

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021

Present: Thomas Beebe, Chairman
Robert Tukey
Sue Kumro
Todd Donovan
Kathleen Kovalanka
Jackie Curry
Pat Larkin

FILED

NOV 29, 2021 AT 12:06 AM (PM)
Blair ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Kevin Seery, Ex-officio member of the Board of Selectman
David Putnam, Director Parks and Recreation
Joe Legg
Carol Marelli
Pam Wasylik
June Hoye

1. **CALL TO ORDER**, Chairman Beebe called the November 18, 2021, meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS**, Mr. Beebe moved up the presentation by the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation form 9. New Business, a.) Main Street Park. Ms. Marelli Chairman of the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation made a presentation on the Foundations wish to enhance the new Park on Main Street and Pennsylvania with an art/sculpture project. Mr. Putnam expressed two concerns 1) the proposed art/sculpture project does not block any views of the bay and 2) the project remains consistent with Niantic Main Street and the towns heritage.

MOTION: Mr. Larkin moved to approve the conceptual plan of an art/sculpture project for the new park on Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue and to continue discussion with necessary approvals from this Commission, Seconded by Ms. Curry (7-0 unanimous).

3. **MINUTES**, Mr. Beebe asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the October 14, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION: Ms. Curry, moved to approve the October 14, 2021, meeting minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission as presented. Seconded by Mr. Larkin (approved 5-0-2, Mr. Tukey and Ms. Kumro abstained).

4. **Director's Report** (See attached written report)
5. **EX OFFICIO REPORT:** Mr. Seery thanked the Commission for all their efforts and looks forward to working with the Commission as the First Selectman, Mr. Seery reported that Mr. Cunningham will be serving as our Ex-Officio moving forward. Mr. Seery' swearing in will be held on Monday, December 6, 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Mr. Putnam will be presenting on the Miracle League and their progress to date. Darrow Pond will be discussed at a Selectman's meeting in January, the Hathaway property will be discussed at their December meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

- a.) Memo from the Town Clerk, Karen Galbo regarding meeting information
- b.) Memo to the Board of Selectman from Parks and Recreation Commission on the Hathaway Property.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a.) COVID-19 update – Department continuing to follow guidance from local, state, and federal agencies.
- b.) Pattagansett Land Trust – Nothing new to report
- c.) Beach fees for 2022, Mr. Putnam presented his, and Mike McDowell's, Recreation Supervisors recommendations on beach fees and other related fees concerning tent and pavilion rentals for 2022. The Commission reviewed and discussed the fee structures for future approval of the fees.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Darrow Pond – nothing new to report, awaiting decision on property from the Board of Selectman.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. EL Public Trust – Main Street Park moved to earlier in the agenda
- b. Executive Session – no action taken
- c. Athletic Field Usage Fees, Mr. Putnam passed out information to the Commission for review and discussion, Mr. Putnam will present his recommendations for an increase in fees for use of the Parks and Recreation Athletic Fields.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Tukey moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting of November 18, 2021, at 8:07 p.m., Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (7-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

David Putnam, Director

Director's Report
November 18, 2021

Staff/Personnel:

- We are currently advertising for a Full-time Maintainer II position to start the first of January. Position was posted internally with no applicants; we started the external posting earlier this week.
- We have hired a Prevention Coordinator – Sarah Firmin using approved American Rescue Funds. We will be contracting with a clinic therapist after the first of the year.

McCook Point Park/Beaches:

- Restroom Trailer at Cini Park has been removed and stored for the winter.
- We will systematically winterize the other restroom facilities as weather permits, hoping to keep Hole in Wall building open through mid-December.
- Copper Beech tree on the point has been taken down, we are in the process of removing the wood.
- New sign has been erected representing the Nehantic Indians on the area above the lower restrooms, we have also placed top-soil and grass seed over the old roadway.
- Niantic Bay Boardwalk 5K was held on October 16th with 262 registered participants.
- Jingle Bell 5K will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 proceeds benefit the Brain Dagle Foundation.

Athletic Facilities/Public Spaces:

- All fall sports leagues have completed play.
- Maintenance Crew slice seeded all needed areas at Peretz Park at Bridebrook.
- Backstop on Field 1 at the LL complex has been removed, anticipate an early spring installation.
- Minor tree damage recently at the entrance to Vets Park, we will need to replace six slats for the split rail fencing.
- I have working with the East Lyme Public Trust on replacing the Flagpole on the Liberty Green. The ELPT will be funding the replacement. We will be working with the Town and the Veterans Council on appropriate replacement.
- Recently completed seeding the new Public Safety Complex and have cut the grass areas.

Budget:

- I have received our budget worksheets for FY 22-23, preliminary budgets are due December 17th, I will have a draft for your review at our December 9, 2021, meeting.

Special Events:

- Niantic Light Parade will take place on Saturday, December 11 on Main Street, we presently have twenty-five floats registered.

- We are moving ahead with the planning stages for Celebrate East Lyme on July 16 after a two-year absence.

Miracle League Update:

- A huge thanks to Tom, Jackle, and Kathleen for volunteering their time at our Trick or Treat event, we had forty-two vendors and approximately 200 children participated.
- Since the field has opened in the summer of 2020 over 500 kids have participated in our events from over 40 communities.
- Baseball themed bash will take place at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, January 7, 2022 (invitations are included).