

East Lyme Parks Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024

Present: Robert Tukey
Thomas Beebe
Sue Kumro
Todd Donovan
Ben Armstrong

Absent: Pat Larkin

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation
Candice Carlson, Ex-officio
Jan Larson
Rachel Poirier
Reny Poirier-Whir
Bruce Dasinger
Carrie Milton
Laura Schmitz
Hopper Schmitz
Danielle Holsapple
Quinn Hotsapple

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2024 FEB 12 P 3:15
Candice Carlson
TOWN CLERK

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

1. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Tukey called the February 8, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. Jan Larson reported she is interested in hearing discussion on the Dog Park. She stated she was disappointed that no action has been taken since June. She added a number of people are interested in a Dog Park.

3. MINUTES

a) Minutes of December 14, 2024 Meeting. Mr. Tukey asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the December 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (1): Mr. Beebe moved to accept the December 14, 2024 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Armstrong abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT Ms. Carlson reported on January 29th the Board of Selectmen had a Public Hearing on short-term rentals. She added it is a very complex task. In March the Board of Selectmen will give its recommendations.

Ms. Carlson reported grants are available. She added a grant writer would be a worthwhile expense.

The Police Commission has a five-year agreement with the commercial fishermen. Mr. Lokken reported in years past the town was asked about revenue for the leases in a town park. This Commission is maintaining that property. We purchased a trailer and clean it daily. Mr. Beebe added the rental goes into the General Fund, and we are responsible for its maintenance. We have a history of not charging Black Hawk for parking.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

a. An email was received from a former resident of East Lyme. She asked that the ratio be fair for non-residents. Last year it was \$180. Mr. Lokken stated there was an effort last year to pass a law stating it can be no more than a certain percentage more than the residents' rate. That law did not pass the legislature.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Filling Commission Vacancies. Mr. Armstrong was welcomed as a new member of this Commission. We now have one more vacancy to fill.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Darrow Pond (Todd) Mr. Donovan reported the Darrow Pond Subcommittee and Mr. Lokken met with the Board of Selectmen. Penny Heller of the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources suggested Marjorie Meekhoff, President of East Lyme Pollinator Pathways, as a member on the Darrow Pond Subcommittee.

b) Dog Park (Rob). Mr. Lokken reported he is waiting for the Dog Park Subcommittee to formerly appoint the Dog Park Subcommittee. Mr. Tukey is presently liaison, but since he now Chairman of this Commission he asked that a member of this Commission be liaison. A Dog Park was in the original Darrow Pond plan. It was felt it was not a good option. Ms. Kumro agreed to be liaison to the Dog Park Subcommittee. Jay Ginsberg volunteered to be Chairman of the Dog Park Subcommittee. Mr. Lokken stated there is a list of individuals who wish to be on the Dog Park Subcommittee. There are girl scouts that are interested in volunteering. To be a voting member they would have to be 18 years of age. Ms. Kumro will contact Dr. Ginsberg to set up a meeting with him. Mr. Lokken stated we will have to go to the Town to request funding for it. Ms. Kumro suggested that the Dog Park Subcommittee consider fundraising.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2024 Fees

a.) Beach Parking Passes. Mr. Lokken distributed a list showing the 2023 current fees and fees for a 5% increase in 2024. Tax will be added for parking only.

Mr. Armstrong asked when was the last time the fees were increased? Mr. Lokken replied they were increased modestly last year. Mr. Lokken informed the Commission he has received a comment on the fee for town employees and active military.

Mr. Tukey stated the Commission wishes to cover expenses as well as keeping the townspeople happy. Mr. Lokken added Youth Services is now a new department and we will no longer be subsidizing Youth Services. Our fund balance is less than \$30,000. We need to build it up. Mr. Lokken reported now our state beaches are free. Once Rocky Neck is full, they come to us. He added our beaches are neither under-used or overwhelmed.

Mr. Donovan asked for an update on a new tent. Mr. Lokken stated the tent is included in our budget request. McCook and Hole-in-the-Wall beaches are busier than Cini. Mr. Donovan asked have we considered not raising seasonal passes? Ms. Kumro stated the daily passes are purchased by individuals from out of town. Ms. Carlson felt daily passes could be raised.

Ms. Carlson left the meeting.

Mr. Tukey received an email from Mr. Larkin, suggesting that we increase all fees by 10% due to the increase in costs.

MOTION (2): Ms. Kumro moved to raise the East Lyme Parks and Recreation 2024 proposed fees, as listed. Seconded by Mr. Beebe. (5-0) Unanimous.

b.) Beach Admission. Mr. Lokken reported we had three storms that destroyed our sea wall. A temporary fix has been taken care of. Our options are to fix it now and have it ready for the season; request money to engineer it over the next several months or wait until September and October to do a well-planned project. Joe Bragaw, Mr. Lokken and Dan Cunningham feel that is the best option. Ms. Kumro asked will that create issues at the beach? Mr. Lokken did not feel it would affect our operation. Mr. Tukey asked will we lose revenue? Mr. Lokken felt we would lose very little revenue. There was a consensus of the Commission to authorize Mr. Lokken to wait to do a well-planned project.

c.) Pavilion Rental. No further discussion.

d.) Vendor. No further discussion.

e.) Athletic Field Rental. Mr. Lokken reported our fields need much work. He felt if an individual or group are guaranteed space and time on the fields there will be a cost to them.

f.) Pickleball Court. No fees are charged at the present time.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Mr. Beebe moved to adjourn the February 8, 2024 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Meeting at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary

**East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
2024 Fees**

	2023	5% Increase	2024 Price
Pavilion or Band Shell Rental (McCook)			
Resident Half-Day	\$175.00	\$183.75	\$185.00
Non-Resident Half-Day	\$275.00	\$288.75	\$290.00
Resident Half Day (summer season - includes 10 daily parking passes)	\$225.00	\$236.25	\$240.00
Non-Resident Half Day (summer season - Includes 10 daily parking passes)	\$325.00	\$341.25	\$345.00
Seebeck Pavilion (Town Hall)			
Half day	\$75.00	\$78.75	\$80.00
Non-Resident Half-Day	\$175.00	\$183.75	\$185.00
Full day rentals are allowed if customer signs up for both time slots. Non-profit organizations located in East Lyme qualify for the resident rate for Pavilion or Band Shell rentals. All other organizations are charged the non-resident rate.			

			2024 Price
Athletic Field Rental			
Field Rental	\$50/hr or \$400/day maximum	\$52.50	\$55/\$440
Lights	\$50/hr \$35/hr for exempt organizations	\$36.75	\$55/\$39
Field Preparation	\$60/hr - not charged for exempt organizations	\$63.00	\$65.00
Security Deposit	\$250 - not charged for exempt organizations	\$262.50	\$265.00

			2024 Total Price with Tax Included
Seasonal Beach Parking and Admission (McCook, Hole In Wall, Cini)			
Resident (Town employees and active military qualify for Resident rate)	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$60.00
Resident Senior/handicap (Age 62+ or handicap placard)	\$25.00	\$26.25	\$30.00
Non-Resident	\$175.00	\$183.75	\$200.00
Commercial	\$150.00	\$157.50	\$170.00
Resident Online	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$61.00
Resident Senior/handicap Online	\$25.00	\$26.25	\$31.00
Non-Resident Online	\$175.00	\$183.75	\$201.00
Commercial	\$150.00	\$157.50	\$171.00

			2024 Total Price with Tax Included
Daily Parking Passes (no re-entry, new daily pass required)			
Resident (Town employees and active military qualify for Resident rate)	\$15.00	\$15.75	\$20.00
Resident (weekend/holiday/event)	\$25.00	\$26.25	\$30.00
Non-Resident	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$45.00
Non-Resident (weekend/holiday/event)	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$55.00
Add'l vehicle with pavilion rental (beyond 10 included)	\$15.00	\$15.75	\$16.00
Afternoon discount - Half off parking rate from 2-5PM daily			
Resident (Town employees and active military qualify for Resident rate)	\$7.50	\$7.88	\$10.00
Resident (weekend/holiday/event)	\$12.50	\$13.13	\$15.00
Non-Resident	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$22.50
Non-Resident (weekend/holiday/event)	\$25.00	\$26.25	\$27.50

			2024 Price
Daily Beach Admission			
Resident Walk-in (Town Employees and active military, and families if accompanied by employee or military member, qualify for Resident rate)	Free		
Non-Resident Walk-in for Ages 16+ (under age 16 is free)	\$15.00	\$15.75	\$16.00
Seasonal Non-Resident Walk-in for Ages 16+ (under age 16 is free) added 4/20/23	\$75.00	\$78.75	\$80.00