

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2022

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

FILED

May 26, 20 22 AT 8:51 AM/PM
Brenda Stover ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Tom Beebe

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Also Present: Dan Cunningham, Ex officio member of the Board of Selectmen
David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mike McDowell, Recreation Supervisor
Destina McAllister

1. CALL TO ORDER Acting Chairman Larkin called the May 12, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. Ms. McAllister, owner of Fit 4Mom Southeaster CT, requested a waiver of fees to allow its members to use McCook Point Park on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.

She informed the Commission that during the pandemic, women left the workforce at twice the rate of men. She added 55% of stay-at-home moms reported they "always" or "frequently" feel burnt out. Sixty-seven percent of moms report less than 1 hour of solo time that wasn't work or family-oriented.

When moms exercise, they have happier moods. McCook's has a playground for their youngsters. McCook's is walking distance to Main Street.

Mr. Putnam informed Ms. McAllister that he has had a number of exercise groups that wish to use the park. We require that they get a pass during the beach season. Ms. McAllister stated we don't have services for new moms and young children. Fit 4 Mom Southeaster CT serves 150 East Lyme residents. They pay a monthly membership. Ms. Kumro asked how many from East Lyme are members? Ms. McAllister replied one-fifth. Ms. Kumro added once they are in the park, they could remain all day. Mr. Larkin suggested that they park at the VFW and show a Fit 4 Mom Southeastern CT card. Fit 4Mom Southeastern CT could have walking passes. Mr. McDowell stated he would rather that we provide a pass and they could park at Hole-in-the-Wall.

Ms. Kovalanka asked do we have guidance on what types of organizations can do this? Mr. Putnam felt Saturday is not an issue if they park at the VFW. This Commission will need to decide how they want to handle other groups. He added they will need a Certificate of Insurance. Ms. Kumro stated your participants will need to leave the park after your program. Mr. Tukey asked what is the fee for your

membership? Ms. McAllister replied \$65. Mr. Larkin asked how long is the class? Ms. McAllister replied one hour. Ms. Kumro asked how many other fitness programs are there? Mr. McDowell added we have our own programs. Mr. Putnam added we need to deal with any conflicts. Mr. McDowell stated on Fridays we have a playground program which begins at 8 a.m. Ms. McAllister added we do not have any more than ten participants. Ms. Kumro recommended that we allow Fit 4 Mom Southeastern CT on a trial basis to have passes for one year. Mr. Tukey added if we have others, you may not have your program. Parking should be at the VFW.

MOTION (2): Ms. Kumro moved that on a year trial basis we allow Fit 4Mom Southeastern CT to park at the VFW, providing they obtain a pass from Parks and Recreation and when the class is over participants leave the park. A Certificate of Insurance needs to be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Office prior to any class. Seconded by Mr. Tukey. (6-0) Unanimous.

3. MINUTES

a. Minutes of April 14, 2022 Meeting. Mr. Larkin asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the April 14, 2022 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

The following corrections are noted: On page 2, the last paragraph, second sentence to be revised as follows: "Mr. Cunningham reported there is concern about PCBs..." In motion 4, the first sentence to be revised as follows: "Ms. Kumro moved to cap the amount of field fees at \$400 for eight hours use..."

MOTION (1): Mr. Tukey moved to approve the April 14, 2022 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. Ms. Curry and Ms. Kuvalanka abstained from voting. (4-0-2) Motion carried.

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

5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT Mr. Cunningham reported the Board of Selectmen approved \$70,000 which the town needs to spend in order to be reimbursed by the state for the new van for the Senior Center. A grant was received for the new van.

The Board of Selectmen appropriated \$12,000 as a surcharge for nip bottles. This is appropriated in order to receive it back from the state. Ms. Kumro added this money has to be used for recycling. Mr. Putnam suggested better garbage cans.

Mr. Cunningham had an opportunity to go to the Elks in New London. Three individuals were honored. Rina Powers was one of the honorees. She collects medical equipment and clothing and gives them out free of charge. He presented her with a proclamation from town.

A vigil will be held on May 29, 2022. The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 30 at 2 p.m.

6. COMMUNICATIONS. There were no communications.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Budget 22'-23'. A Referendum on the budget will be held on May 19, 2022 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Community Center.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Donovan reported he is awaiting the Request for Proposals to be completed.

b. Pickle Ball (Sue) Ms. Kumro reported she met with the subcommittee and pickle ball participants. Unfortunately, the cost to have pickle ball at the Roxbury Road site is \$200,000. She informed the Commission she will meet with them at Bridebrook on Monday. She added we have a small committee who would like them to fundraise and/or apply for grants. Mr. Putnam reported it can be placed in the Capital Improvement Budget in December of next year. The town does not have any tennis courts. Bridebrook courts can be used. Messrs. Putnam and McDowell have looked at Bridebrook. There is room for four courts.

9. NEW BUSINESS Mr. Larkin asked for an update on interviewing for the Parks and Recreation Director. A committee of Mr. Larkin, Mr. Beebe, Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Curry will be formed. Advertising can be on Connecticut recreation sites, the Day newspaper and the Hartford Court.

Ms. Curry asked would we want to have the Parks and Recreation Commission to interview prospective applicants? Mr. Putnam stated he would recommend Jim Capodence who is interested in helping out. Mr. Putnam suggested updating the job description. Mr. Larkin asked is there a residency requirement for the position? Mr. Putnam replied there is not.

10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (3): Mr. Curry moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation
May 12, 2022 Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Tukey.
(6-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
May 12, 2022

McCook Point Park/Beaches:

- Beach pass revenue to date: \$51,398 last year on this same date: \$34,041
- Beach passes went on sale March 30 breakdown as of this morning:
 - Resident Season – 288
 - Senior Resident – 482
 - Non-Resident – 163
- Special Events Include:
 - Niantic Bay Boardwalk 5K – was held on April 23 over 420 registered
 - Touch a Truck – May 21
 - Charlie's Race – June 10 (Volunteers needed)
 - Celebrate East Lyme – July 16 (46 vendors registered)
 - Wednesday Concerts start – July 6
 - Friday Concerts start – July 8
- Winds recently damaged our new tent I am in discussions with the tent company on our warranty and solutions moving forward. We have canceled and either refunded or rescheduled is available the pavilion through June 30.
- Mike and I met with a representative of Clivus of New England on composting toilets at the Hole in Wall. I am forwarding them the schematics/building plans in regards to the location of the septic tank and possible locations.
- Gate Attendants will start Memorial Day weekend – Lifeguards on June 16.

Athletic Facilities:

- I attended Little League opening day ceremonies on April 30.
- First War at the Shore Tournament is scheduled for this weekend.

Budget:

- Budget referendum will be conducted at the Community Center on May 19 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Staffing:

- Two seasonal maintainers started on Monday 5/9 they have proved to be a huge asset.
- Staff Orientations: Gate Attendants 5/16 Park Security/Patrol 5/26
Playground 6/6 Lifeguards 6/7

Darrow Pond:

- I have drafted the Request for Proposal for the master plan, I hope to send out on Monday 5/16. I have identified 5 Landscape Architect companies and will be sending them the RFP with a return date of June 17. (See provided draft RFP)