

East Lyme Parks Recreation Commission  
March 9, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

2023 MAR 29 P 2:19

*Candice Hill*  
TOWN CLERK

Present: Pat Larkin  
Sue Kumro  
Rob Tukey  
Jackie Curry  
Kathleen Kovalanka

Absent: Thomas Beebe, Chairman  
Todd Donovan

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Dan Cunningham, Ex-officio  
Marianne Malerba,  
Joseph Malerba  
Richard Wu

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Vice Chairman Pat Larkin called the March 9, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** Joseph Malerba reported he lives in East Lyme and loves the small town feeling of East Lyme. He, Ms. Malerba and Mr. Wu have purchased the Niantic Inn. He would like beach passes available for his guest. The Harbor Inn is advertising the availability of beach passes. He would like a family to be able to walk across the street to the beach and have dinner in town. He added we are very heavily invested in East Lyme being a wonderful destination. He was told that beach passes were included for guests free of charge.

Ms. Malerba stated Mr. Stevens, the previous owner, informed her the Niantic Inn has been given 48 passes every year free of charge for its guests. She added we would like to work together with this Commission.

Mr. Wu informed the Commission he has been a resident in East Lyme for twenty years.

**3. MINUTES**

a) Minutes of February 9, 2023 Meeting. Mr. Larkin asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the February 9, 2023 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 1, under Attendance, Mr. Tukey was present.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Curry moved to approve the February 9, 2023 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Kovalanka. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.**

a. McCook tent and raft replacement status. Discussion of replacement of Raft at McCook Point Park. Mr. Lokken reported the Raft at McCook Point Park needs replacement and we no longer have a tent available for rental since the one we purchased was not strong enough and was returned for a full refund. This fund balance available in the Special Revenue Fund does not currently allow replacement of the raft. Mr. Seery suggested waiting until the end of the year to see how things stand, with the possibility that funds can be identified to make the purchase.

b. Budget Update. The Board of Selectmen are completing their review and forwarding it on to the Board of Finance.

**5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT** Mr. Cunningham reported the Selectmen are moving forward on the budgets. Building and Zoning permits are increasing. The Fire Marshal's inspections are increasing. The Niantic Lions Outdoor and Craft Show will be held on July 4.

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

a.) Email dated March 7, 2023 from Marianne Malerba, Joseph Malerba and Richard Wu, regarding beach passes for guests at the Niantic Inn.

b.) Letter dated March 8, 2023 addressed to First Selectman Kevin A. Seery regarding sales tax for beach pass parking. Mr. Lokken recommended charging sales tax for beach passes. The Commission expressed consensus that charging the tax to customers and paying it to the state was the best way to go.

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

a) Discussion of Youth Services Commission reorganization. There was nothing new on this matter.

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

a) Darrow Pond (Todd) Mr. Lokken reported a walk-through Darrow Pond is scheduled for March 28.

b) Pickle Ball (Sue) Ms. Kumro had nothing new to report on Pickle Ball.

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

a) Election of Officers. Mr. Cunningham asked for nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation for 2023.

**MOTION (2): Ms. Curry moved to nominate Thomas Beebe as Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation for 2023. Seconded by Sue Kumro. (5-0) Unanimous.**

There were no other nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2023.

**A vote was taken and Mr. Beebe was unanimously elected Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation for 2023.**

Mr. Cunningham asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation for 2023.

**MOTION (3): Ms. Kumro moved to nominate Pat Larkin as Vice Chairman of the East Lyme Parks**

**and Recreation for 2023. Seconded by Mr. Tukey.**

There were no other nominations.

**A vote was taken and Mr. Larkin was unanimously elected Vice Chairman of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2023.**

Mr. Cunningham asked for nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2023.

**MOTION (4): Mr. Larkin moved to nominate Jackie Curry as Secretary of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2023. Seconded by Ms. Kumro.**

There were no other nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2023.

**A vote was taken and Jackie Curry was unanimously elected Secretary of the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission for 2023.**

b. Niantic Inn walk-in-pass proposal for hotel guests. Mr. Lokken expressed a desire that potential solutions be simple to implement. Mr. Larkin stated we have charged KOA and other hotels a non-resident fee. Mr. Larkin stated we charge a non-resident fee of \$15 for walk-ins. No action was taken but Commissioners agreed to consider it prior to the meeting next month, when they would likely reinstitute a non-resident seasonal walk-in pass that would be made available to all hotels, campgrounds, and private rentals. The passes would be issued by the Parks and Recreation Department.

c. Discussion of late day parking fees. Mr. Lokken suggested the Commission consider implementing a late day parking fee that would be implemented after 2:00 or 3:00 pm, and this would include those attending beach concerts. Mr. Tukey felt we would need to publicize that we need to increase our fees because our expenses are increasing. Ms. Kovalanka felt those attending the concerts are willing to pay \$5 to listen to music. Mr. Larkin suggested a donation box. Ms. Kumro stated she is not in favor of charging for after hours. Mr. Lokken added we are only charging for parking. Mr. Lokken has received information that there is an influx of people in the afternoon. Mr. Cunningham liked the idea of requesting donations at each concert. No action was taken and the item will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (3): Ms. Curry moved to adjourn the March 9, 2023 Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gherzi, Recording Secretary