

EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
Special Meeting  
April 20, 2023  
7:00 PM

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

2023 MAY -5 A 8:19

*Cassandra M. Melino*  
TOWN CLERK

Meeting location: **Olive Chendali Room**

Tom Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

1. ATTENDANCE

Tom Beebe, Pat Larkin, Kathleen Kovalanka, Rob Tukey, Jackie Curry, Dan Cunningham, Jerry Lokken

Public: John Kelsey - KOA Campground

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

- a. Asked that the Commission reconsider issuing commercial passes. He stated that it was a benefit for his guests.

3. MINUTES

- a. Approval of minutes of March 9, 2023 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Pat Larkin, seconded by Rob Tukey. Motion passed with all in favor except Tom Beebe who abstained.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Jerry Lokken reported that Jack Messina was hired as the new Program Coordinator and he will start on Monday, April 24, 2023. The Department also has a full-time Parks Maintainer position open as well as several seasonal maintainers.
- b. The budget process is moving forward with a public hearing on Monday for the Board of Finance. There has been some discussion about potentially cutting some funds from the Pickleball project and using funds from ARPAS projects to make up the difference. We have three ARPA projects restroom renovations for \$200,000, playground enhancements for \$150,000, and water fountains for \$75,000.
- c. The Niantic Boardwalk 5K is happening on Saturday and we now have about 450 runners registered.
- d. The First Selectman is willing to purchase a replacement raft from town funds for McCook Point Park.

5. EX-OFFICIO REPORT

- a. 161 Corridor study public presentation on April 27, 2023.
- b. Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.
- c. Public Hearing on the Budget on April 24 at ELHS.
- d. Dominion Building discussions are ongoing.
- e. Dan Cunningham had to leave at 7:11 p.m.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. The Director received a fee waiver request for an Earth Day Every Day event at McCook Point Park.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Youth Services Commission reorganization
- b. Proposal to add season walk-in beach passes for non-residents
  - a.) Motion to set a seasonal non-resident walk-in pass rate at \$75 was made by Jackie Curry, seconded by Rob Tukey. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Consideration of instituting late day reduced parking fee. Motion to approve a half rate daily parking daily fee for 2-5pm was made by Pat Larkin, seconded by Jackie Curry. Motion passed unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Darrow Pond (Todd) – no report
- b. Pickle ball (Sue) – no report

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Fee waiver request for Flanders PTA use of Miracle League Field – Jackie Curry made a motion to approve a fee waiver for Flanders PTA, seconded by Rob Tukey. Motion passed unanimously. The consensus of the group was to allow the Director to evaluate requests, act as deemed appropriate, and inform the Commission. It would only be necessary to bring requests that might be deemed controversial to the Commission.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Jackie Curry moved to adjourn. Rob Tukey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Next meeting is Scheduled for Thursday, May 11 at 7pm.



# TOWN OF EAST LYME

## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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### Monthly Report

April, 2023

#### Meeting High Demand for Athletic Field Space

Spring is a very busy time on athletic fields with High School, and youth sport league use of fields. All fields are being scheduled and used, with some even being provided for dual usage. Parks staff is concentrating on having fields ready for scheduled games and doing their best to keep up with maintenance at other areas. Due to the shortage of staff, we are prioritizing baseball/softball and lacrosse fields, and maintenance of public restrooms and trash removal. Some parks and public areas are behind in mowing and trimming.

#### Department Staffing

Program Coordinator, Jack Messina was hired and began working to run all of our recreational and summer programs. Jack has experience with the department, having held several positions in the department over the last several years.

Training of dozens of seasonal staff members who will work at summer camps, beaches, parking lots and parks is in progress with training on topics like CPR, First Aid, Prevention of Sexual Harassment, Bloodborne Pathogens and program specific trainings are being held.

#### Looking Ahead

The Niantic Bay 10k: Charlies Race is open for registration. The race is on June 9<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed for this event.

The Summer Concert schedule is set and shows will be held Wednesdays and Fridays from June 21<sup>st</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Planning has begun for Celebrate East Lyme that is scheduled for July 15.

Quotes are being obtained from vendors who can install heating in the restrooms, and others who can connect the restrooms to public sewer for the Hole in the Wall. The goal is to provide year-round restrooms to better serve the public. Funding is coming from ARPA funds.