

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2025

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2025 NOV 18 A 9:17

Council Bluffs
TOWN CLERK

Present: Robert Tukey
Sue Kumro
Todd Donovan
Ben Armstrong
Kenzie Lloyd

Absent: Alicia Brothers
David Castro

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director
Candice Carlson, Ex Officio
Joey DeFillippi, Recreation Supervisor
Steve Lacitra

Call to Order. Chairman Tukey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

2. Public Delegations. There were no guests.

3. Minutes.

a. Approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2025 Meeting

MOTION (1): Mr. Donovan moved to approve the October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Ms. Kumro. (4-0) Unanimous.

Commission member Ben Armstrong arrived.

4. Director's Report.

a. Erosion Control Work at McCook Point Park. Mr. Lokken reported work is being done at McCook Point Park on the walking path and new catch basins in the parking lot.

b. Questions regarding Babe Ruth. The Babe Ruth certificate with the Secretary of State expired. The Babe Ruth President contacted the Secretary of the State to get it renewed, and that has been accomplished.

5. Ex-officio Report. Ms. Carlson reported the Selectmen have had discussion on an Automated Ticketing Ordinance. The Selectmen are discussing its goal and

challenges. They are also reviewing the impact on where the police department is located and who manages tickets. To date there have been no improvements.

6. Communications. A Memo was received from the Town Clerk regarding our schedule of meeting dates for 2026.

7. Committee Reports.

a. Darrow Pond. Mr. Donovan had nothing new to report.

b. The Dog Park Committee Ms. Kumro reported the Dog Park Committee will meet on Monday, November 17, 2025.

8. Unfinished Business.

a. Possible Creation of Multi-Sport Field Committee. Mr. Lokken distributed information on individuals interested in serving on the Multi-Sport Field Committee. He asked the Commission whether or not we want to create this Commission. If so, this Commission needs to pick members from the applicants. He suggested six to seven members be appointed. Mr. Tukey asked are we good with this plan? Mr. Donovan stated he would like to see that this process is expedited. Ms. Kumro felt this needs to move forward. Mr. Lokken reported while he worked in Groton a Field Committee was formed. It has taken eight or nine years to build. Mr. Donovan stated there was one public comment regarding why would we consider having a multi-sport-field committee if we are unable to take care of the fields we already have. Mr. Donovan suggested going before the Board of Finance. Mr. Tukey stated it adds responsibility and maintenance required and would have to be in our budget. Mr. Lokken added we traditionally have committee reports. We also have a liaison from this Commission. Mr. Tukey asked Mr. Lokken to send out a message to Commissioners asking for interested members to take a lead or liaison role with the proposed subcommittees.

b. Possible Creation of McCook Playscape Replacement Committee. Mr. Lokken reported we have in our Capital Plan requested funding for replacement of the playground structures. Ms. Carlson suggested making it available for disabled children. Mr. Lokken stated every year we have the playground inspected and some equipment we now have needs to be replaced. He asked if any member of this Commission is willing to be liaison.

c. Park Rules. Mr. Lokken stated we are waiting for an answer on limiting content of banners posted on Liberty Green, how to define exempt organization for the purposes of charging fees, and how the Commission might delegate authority to modify fees to the Director. We will need Town Attorney input on those questions as well as a general review of the park rules. Mr. Lokken will speak to First Selectman Dan Cunningham about receiving input from Town Attorney.

d. Youth Sports Assistance and Collaboration Discussion. Mr. DeFilippi reported that many departments utilize a checklist to get insurance, annual reports, and other information from youth sports leagues annually. The Department is looking to do something similar in an effort to assist leagues and improve accountability.

The State of Connecticut has a youth sports policy that requires training, policies and background checks. Messrs. Lokken and DeFilippi will work to disseminate the information with youth sport leagues. Mr. Tukey added we can be a resource but don't want to tell them what to do.

9. New Business

a. Budget Request for FY2026/27. The Commission reviewed budget items for FY2026/27. Mr. Lokken will prepare the upcoming budget for review by the Commission at the December meeting.

Mr. DeFillippi reported 10,000 individuals attended the concerts at a cost of approximately \$1800 per band and we're hoping to expand the budget for next year. Dominion may sponsor next year. This year we added an additional food truck. We have had one vendor for every concert.

b. Meeting Dates for 2026. The Commission reviewed the meeting dates for 2026.

MOTION (2): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the 2026 meeting dates for 2026. Seconded by Ms. Lloyd. (5-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (3): Mr. Donovan moved to adjourn the November 11, 2025 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Lloyd. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary