

East Lyme Parks Recreation Commission
June 8, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

Present: Pat Larkin
Sue Kumro
Rob Tukey
Jackie Curry

Absent: Thomas Beebe, Chairman
Kathleen Kovalanka
Todd Donovan

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation
Dan Cunningham, Ex-officio
Jay and Janice Ginsberg

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2023 JUN 12 P 3:30
Caulfield
TOWN CLERK

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

1. CALL TO ORDER Acting Chairman Pat Larkin called the June 8, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. Jay Ginsberg lives at Applewood Commons and wishes to discuss a Dog Park in East Lyme.

A survey was done and dog owners wished to have a Dog Park at Darrow Pond. He understood that Darrow Pond was not a good location because of environmental issues.

He spoke to the Town Clerk who informed him 150 dog licenses were purchased. She felt only one-half of dogs in East Lyme have been licensed. He felt there are many dogs in East Lyme.

Dr. Ginsberg reported he and his wife have taken their dog to many dog parks. Many dog owners in East Lyme are willing to contribute to the cost of a dog park in East Lyme.

He felt if we had a dog park in East Lyme all dog owners would tend to obtain a license. This would bring money into town.

MOTION (1): Mr. Larkin moved to move Formation of Dog Park Subcommittee under New Business of the Agenda to Public Delegations. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (4-0) Unanimous.

a.) Formation of Dog Park Subcommittee. Dr. Ginsberg suggested that we have a survey done (see attached). We would obtain data to determine how much it is desired. He asked that a sign be placed in the Town Clerk's office to direct individuals to a site asking if a dog park in town is desired.

Dr. Ginsberg asked that a subcommittee be formed to determine its location, and the approximate cost. The subcommittee should look at where the money would come from. Dr. Ginsberg would like to be a member of the subcommittee. Mr. Tukey agreed to be liaison on the subcommittee and report back to this Commission.

MOTION (2): Mr. Tukey moved to create a Subcommittee for a Dog Park with 4-5 members and a liaison from this Commission and that its Chairman be determined by the Subcommittee. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (4-0) Unanimous.

3. MINUTES

a) Minutes of May 11, 2023 Meeting. Mr. Larkin asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the May 11, 2023 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes.

On page 2 under 6. Communications, the first sentence of the second paragraph be revised as follows: "Mr. Larkin stated we have the ability to change this."

MOTION (3): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the May 11, 2023 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Tukey. Ms. Curry abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Lokken reported the Charlie's 10K Run will be cancelled due to unhealthy air quality. It will be rescheduled for the fall.

Regarding beach passes, Ms. Curry suggested that in the future prices be set to allow cost plus tax to equal an even number so change is not needed. Mr. Lokken stated more than one-half are using credit cards so making change is not a large issue.

5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT

Mr. Cunningham reported last year we approved funds to redo Well 5 near Darrow Pond. It has been re-piped. There has been a tremendous increase in water. He informed the Commission that the aquifer is in good shape.

Ms. Curry asked for an update on new development. Mr. Cunningham understood the change in sewer capacity would affect the scope. The property near Dodge Pond is a vast project. He did not know where it stands right now.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Lokken had communication with a town resident regarding the price for beach passes which does not include military residents from East Lyme. They receive a resident's price.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Youth Services Commission reorganization. Mr. Cunningham did not have an update on this.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Darrow Pond (Todd) Mr. Lokken reported the subcommittee gave much input on Darrow Pond. It plans to meet again in July. The subcommittee is unified in its vision for the plan. There is a

proposal for traffic on Mostowy Road. The consultant is expected to give a presentation to this Commission.

b) Pickle Ball (Sue) Mr. Lokken reported we would like to work on an RFP after July 1.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Concert Donations Work Schedule. The following Commission members will man the donation box:

1. June 23 Jackie Curry
2. June 30 Sue Kumro
3. July 7 Pat Larkin
4. July 21 Rob Tukey
5. July 28 Tom Beebe
6. August 4 Kathleen Kovalanka
7. August 11 Tom Beebe

Mr. Larkin reported the Knights of Columbus have requested the use of the Pavilion on September 10, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a parish picnic. All in attendance are East Lyme residents. There was a general consensus that there will be no charge for this event.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): Mr. Tukey moved to adjourn the June 8, 2023 Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (4-0) Unanimous.0

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

1. Should East Lyme have a dog park?
2. If such a park existed, would you use it?
3. Do you think tax dollars should be spent on a dog park for East Lyme?
4. Would you be willing to donate money to help build a dog park?
5. Would you be willing to donate time to help build a dog park?
6. If you are willing to join the group to bring a dog park to East Lyme, please leave your email address: