

EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION  
Multi-Sport Field Subcommittee Special Meeting Agenda  
March 4, 2026  
7:30 PM

Meeting location: **Olive Chendali Room**

Call to Order: 7:43 pm

Pledge of Allegiance 7:44 pm

1. **ATTENDANCE & INTRODUCTIONS** 7:45 pm – quorum met

R William Belanger absent  
Tom Correia absent  
Jon Wrubel present  
Todd Donovan absent  
Bill Boutwell present  
Joey DiFillippi present

Ben Armstrong present  
Kevin Frank absent  
Nate Wheeler present  
Kara Kovach present  
Heather Tooker present

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2. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS** 8:00 pm

a. Why are we here?

- Support Youth Sports in EL
- Instill new life into old multi-sport Field concept
- Enhance community of EL

b. What is our common goal?

- To research, plan, design, communicate, and rally community and financial support to construct a high-use, versatile, multi-sport field complex for youth sports and the East Lyme community to alleviate over-utilized town and school fields and promote community health and wellness. *(Draft by H. Tooker)*

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- a. **Chair** Vote postponed until all Members are in attendance (Boutwell expressed interest)
- b. **Vice Chair** Vote postponed until all Members are in attendance (Kovach expressed interest)
- c. **Individual to record Minutes** Tooker volunteered; Armstrong motion to approve; Wheeler 2nd

4. **MEETING SCHEDULE**

a. **Dates and Times**

Monthly meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 7:30-8:30pm beginning April 2026;  
Armstrong motion to approve; Wheeler 2nd

5. **DISCUSSION**

a. **Past Plans and Current Needs**

- Historical data/information about existing plan
- Town engineer/architect come to a meeting (explain the existing plan and limitations on property – wetlands, elevations, use of fertilizer, etc )
- Information/contact person on Miracle League Field
- Surveys for community input/knowledge/issues/support/etc.
- Make complex attractive to young children and to those that may not play youth sports (splash pad, play area, walking path, etc.)
- Grass vs Turf fields – all say turf

- Lights vs No Lights – all say lights
  - Boutwell shared similar Multi-Sport Field Committee experience in Somers
  - How many out of town requests are made to use town fields/space? (DiFillipi estimated to be about 10/season) - revenue
  - How many youth athletes have been registered for each town sports organization from 2022-present and projected for 2027?
- b. **Seasonal Limitations** no different than other town fields – Is an indoor field possible?
- c. **Scheduling Conflicts**
- d. **Questions**
- Why did the original plan not get traction 8-10 years ago?
  - What is the power of this Committee? (recommendations to P&R Commission then to EL Board of Selectman?)
  - What is our timeline? (10-year plan?)
  - Is there a budget? (\$10 million – through bonds? fundraising? donations? ELPS, State?)
  - How are the schools using town fields?
    - DiFillippi shared P&R schedules for Spring, Summer, & Winter youth sports – packed! no room to add or consider/approve out of town requests
  - Do the neighbors on Roxbury adjacent and across the street know of this plan?
  - Does the plan for the Dog Park have any impact on our plan? If so, how?
  - Would the town/youth sports organizations consider hosting tournaments/events to bring more people to town and increase revenue?

6. **ADJOURNMENT** 8:41 pm

Tooker motion to approve; Wrubel 2nd