

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

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

FILED

Dec 15 2021 AT 1:50 AM/PM
Kumro
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Kevin Seery, Ex officio member of the Board of Selectmen
David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mike McDowell, Recreation Supervisor
June Hoyer
Pam Wasylik

1. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Beebe called the December 9, 2021 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. Commission members received Memo dated December 3, 2021 from the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation Sculpture Committee. There were two ideas for the art/sculpture. One was for a nautical theme and one was for a Native American monument. Ms. Curry asked what is the size of the piece? Mr. Larkin felt since the Public Trust Foundation is paying for it, they may choose what they wish to propose to this Commission. Ms. Wasylik stated we are here to answer any questions the Commission may have. Ms. Hoyer stated we are in favor of art in town. We feel the suggestion for a Native American monument would be better suited to McCook's because of its connection to the Niantic. Ms. Kovalanka felt this commission needs to consider all proposals. Mr. Beebe asked is the gentleman suggesting the Native American monument representing himself and paying for it and its maintenance? Mr. Putnam added if someone comes forward with a proposal this Commission should consider it. If anyone else comes in with a proposal, they need to come with the funding. Ms. Hoyer stated in the research we have done the cost would be \$100,000. Mr. Larkin suggested asking the gentleman if he has the funding for it. Ms. Hoyer asked when would the Commission want us to come back? Mr. Putnam suggested developing a plan of what it would look like. Ms. Wasylik felt that would take a few months. She added we have spoken to a Landscape Architect and the Lyman Allyn. Mr. Donovan asked are you paying for the design? Ms. Wasylik replied we may have to pay something. Mr. Donovan added we voted to approve the conceptual plan and to continue discussions. This may cost \$50,000. Mr. Beebe stated we are certainly in favor of the idea. Mr. Donovan felt this Commission needs to hear the ideas of different members. Ms. Kovalanka felt it is necessary to look at all proposals. Ms. Hoyer stated we don't want to ruin the beach or put anything in that is not appropriate. Ms. Wasylik stated we are trying to have it in keeping with Niantic. Ms. Kumro suggested that they bring a proposal to this Commission.

3. MINUTES. Mr. Beebe asked for corrections, deletions or additions to the November 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION (1): Ms. Curry moved to approve the November 18, 2021 Regular Meeting

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Larkin. (7-0) Unanimous.**

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

MOTION (2): Ms. Curry moved to recommend the purchase of a Eureka Pole Tent for a cost of \$8,794.50. Seconded by Ms. Kovalanka. (7-0) Unanimous.

5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT Mr. Seery reported Dan Cunningham was unable to be in attendance and asked that Mr. Seery fill in for him.

Mr. Seery informed the Commission that \$1.6 million dollars has been spent from the American Rescue Funds and \$5.4 million remains. The Board of Selectmen will meet next week. Gas and diesel fuel costs have been high. Last week the cost dropped .17 cents per gallon.

Next week Ms. Curry, Ms. Kumro and Mr. Larkin will be reappointed.

Two police officers have graduated from the Police Academy.

Regarding COVID, last week in East Lyme there were 76 cases and a 4.7 positive rate over the last two weeks. Eighty-seven percent of these individuals were under the age of sixty.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

a.) A letter was received from Joe Zrenda enclosing his Facility Use for Veterans' Big Field and fields at Sam Peretz Bridebrook Park, as well as East Lyme Little League fields during the 2022 season. He has agreed to work around our local schedule. Mr. Putnam has informed everyone that the fees would be increased. Mr. Donovan stated he reviewed the fees from 2010-2021 and noted most of the increases were between 33% or 100%. Mr. Putnam stated his proposal is for a three-year increment. Mr. Donovan asked when were they last changed? Mr. Putnam replied in 2008. Mr. Larkin reported Groton's fee is \$50 per hour. Mr. Putnam stated his fees are different for practice or games. He did not feel baseball takes as much wear as soccer. Mr. Donovan recommended keeping the fee as in other towns, especially since our fees have not been raised for so long. Ms. Kumro asked how much revenue would we make? She was informed \$14,000. Mr. Seery asked how much did you spend in overtime costs? Mr. Putnam stated Public Works helped. Mr. Larkin stated most parks in neighboring towns were rented hourly. He felt the fee should be increased to \$50 per hour.

MOTION (3): Mr. Donovan moved to increase the fee for use of fields in 2022 to \$50 per hour and \$60 per hour to prepare the fields. Fees for private groups will be \$50 per hour and for approved community sports groups to \$35 per hour. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (7-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Putnam had no issue with the dates in the Zrenda Facilities Request Form. He has agreed to work around our local schedule.

MOTION (4): Mr. Larkin moved to accept the Facilities Request from Joe Zrenda for War at the Shore to use 3 baseball fields at Bridebrook, Big Fields

at Veterans Park and Little League fields on April 9 and 10, April 23 and 24, May 14 and 15, May 28, 29 and 30, June 4 and 5, June 11 and 12, June 25 and 26, July 2, 3 and 4, July 9 and 10, July 23 and 24, July 30 and 31, August 6 and 7, August 13 and 14, August 20 and 21, September 24 and 25 and October 8 and 9, at a cost of \$50 per field and \$60 if the field needs to be prepared, and providing War at the Shore works around our local schedule. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (7-0) Unanimous.

The Commission received Facilities Request from the Hartford Marathon Foundation to use the lower lot at McCook's on August 13, 2022 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on August 14, 2022 from 4 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mr. Putnam had no issues with this request. Mr. Larkin reported a few years ago they were asked to change the date. Mr. Putnam stated we have control over the park. There was concern with traffic on the road and church services. Ms. Curry stated the church services at St. Agnes on Sunday are 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mr. McDowell stated they are requesting 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on August 13 when residents are still at the beach. Ms. Kovalanka recommended requesting the time be changed to 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. since there is still light during those hours. Mr. Larkin asked how does this impact the beach? Mr. McDowell replied it impacts the beach.

MOTION (5): Ms. Curry moved to approve the Facilities Request Form to use the lower lot at McCook's Point Park from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on August 13, 2022 for a special event user fee of \$200, except on August 13, 2022 the time be changed from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and to use the entire park on August 14, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (7-0) Unanimous.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Beach Fees for 2022. The Commission reviewed the proposed tent and pavilion fees.

MOTION (6): Ms. Kumro moved after discussion to increase the resident employee fee to \$35 per season and non-resident employee fee to \$100. Seconded by Ms. Curry. Ms. Kovalanka abstained from voting. (6-0-1) Motion carried.

The Commission reviewed the suggested entry fees for 2022 and agreed to: A non-resident seasonal to \$175; commercial to \$100; for non-resident walk-in to \$15; for resident employee to \$35; non resident employee to \$100; active military resident to \$20; active military non-resident to \$50; active military day pass to \$10; active military non-resident day pass to \$20; and weekly visitors pass non-resident for 7 consecutive days to \$100.

MOTION (7): Ms. Curry moved to accept the increase to fees as listed, after discussion. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (7-0) Unanimous.

b.) Athletic field usage fees. Previously discussed.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

a.) Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Donovan will give an update after the New Year.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a.) 2022-23 Budget Review. The upcoming budget will be reviewed at the January meeting.

b.) Meeting Calendar for 2022. Mr. Putnam reported this Commission will meet in 2022 on the second Thursday of each month. The June meeting will be held at McCook's. There will be no meeting in July.

MOTION (8): Ms. Curry moved to approve the 2022 meeting schedule as presented. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (7-0) Unanimous.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (9): Ms. Curry moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting of December 9, 2021 at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (7-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report
December 9, 2021**

McCook Point Park/Beaches:

- Beach entry fees for 2022
- Tent and Pavilion fees for 2022
- Tent replacement quote
- All restroom facilities have been winterized excluding the Hole in Wall which will be closed next week.
- Maintenance crew has done an excellent job of clearing brush on the bluff/point will continue as weather permits.

Athletic Facilities:

- Field usage fees for 2022
- Working with LL Baseball on renovations for spring of 2022 which will include sodding Field 2, backstop replacement on Field 1, dugout replacement on Field 4 and improvements to the infields on Fields 1 and 4.
- Request from War at the Shore for 2022 included in your packet.
- All irrigation systems and buildings have been winterized.

Staffing/Budget:

- We received 25 applications for the Maintainer II position we will be interviewing 8 candidates Monday and Tuesday of next week. Hope to have someone in place early January.
- Preliminary Budget is due to the Finance Director on December 17th.
- I will have our 10- year Capital Improvement Budget and Vendor Fee recommendations for your January meeting.

Programs:

- Niantic Light Parade has been postponed until Sunday, Dec. 12th due to forecasted rain on Saturday.
- Fall hiking club has 21 registered.
- Ski Club currently has 50 kids registered.
- Miracle League Basketball has 18 kids registered.
- Miracle League Playing for a Miracle Bash will be held at the Mohegan Sun on January 7.