

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026

Present: Robert Tukey
Sue Kumro
Todd Donovan
Kenzie Lloyd
David Castro
Alicia Brothers
Ben Armstrong

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EAST LYMES, CT
2026 FEB 19 PM 3:57
TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Jerry Lokken, Director
Steve Licitra, President of Babe Ruth

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. Steve Licitra, President of East Lyme Babe Ruth, received a checklist in the mail from Mr. DeFillippi. Mr. Licitra stated that he felt the checklist was burdensome to complete.

Mr. Armstrong stated he thought we want to support and assist youth sport leagues. Mr. Lokken stated that the list came from a review of best practices and is intended to be a help to league officials to keep current. Mr. Tukey informed Mr. Licitra we appreciate that you are here tonight. He added we are not doing oversight of the leagues. We thought putting some things together would be helpful.

Mr. Lokken stated this is a requirement for those organizations who are not being charged to use the fields. Mr. Donovan stated if we hear from other leagues maybe oversight is needed. Mr. Tukey suggested that we require it once a year.

3. Minutes.

a. Approval of the Minutes of January 8, 2026 Meeting

MOTION (1): Ms. Kumro moved to approve the January 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Castro. Ms. Brothers and Mr. Armstrong abstained from voting. (5-0-2) Motion carried.

4. Director's Report.

a. New Parks Foreman and Status of Parks Crew. Mr. Lokken reported Steven Gerovitz is our new Park Foreman. We have two maintainer positions open. Mr. Lokken was asked not to fill the positions until April 20 and July 1. This spring we will have three on our parks crew. Mr. Donovan asked where do we prioritize? Mr. Lokken stated the restrooms have to be cleaned, trash needs to be removed and safety will need to be prioritized.

b. Report on Nip and Cannabis Funds. Mr. Lokken reported nip money is given to towns by the state. The Board of Selectmen will use the funds to clean out catch basins. The funds can only be used for trash and recycling.

Mr. Lokken informed the Commission that the Town has received approximately \$75,000 for the Cannabis Fund. This fund can be used for streetscape improvement, educational programs, for youth employment, services in the municipality and civic engagement efforts. If we are able to obtain some of this funding, we will need to identify what it will be used for. Mr. Donovan suggested outdoor recreation. Mr. Castro suggested focusing on the fields and seasonal staffing.

c. Budget Update

a.) SRF. Mr. Lokken informed the Commission the CIP Committee reviewed our request. The Town has a spending and hiring freeze. We have a 5% limit. CIP vehicles line item has been cut by \$49,000, including a replacement blower and utility vehicle. Permanent repairs to the McCook seawall will be delayed at least another year. The CIP Committee might have funded restrooms at Bridebrook but they deemed the overall cost to replace the garage also to be too high. He asked Commission members to share what they feel is a priority with elected officials. Budget meetings will begin next week. Mr. Lokken agreed to inform commission members of the dates and times.

The Special Revenue Fund is not affected because we charge fees.

5. Ex-officio Report. Ms. Carlson was unable to be present.

6. Communications. There were no communications received.

7. Committee Reports.

a. Darrow Pond (Todd) – CT Recreational Trails Grant Update. Mr. Donovan reported he, members of the Darrow Pond Subcommittee and Mr. Lokken met with the Zoning Commission on February 5 at 7:30 p.m. to request a Special Permit to allow trails at Darrow Pond, but the issue was not discussed due to other items on the Zoning agenda. Mr. Lokken reported FHI was hired and they prepared the planning and design for the trails. State grants are being sought.

b. The Dog Park Committee. Ms. Kumro reported the Dog Park Committee met and again looked at the Roxbury Road property. She added two new volunteers have joined the Dog Park Committee.

c. Multi-Sport Field. Mr. Armstrong sent an email to seven individuals to serve on the Multi-Sport Field Subcommittee. They will meet on March 4 and vote for a Chairperson. Mr. Lokken stated Mr. DeFillippi will assist the Subcommittee.

d. Playground Replacement. Ms. Brothers reported the individuals she selected are very qualified to work on the replacement of the McCook's playground.

8. Unfinished Business.

a. Park Rules. Mr. Lokken met with Town Attorney and reviewed the Park Rules. This Commission will vote on them next month.

9. NEW BUSINESS There was no discussion of new business.

10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (2): Mr. Armstrong moved to adjourn the February 12, 2026
East Lyme Parks and Recreation Meeting at 8:25 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Donovan. (6-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary