

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 2, 2009

Present: William Willetts  
Charles Fenick  
Ed Dzwilewski  
Milan Keser  
Roger Nadeau

Also Present: David Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation  
John DeSantis  
Bob and Carol Collins  
Bob Kelley

1. Call to Order. Acting Chairman Willetts called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of April 2, 2009 to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Public Delegations. Mr. Collins of Roxbury Road asked what are the intentions for the state property on Roxbury Road?

Mr. Putnam replied there are residents who would like to see a Dog Park on one acre of land. This is not an optimal location for athletic facilities because of the uneven terrain and limited access to water for irrigation. Test holes and a survey have been completed, and the Town would like the state to turn this property over to them. The property may only be used for recreational purposes, or it goes back to the state. There has been no decision on what goes on the property. The cost to build athletic fields on this property would be higher than what was originally thought. There are eight acres between the prison and park off of North Bridebrook Road that are being considered.

Little league needs additional fields as does lacrosse and soccer. The Town feels the eight acres near the existing park are more suitable, because it has irrigation.

Mr. DeSantis of Corey Lane stated he does not want to see any more traffic coming to Roxbury Road and Corey Lane. There have been two hit and run accidents and one fatality on Corey Lane.

Mr. Collins stated there is too much traffic and speeding on Roxbury Road. Mr. Kelley of Roxbury Road agreed there is considerable traffic on Roxbury Road.

Mr. DeSantis stated there are five entities of traffic on Roxbury Road and 300 cars per day.

Mr. Kelley asked if this property was used for a Dog Park where would it be? Mr. Putnam stated as of this date there is no funding or plan for it.

Mr. Putnam stated the house that the Warden lived in on Roxbury Road has been offered to other state agencies.

Mr. DeSantis asked if the eight acres will help this Commission to have sufficient fields?

Mr. Putnam replied it will for the time being.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2009. Mr. Willetts asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the March 5, 2009 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to approve the March 5, 2009 East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dzwilewski. (5-0) Unanimous.

4. Director's Report. (See attached reports).

5. Communications.

1. Memo dated February 26, 2007 to the Open Space Steering Committee from David Putnam, regarding Parks and Recreation Preliminary Open Space Needs.

Commission members were asked to review attachment to the letter page 79, item 5.

2. Facilities Request Form from Blueprint Lacrosse, LLC to use Bridebrook Park Soccer and Utility fields from August 3 to August 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mr. Putnam reported the applicant is flexible with dates, aware of the rental fees, will provide a Certificate of Insurance and give a discount to East Lyme residents. It was felt the applicant should be asked to come to a meeting of this Commission to discuss his request. This matter was tabled.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no discussion of unfinished business.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Letter dated March 9, 2009 from East Lyme Youth Services, regarding beach dances at McCook's.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to approve the beach dances as outlined in Melissa O'Brien's letter to this Commission dated March 9, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (5-0) Unanimous.

b.) Dog Park. Mr. Putnam reported \$40,000 has been cut from the Capital Improvement Budget for a Dog Park. A Dog Park would take the pressure off the Boardwalk. There is a conceptual idea to have two fenced in areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs. The dog owner is responsible for cleaning up. Mr. Putnam recommends a field trip for Commission members to existing dog parks to see how they operate.

Mr. Nadeau felt the money spent for a Dog Park could be put to better use. Mr. Putnam stated Waterford raised money privately for a Dog Park. Aggressive dogs are not allowed. The biggest issue they have is rest room facilities are needed for dog owners.

Mr. Nadeau felt you would need to build a parking lot and rest rooms for the Dog Park. Mr. Putnam replied there are people interested in serving on an exploratory Dog Park Committee. Mr. Keser would support a Dog Park if the money was raised through private donations. Mr. Nadeau is opposed to a Dog Park. Mr. Willetts and Mr. Fenick agreed to a Dog Park Committee being formed. Mr. Nadeau would not vote for a Dog Park on Town property or to spend Town funds for it.

MOTION: Mr. Keser moved to authorize Mr. Putnam to meet with the exploratory Dog Park Committee and work on a plan to be brought to this Commission. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (5-0) Unanimous.

## 9. FYI

Mr. Putnam made available to commission members vendor bills and the program budget.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Nadeau moved to adjourn the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of April 2, 2009 at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary

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## Director's Report

### McCook Point Park:

- Bathrooms – water will be turned on for this weekend.
- Stickers/Passes will go on sale Monday May 4.
- We are working with the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation and the Fire Marshal/Public Safety Office on purchasing software and cameras for additional coverage of our park areas. We would like to concentrate on McCook Point Park monies from the Boardwalk Maintenance Account and the sale of benches in the park are proposed to be used and needs approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Vendor ad's were run in the New London Day on March 25 and 26 proposals are due to our office April 15 and voted on at the Commissions next regular meeting.
- We are again co-sponsoring the Touch-A-Truck program with the SE Child and Family Agency at McCook on Sat. May 16.

**Athletic Facilities:**

- All fields have been opened and the spring season is well under way.
- Little League will be having an opening ceremony on Saturday May 2, new signs for the fields will be re-dedicated, I will send out more information once it becomes available.
- Lighting Project for field #3 has received all the approvals necessary and Little League is moving forward with a projected starting date being during the April vacation period.

**Budget:**

- Our budget review with the Board of Finance was conducted on Wed. March 25<sup>th</sup> thank you to Jackie, Ed and Milan for their support.

**Miscellaneous:**

- We will be hosting the Southeast District of Parks and Recreation Departments second meeting on Friday April 3. Group is looking into some regionalization of programs and possibly purchasing.
- Survey work has been completed on the 20 +/- acres off of Roxbury Road and sent to the State of Connecticut Public Works Department. Once they complete their review property will be deeded over to the town.
- Additional 8 acres that abuts existing Peretz Park has been requested for additional field space and presented to Mr. Jutilla for possible acquisition from the state.