevin Seery, Ex officio member of the Board of Selectmen  
David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Hannah Corrigan, Program Coordinator  
Bruce Dasinger  
Charles Mebus, President of Darrow Ridge Homeowners Association

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Beebe called the October 14, 2021 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed. Mr. Putnam introduced Ms. Corrigan, new Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator to the Commission. He has been pleased with her work.

**2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There was no discussion from the guests at this time.

**3. MINUTES.** Mr. Beebe asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the September 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Curry moved to approve the September 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Kusalanka. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Larkin abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried.**

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** (See attached Report). Mr. Putnam reported the Commission's November meeting needs to be rescheduled to November 18.

Mr. Putnam reported we are waiting for the Town to determine who will have management of the Darrow property. Mr. Seery felt there has been misinformation. People are concerned about traffic and parking. The area is not designed for a heavy volume of cars. Mr. Putnam felt a Master Plan for the Town is needed as well as a survey to determine what the community wants. He added even if we had management of the area, there are certain processes on budgeting and what we are allowed to do there. Mr. Seery spoke to Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director. Mr. Donovan stated the group has been very patient. He asked that it be kept on the Parks and Recreation Agenda.

Mr. Putnam stated he has worked with Mr. Dasinger who has paid a contractor to cut the invasive plantings. He is passionate about that property that be kept in its natural character.

**5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT** Mr. Seery reported cannabis will be discussed at next week's Board of Selectmen meeting. Last week there was discussion on having a six-month moratorium on a place to sell cannabis in East Lyme. More clarification is needed. It cannot be smoked anywhere that smoking is not allowed.

The Selectmen will be given a presentation on the Hathaway property. This property was sold to Steve Harney. The property has 11 lots and 7 luxury lots. It has up to 70 one-acre building lots. It would have septic and well water. Ben North, the Water Engineer, did an analysis of the property. It would cost \$70,000 for a pump to send it to the aquifer that feeds Well #4. Mr. Seery would like to see this property kept as open space. At the presentation the attorney representing the seller also represents non-profit. If the Town adds \$1.2 million towards the purchase price, it would use its own attorney. We can use some American Rescue money and consideration is being given to bonding \$600,000. This property will be discussed at the Board of Selectmen Meeting next Wednesday. The POCD rated this property as #1. There are 7 building lots on Hathaway and 11 on Bridebrook. Mr. Seery feels the Town should move forward on this.

Mr. Seery felt Main Street did a great job on the Vintage Market. Businesses also did well.

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS.**

a.) Email from Chip Flanagan regarding access to beaches. Mr. Putnam stated the only beach unutilized is Cini. Shuttle services was discussed but where will individuals' cars be parked. Mr. Larkin stated the driver of the shuttle would need a Public Service License. Mr. Seery suggested parking on Hope Street. Mr. Larkin stated all other beaches have adequate parking except Cini.

#### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a.) COVID-19 Updates. Mr. Putnam reported everyone is still required to wear masks indoors. Mr. Seery has not had any complaints about wearing masks indoors.

b.) Pattagansett Lake East Lyme Land Trust. The Commission was asked if this Commission wishes to recommend this property to be used as open space? Ms. Curry felt the Commission should.

**MOTION (2): Mr. Larkin moved to write a Memo to the Board of Selectmen to ask that they continue their investigation on the viability of purchasing the Hathaway property. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.**

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

a.) Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Donovan had nothing new to report.

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

a.) Trick or Treat event 10/30/21 Miracle League Field. Mr. Putnam asked for volunteers from the Commission to have a table at the Trick or Treat event. Ms. Curry and Ms. Kuvalarika volunteered.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (3): Mr. Donovan moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of October 14, 2021 at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gherzi, Recording Secretary

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

**Staffing:**

- I would like to officially introduce you to Hannah Corrigan our new Program Coordinator who has been on the job since early June, she has done an outstanding job to date.

**McCook Point Park/Beaches:**

- Recent special events have included:
  - Sept. 10 and 11 – Girl Scout Camporee
  - Sept. 17 – Last Concert Fusion-largest crowd of the year sponsored by the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation.
  - Sept. 19-Out of the Darkness Suicide Walk and Bright Music Festival
  - 10/11-Indigenous People Day
- Upcoming special events:
  - Oct. 16-Niantic Bay Boardwalk 5K
  - Dec. 11-Jingle Bell 5K sponsored by the Dagle Foundation
- We will need to replace the tent for next spring, I will be soliciting quotes approximate cost between 8K and 10K.
- New wood matte was installed at all the playscape locations.
- Large Cooper Beech stumps have been removed, one of the Cooper Beech trees on the point is scheduled to be taken down this fall.
- Please see list of fees that were charged in 2021, I would like to begin discussions at our next meeting for the 2022 season.

**Athletic Fields:**

- Fields at Peretz Park have been deep tined aerated and top-dressing material put down, we will be slice seeding soon.
- We will be aerating and slice seeding the youth football and the little league fields later this fall.
- We will be replacing the backstop on Field #1 at Little League Fields in the next few weeks.
- Maintenance Crew continues to do an outstanding job with all our facilities.

**Miracle League Field Update:**

- Fall programming in soccer, baseball and dance concludes this Sunday.
- We will co-sponsoring a trick or treat event on the Field on Saturday, Oct. 30 for kids with disabilities and their siblings from 1-3 p.m., we would like to see this commission volunteer to do a table.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Niantic Bay Oyster Festival was held on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Church, we raised over \$15K.
- Fundraising continues for phase II; we are approaching the \$150,000 mark.
- Baseball themed gala will be held at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, January 7.

**Programs:**

- Niantic Light Parade will be held on Saturday, December 11 at 6 p.m. rain/snow date the next day.
- Wednesday Hiking group concluded this week (22 participants), we will continue to meet on Saturday mornings starting Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**East Lyme Sports Hall of Fame:**

Induction ceremonies for the 4<sup>th</sup> class will be held at Flanders Fish Market on Sunday, December 5, inductees include:

- Roger Nadeau
- Thorrr Bjorn
- Kyle Reagan
- Kevin Jensen
- Jack Stabach
- Steve Curry
- Liz Buckley
- Chris Kelly
- Kelli Bartlett