

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2025

Present: Robert Tukey
Ben Armstrong
Todd Donovan
David Castro

Absent: Sue Kumro
Alicia Brothers

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation
Alex Madei

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2025 SEP 15 A 9:51
TOWN CLERK

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

1. The September 11, 2025 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Public Delegations. Mr. Madei was present to observe.
3. Approval of Minutes of August 14, 2025. Ms. Brothers informed Mr. Lokken she did not abstain from voting.

MOTION (1): Mr. Armstrong moved to approve the August 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Tukey. (4-0) Unanimous.

4. Director's Report. Mr. Lokken reported we raised \$23,000 more in daily beach passes. Seniors contributed more to the overall dollar amount than in past years.

Mr. Lokken reported the Niantic River Boardwalk was damaged by a vehicle. The Town Engineer is looking at it. A contractor is replacing 30' of decking that was damaged with a composite material. Public Works plans to request funding to replace the rest of the decking on the Niantic River Boardwalk in next year's budget.

5. Ex-officio Report. Ms. Carlson was unable to be present and there was no report.
6. Communications. No new communications were received.
7. Unfinished Business. There was no discussion of unfinished business.
8. Committee Reports.

a. Darrow Pond (Todd). Mr. Donovan had nothing new to report.

b. Dog Park (Sue). Mr. Lokken reported they wish to have a sign located at the entrance. The next meeting will be held on October 2. They plan to go to the Zoning Commission in October.

c. Possible Creation of Multi-Sport Field Committee. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Castro expressed interest in being on the Multi-Sport Field Committee. At the August meeting Ms. Brothers stated she would like to be on the Multi-Sport Field Committee. Members of the community can also be on the Multi-Sport Committee.

d. Possible Creation of McCook Playscape Replacement Committee. Bridebrook Park is very small and crowded. Mr. Lokken stated at McCook there are two playscapes and there are maintenance issues that are not correctable. It needs to be replaced. We will need to add Bridebrook to the CIP Plan.

9. New Business.

a. Park Rules. The proposed rules were modified to include changes to Liberty Green in terms of hanging banners and use of the site for protests and demonstrations. The Commission requested an opinion from the Town's Attorney about whether we are able to restrict content on banners. Mr. Lokken will request an opinion.

b. Filling Vacant Commissioner's Spot. The Commission was asked to recommend any interested individual in becoming a member of this Commission to the Board of Selectmen.

c. Mr. Lokken reported the Public Trust is interested in lighting the path going up to the pavilion. He asked if this Commission would like to have lighting or whether they feel it could be a safety issue. He added when there is a concert and it's dark it would be great to have lights. They can be programmed. He asked if this Commission wishes to partner with the Public Trust. The Public Trust agreed to fund a portion of it. Mr. Tukey stated there may be a liability to have people in the park after dark. Mr. Lokken referred to park rules.

10. Adjournment.

MOTION (2): Mr. Armstrong moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation September 11 Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary