

East Lyme Parks Recreation Commission  
November 16, 2023  
Special Meeting Minutes

Present: Thomas Beebe, Chairman  
Rob Tukey  
Jackie Curry  
Pat Larkin  
Sue Kumro

Absent: Todd Donovan

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

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EAST LYME, CT  
2023 NOV 22 A 10:40  
Caulfield  
TOWN CLERK

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Beebe called the November 16, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no members of the public present.

**3. MINUTES**

a) Minutes of October 12, 2023 Meeting. Mr. Beebe asked for additions, deletions or omissions to the October 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Curry moved to accept the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission October 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Beebe. Ms. Kumro and Mr. Larkin abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried.**

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** Mr. Lokken reported the contractor will begin work on the Pickleball Court now that the mound of dirt has been removed from the area by Public Works. We expect the work to be completed by next spring.

The Town has hired a consultant to perform a Feasibility Study for renovations to the Community Center. The Commission reviewed a draft copy. The draft options range from no increase in space to one that includes a new fieldhouse which could be used for basketball, volleyball and pickleball.

ARPA projects are ongoing. The Hole-in-the-Wall restroom heat project is 95% complete and will be able to be used during the winter months. This is good for the community but creates more work for Parks and Recreation. McCook's and Bridebrook playgrounds have been upgraded so that wheelchairs and strollers can navigate easier.

Mr. Lokken informed the Commission a contractor removed the dock that washed up on McCook Beach.

**5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT** Mr. Cunningham was congratulated on becoming First Selectman. He informed the Commission he has enjoyed being ex-officio to this Commission.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS.** Mr. Lokken reported he has received communication from the Library Director regarding staffing overtime for weekends. The Library Board is requesting the Board of Selectmen for an appropriation until the end of the year. It will be funded through Public Works.

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

a) Youth Services Commission Reorganization. Mr. Larkin reported last night the Board of Selectmen voted no longer to have a Youth Services Commission. The Commission will become the Youth, Family and Human Services Commission and oversee a newly created department with Sarah Firmin as its Director. It will be funded until the remainder of this Fiscal Year. Mr. Larkin added Salem youth will be able to use the program. Ms. Curry stated it has much public support. They hope to be hiring a part time councilor and wish to have another councilor.

b) Tent Replacement. Mr. Lokken asked do we need a tent? Ms. Curry felt it makes sense to replace it since it had been used frequently. Mr. Larkin suggested adding it to the upcoming budget as a replacement.

c) Preliminary Budget Request. Mr. Lokken reported he plans to include a capital request of approximately \$440,000 to implement Phase I of the Master Plan for Darrow Pond. The Darrow Pond Subcommittee identified its priorities and residents have said this is what they want. This will have an operational impact to Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Lokken stated also in the capital project are new restrooms at Bridebrook, light replacement and field renovations. The cost of this will be \$1 million to \$3 million. Mr. Tukey suggested prioritizing what is needed. Ms. Curry felt we need to have facilities that match the fields. Ms. Kumro added we will now have Pickleboard courts and there will be added participants. A new restroom facility would need either a new septic system or connect to sewer since the current system is at the end of the useful life.

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

a) Darrow Pond (Todd) Mr. Donovan was unable to be present, and there was no report.

b) Dog Park (Rob). Mr. Ginsberg informed Mr. Donovan that many residents are interested in a Dog Park. Mr. Lokken reported members of the Dog Park Subcommittee are highly motivated. Mr. Tukey will work with Mr. Ginsberg to finalize membership and attempt to schedule a meeting before this Commission's next meeting.

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

a) Review of Beach Operations for 2023. The Commission reviewed a comparison of season and daily parking passes for 2022 and 2023. Mr. Larkin stated 2022 was very hot and 2023 was a very wet summer.

b) Vendors for 2024. The Commission was asked to consider having the vendor proposal to include events at Bridebrook Park? Ms. Kumro felt that was a good idea to include one food truck vendor at each concert.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Ms. Curry moved to adjourn the November 16, 2023 Parks and Recreation**

**Special Meeting at 8:10p.m. Seconded by Mr. Tukey. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary