


East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2022

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

FILED

July 5 2022 AT 3:15 AM/PM

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Sue Kumro

Also Present: Dave Putnam, Director
Mike McDowell, Recreation Supervisor
Dan Cunningham, Ex-officio member of the Board of Selectmen
Bonnie and Zane Megos

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

1. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Beebe called the June 14, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. Mr. Megos, formerly of Bush Hill Drive, reported he went to DMV to request his old registration. He wanted a classic car plate to save money on his personal property tax. He was told by Parks and Recreation employees unless one of the employees in the Parks and Recreation Office is given the original sticker, a replacement pass could not be issued. He is now an out-of-towner and feels it's a privilege for them to come to the beach. Prior to going to DMV, they paid \$175 for a sticker for the beach. His old registration was destroyed by DMV. He referred to his wife's letter of May 27, 2022 to Mr. Putnam. He stated this Commission has special exceptions for hardships. Mr. Megos asked this Commission to consider allowing them to have a replacement sticker for this year. Mr. Larkin informed Mr. Megos this Commission decided there would be no replacement for a lost sticker because of people claiming they lost their sticker in order to receive another. Mr. Tukey suggested changing the rule for this situation.

MOTION (1): Mr. Tukey moved to allow a special exception for the Megos that we allow them a replacement for their original sticker for this season. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. In Favor: Tukey, Curry, Donovan and Kovalanka. Opposed: Larkin and Beebe. (4-2) Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

a. Minutes of May 12, 2022 Meeting. Mr. Beebe asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the May 12, 2022 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

The following corrections were noted: On page 3, the last paragraph in item 9, the second sentence Mr. Capodiece was misspelled. Motion 3 was made by Ms. Curry.

MOTION (2): Ms. Curry moved to approve the May 12, 2022 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Kovalanka. Mr. Beebe abstained from voting. (5-0-1) Motion carried.

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

5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT Mr. Cunningham reported the Board of Selectmen have been working on end-of-year transfers. The Town Attorney gave a presentation on the Charter Revision process. It takes two years. The legislature has strict timing rules. Mr. Seery is in favor of establishing a Charter Revision Commission. There would be an opportunity to give public input. Mr. Larkin felt it would be helpful to get input from previous members of the Charter Revision Commission.

The Selectmen are looking at open space options.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Email to David Putnam from Bonnie Megos regarding beach passes. (See Public Delegations).
- b. New London Firefighters Burn Foundation Facilities Request Form for a Softball Tournament on August 27, 2022 with a rain date of August 28, 2022. They are requesting two Bridebrook Park Softball fields and a waiver of field fees since all proceeds will go the New London Firefighters Burn Foundation. Mr. Putnam stated there is no conflict for those dates. Mr. Tukey felt without charging we might lose some money. Ms. Kovalanka asked who will take care of clean-up? Mr. Putnam stated we require them to bag their trash. We also require insurance and a security deposit of \$250. Mr. Tukey felt they should pay for lights. There is to be no alcohol. They may have an additional food truck, but cannot sell ice cream.

MOTION (3): Mr. Tukey moved to allow New London Firefighters Burn Foundation to use two Bridebrook Park Softball fields on August 27, 2022 with a rain date of August 28, 2022, providing they pay a \$250 security deposit prior to August 27, 2022, not allow any alcohol, that they pay for use of lights and have proper insurance. Seconded by Ms. Kovalanka. (6-0) Unanimous.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no discussion of unfinished business.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Donovan had nothing new to report on Darrow Pond.
- b. Pickleball Mr. McDowell informed the Commission they plan to use four courts at Bridebrook Park. Niantic Main Street donated a lock box.

Mr. Larkin asked have they started fundraising? He was informed they have not. Mr. Putnam suggested requesting it in next year's Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Larkin suggested that they have a donation box. He asked if the minimum wage has increased this year. Mr. Putnam replied it has. Mr. Putnam stated Joe Bragaw has pre-bought fuel for this year. Mr. Larkin asked has fuel been put in the Parks and Recreation budget? Mr. Putnam replied fuel comes out of the Public Works Department.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no discussion of new business.

MOTION (4): Mr. Larkin moved to add to the Agenda Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (6-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (5): Mr. Tukey moved to go into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (6-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (6): Mr. Larkin moved to go out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (6-0) Unanimous.

No action was taken.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (7): Mr. Tukey moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation June 14, 2022 Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kovalanka. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

**Director's Report
June 14, 2022**

McCook Point Park/Beaches:

- Beach pass revenue to date: \$176,319 last year on this same date \$148,339 +\$27,980 over last year (\$70,700 of revenue is from non-resident season passes).
- Beach passes went on sale March 30 breakdown as of this morning:
 - Resident Season – 1225
 - Senior Resident – 1509
 - Non-Resident – 404
- Special Events Include:
 - Touch a Truck – May 21, a huge success 2,200 attended.
 - Charlie's Race – June 10, 150 runners participated thank you to Pat and Kathleen for volunteering and Jackie for participating.
 - Celebrate East Lyme – July 16 (66 vendors registered)
 - Wednesday Concerts start – July 6
 - Friday Concerts start – July 8
 - Triathlon – August 14
- Tent update please see correspondence with Eureka Tent Company.
- We are continuing discussions with Clivus of New England on composting toilets at the Hole in Wall. Recently met with Clivus and our engineering department on a possible location please see proposed.
- Lifeguards will start on Thursday, June 16
- Gate Attendants started Memorial Day weekend and will be on daily starting Thursday.
- Raft and Swim Buoys have been installed.

Athletic Facilities:

- Vets Softball hosted the ECC Softball Semi-Finals.
- High School Baseball team hosted an ECC and State Tournament game.
- Little League Baseball has completed their season, all-star games start in late June, working with representatives from LL on field improvements.
- LL Softball all-star games start June 19th
- Youth Soccer concludes this weekend.
- Youth LAX concluded last weekend.

Budget:

- Budget passed at referendum on May 19.

Darrow Pond:

- Master Plan RFP was sent to 5 Landscape Architects – they are due into the office on Friday, June 17 with a 2:00 p.m. opening.