

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2025

Present: Robert Tukey
Alicia Brothers
Todd Donovan
David Castro

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director
Joey DeFillippi, Recreation Supervisor
Candice Carlson, Ex Officio
Laura Shultz
Rachel Poirier
Kenzie Lloyd
Jack Lakowsky, Day newspaper
Nicole Buzzelli
Walter Gwise
Donna Palumbo
Dan Hayes
Lani Estes
Mike Pignatar
Antina Falk

RECEIVED TOWN RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2025 OCT 29 PM 1:41
Candice Carlson
TOWN CLERK

1. Call to Order. Chairman Tukey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. Public Delegations. Ms. Palumbo of 133 Blackpoint Road reported that Mr. Lokken did an outstanding job of answering questions at the Zoning Commission Meeting. She added she has trying to get a Dog Park for many years and was very disappointed that the Zoning Commission denied it.

Ms. Buzzelli reported she is on the Multi-Sport Committee and was concerned about East Lyme basketball and football.

Ms. Shultz reported everyone is wondering where the Dog Park will be located. She agreed that Mr. Lokken did a great job at the Zoning Commission Meeting.

3. Minutes.

- a. Approval of the Minutes of September 11, 2025.

MOTION (1): Mr. Donovan moved to approve the East Lyme Parks and Recreation September 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes,

as presented. (4-0) Unanimous.

4. Director's Report.

a. Update on potential path lighting at McCook Point Park. Mr. Lokken reported that discussions have shown a preference for the shorter solar lighting bollards. He spoke to the Mr. Mulholland, Zoning Official. He also had discussion with the First Selectman who suggested that we go before the Board of Selectmen to make a presentation once plans are firmed up. The East Lyme Public Trust is interested in leading the fundraising effort for the lighting.

b. P&R staff met with Little League. Volunteers and park staff are working on field
3. Mr. Tukey suggested having a staff member demonstrate how field maintenance should be handled.

5. Ex-officio Report. Ms. Carlson reported the Board of Selectmen are working on capital improvements. Niantic Center School needs a new roof. It will be partially funded.

6. Communications. Ms. Lloyd has expressed interest in joining this Commission. She has grown up in town and works as a counselor. She is interested in the social and emotional wellbeing and quality of life of youngsters. She has children and her family is involved in a number of sports. Mr. Tukey thanked her for her interest in becoming a member of this Commission.

**MOTION (2): Mr. Castro moved to recommend Kenzie Lloyd to the
Board of Selectmen as a member of this Commission.
Seconded by Ms. Brothers. (4-0) Unanimous.**

7. Committee Reports.

a. Darrow Pond. Mr. Donovan reported Darrow Pond (consisting of 300 acres) has been a five-year project. The Darrow Pond Committee is working on signage. They received a grant from the state for hiking trails.

The Dog Park Committee looked at three areas and the Committee felt Darrow Pond was the best site. Mr. Lokken attended the Zoning Commission Meeting and made a presentation. The people in attendance were concerned about traffic on Mostoway Road. An explanation was given about how few cars would be on Mostoway Road to go to the Dog Park. There was also discussion about dog poop and that it could contaminate the pond. Mr. Lokken informed them dog owners clean up after their pets. They also were concerned about dogs barking. It was felt there is a lot of support for a Dog Park in the community. Ms. Brothers stated there are the same issues with each of these properties. Mr. Tukey asked who will enforce these situations? Individuals on the Dog Park Committee need to understand their

concerns. Ms. Carlson stated another option is the state property. Mr. Lokken stated the Dog Park is asking for one acre.

8. Unfinished Business.

a. Possible Creation of Multi-Sport Field Committee. Mr. Donovan reported the idea of the Multi-Sport Field Committee was brought up a year ago. The Commission reviewed the original plan for playing fields on Roxbury Road. The Town is growing and we are running out of space. We have land deeded for recreational use on Roxbury Road and we have support. We need to form a committee to determine how we can move this forward. We could do it in phases. We want to have our youngsters have good facilities.

Mr. Lokken reported a few months ago he reached out to youth sports. It was well attended. It is time for this Commission to have a Multi-Sport Committee.

Mr. Donovan suggested developing a survey to see what the residents want. Mr. Lokken agreed to prepare a survey to determine if there is interest.

b. Possible Creation of McCook Playscape Replacement Committee. Mr. Lokken will reach out to see if there is support for this Committee.

c. Filling Vacant Commission Spot. There is a vacant position on this Commission.

d. Park Rules. Mr. Lokken questioned whether or not we have authority to limit the contents on banners. He is waiting for an answer from Town Attorney. This item will be on the agenda next month.

9. New Business

a. Youth Sports Oversight Discussion. Mr. Lokken reported Mr. Donovan suggested youth sports collaboration. Mr. Lokken and Mr. DeFillippi attended a municipal meeting and various towns shared ideas on how they work with various leagues.

Mr. Donovan reported when Mr. Lokken became Director of Parks and Recreation, we the Department held a meeting involving various youth sports leagues. Every sport was presented to determine their needs. There is a large national problem in youth sports with leagues working to meet current needs. Mr. Lokken added the state passed a law related to youth sports safety and background checks. They need to be informed that it is a state law. Mr. Lokken stated leagues provide insurance for use of town property. Youth Basketball was discussed as being different from many other sports in that the league depends on gymnasiums that are all under the control of schools.

b. Annual Report. Mr. Lokken distributed a draft of the Annual Report to be finalized at the next meeting of this Commission.

Mr. Castro asked can we explore the idea of where to place a Dog Park? Mr. Lokken stated we looked at existing areas for the Dog Park. The Dog Park Committee asked for one acre with parking spaces. Mr. Castro suggested that an existing park with restrooms and parking spaces be considered.

**MOTION (3): Mr. Donovan moved to adjourn the October 9, 2025
East Lyme Parks and Recreation Meeting at 8 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Castro. (4-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary