

East Lyme Parks Recreation Commission  
May 9, 2024  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Present: Sue Kumro  
Thomas Beebe  
Ben Armstrong  
Todd Donovan

Absent: Robert Tukey  
Pat Larkin

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Candice Carlson, Ex officio  
Steve Licatra, President of East Lyme Babe Ruth

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT  
2024 MAY 14 P 2:02  
*Kevin M. Licatra*

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**1. CALL TO ORDER** Acting Chair Kumro called the May 9, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** Mr. Licatra, East Lyme President of Babe Ruth, suggested allocating money to redo one of the fields. He would like to see Veterans Field redone and if funds remain, he suggested Bridebrook. He added there is poor drainage. He felt the fields have been neglected for 5-6 years. He added the fields should be brought up to East Lyme standards. He has been involved in baseball for over twenty years. Mr. Lokken agreed with him. At Veterans Field we need to take out the infill, regrade and rebuild the mound in order to be proud of it. He added every couple of years we should grade the fields. We need to impress on the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen that we need to maintain the fields. The cost for each field is anticipated to cost about \$35,000. Mr. Donovan added our fees did not change for a long time and fields are deteriorating. If we put money into our facilities, we could generate more revenue, since people are coming to East Lyme from other parts of Connecticut and New York.

Mr. Licatra stated that the Town at one time collected \$25,000 from War at the Shore and some people stay overnight at local hotels and support our restaurants. East Lyme is proud of our educational system and our sports and we should keep up our fields. He would like to host a regional tournament but decent fields are needed. He stated years ago when the fields were in good condition we didn't have water problems. Volunteers are preparing the fields. Ms. Kumro reported a maintenance plan is needed. Ms. Carlson reported the Board of Selectmen are forming a capital improvement committee and she suggested that a member could potentially sit on the committee. She also stated that the Commission may want to speak at an upcoming meeting to share recommendations. Mr. Donovan did not feel the Town realizes how much the Parks and Recreation Department does. He added the Town is growing and we are still operating as in the past. Mr. Licatra stated this Town has had many volunteers. Now they do not have time. Ms. Carlson suggested having the Board of Selectmen tour the fields.

**3. MINUTES**

a) Minutes of April 11, 2024 Meeting. Ms. Kumro asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1): Mr. Armstrong moved to accept the April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (4-0) Unanimous.**

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.**

a. Budget updates. Mr. Lokken reported the budget will go to the Annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2024 at 7 p.m. at East Lyme High School. It will go to Referendum at the Community Center on May 23, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

b. Project Updates. Mr. Lokken reported the Pickleball Courts will be open on June 1. During the construction we encountered additional work on athletic fields' lights and irrigation impacted by the courts that had to be done.

The restrooms at McCook's have been vandalized. We will be making an insurance claim and seeking restitution from the juvenile court. The restrooms are open.

c. Recreation Supervisor. Mr. Lokken informed the Commission that panel interviews will be done next Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon. We have 8-9 applicants being called in for interviews. We had no internal candidates. Several local people have applied. If a member of this Commission would like to help with interviews Mr. Lokken asked that they let him know.

**5. EX OFFICIO'S REPORT** Ms. Carlson suggested that a member of this Commission work with the Capital Improvement Commission.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS.** There were no new communications.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. Filling Commission Vacancies. The Commission reviewed resume from Ms. Brothers. It was felt she would be a great addition to this Commission.

**MOTION (2): Mr. Armstrong moved to authorize Ms. Kumro to recommend Ms. Brothers as a member of this Commission. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (4-0) Unanimous.**

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Darrow Pond (Todd) Mr. Donovan reported the Darrow Pond Subcommittee has not met for some time. We have gone through the budget. We hope to receive \$15,000 for signs. A meeting will be planned for later this month or next.

Mr. Lokken reported there are individuals using ATVs at Darrow Pond. He has worked with Bruce Dasinger and Rich Waters to apply for state funding for trails at Darrow Pond.

b) Dog Park. Ms. Kumro was unable to attend their last meeting. They have visited two Roxbury Road properties. It was felt the lower part of Roxbury Road was a more suitable location because it had parking available. They are working on a logo. The survey will be sent out on May 20. The cost of the Dog Park is expected to be \$35,000. A member is looking into grants. They wish to do fundraising. A meeting will be held with Bill Mulholland. Mr. Donovan asked if they have looked at land in Flanders? Mr. Lokken agreed to look at it.

Ms. Kumro felt the Dog Park group are a hard-working group of individuals.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a) Small Project Prioritization for remaining ARPA funds. The Commission reviewed a listing of Small Projects prepared by Mr. Lokken. Ms. Kumro suggested asking the Public Trust for money for a new tent. Mr. Licatra stated according to the rules, a side line control is needed.

**MOTION (3): Mr. Beebe moved that this Commission recommends using the remaining ARPA funds for the McCook flagpole, the walking path repairs, the ballfield backstop and field repairs, the grill and picnic table replacement, and football/ soccer field irrigation. Seconded by Mr. Armstrong. (4-0) Unanimous.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (4): Mr. Beebe moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission's May 9, 2024 Meeting at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kumro (4-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary