

East Lyme Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2015

Present: Robert Pfanner  
Pat Larkin  
William Willetts  
Jackie Curry  
Charles Fenick  
Milan Keser

Also Present: David Putnam, Director East Lyme Parks and Recreation  
Kevin Seery, Ex-Officio member Board of Selectman  
Mark Nickerson, First Selectman  
Donna Palumbo  
Chuck Ambulos  
Paul Kramm  
Robin Tenaglia

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pfanner called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular meeting of September 10, 2015 to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Donna Palumbo asked the Commission about the possibility and what needed to be done to establish a Dog Park in East Lyme. Mr Kramm, Mr. Ambulos and Mrs. Tenaglia also supported the idea of a Dog Park in East Lyme. The Commission asked the residents in attendance to continue discussions with the Parks and Recreation Commission and come back with more details for a park. Mr. Putnam agreed to meet with the group to assist in the possibility of a Dog Park.

Mark Nickerson, First Selectman thanked the department and summer staff for an outstanding job and dedication to the beaches during the beach season. Mr. Nickerson would like to continue discussion with the Parks and Recreation Commission on policies and fees for the 2016 season.

3. MINUTES

a.) Minutes of the July 9, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mrs. Curry moved to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9 2015, with the following correction under Communications b.) Email/Chain from Dan McCarthy to Mark Nickerson regarding senior pass fees and dogs Mr. McCarthy not Mr. Putnam felt the \$5.00 increase to senior passes was unfair. Seconded by Mr.Keser. Mr. Larkin and Mr. Willetts abstained from voting (4-0-2) Motion carried.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (See attached report)

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to have Mr. Pfanner and Mr. Putnam recommend locations and sizes for a Scoreboard and Kick Wall to be donated at Peretz Park @ Bridebrook by East Lyme Youth Lacrosse, they will also provide specific information on the size of the Scoreboard and that no advertizing be permitted on the Scoreboard. Mr. Pfanner and Mr. Putnam will bring the information back to the Commission for discussion and approval at their October meeting. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. Passed (6-0) unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS –

- a. Thank you letter from Ruby Zahedi to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- b. Thank you letter from Director David Putnam to Class of 2015 Grad Party Committee for their donation to the department.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Future Park Development – no discussion
- b. Boardwalk Construction Update – Mr. Putnam informed the Commission of progress to date.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Band Shell Committee – next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>
- b. Seasonal Employee Hiring Committee – meeting to be scheduled for the fall of 2015 to begin discussions.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request from Knights of Columbus for annual picnic and reserve the tent for Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Curry moved to approve the facilities tent request for the Knights of Columbus annual picnic on September 11, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Fenick. Approved (6-0) Unanimous.

- b. Request for use of the Town Green from Adrianna Bancroft representing the Susan B. Komen Foundation to sell cider donuts, water etc. on Sunday, October 4, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to approve the request for use of the Town Green on Sunday, October 4, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Curry.

Approved (6-0) Unanimous.

- c. Request from the Bright Music Festival to use the tent and McCook Point Park for a music festival on Sunday, June 5, 2016 from 12:00 (noon) to 5:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Keser moved to approve the Bright Music Festival request for Sunday, June 5, 2016 from 12:00 (noon) to 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Fenick.

Approved (6-0) Unanimous.

- d. Request from Bill Langman for use of the Tent at McCook Point for a wedding on Saturday, June 11, 2015 for All Day.

MOTION: Mr. Keser moved to approve Mr. Langman's request for a wedding at the Tent at McCook Point Park for Saturday, June 11, 2016 for All Day. All guest must have the proper stickers and day passes for entrance to the park for the event. Seconded by Mr. Larkin. Approved (6-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Fenick expressed his concerns regarding Jet Ski's on and near the Cini Park Beach Swim areas. Commission felt that the swimming area could be enlarged to help protect swimmers at the beach.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Willetts moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Keser. Approved (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

David M. Putnam, Director  
East Lyme Parks and Recreation Department



**Director's Report  
September 10, 2015**

**McCook Point Park:**

- Beach revenue for the summer totaled \$165,444.00
- \$28,000.00 increase over last year and \$31,694 over projected
- Revenues have doubled since 2009
- Non-resident fees totaled \$80,295 – which is \$24,610 over last year
- Non-resident fees represented 49% of all revenue collected this summer.
- I will updated attendance figures and total number of passes issued at our next regular meeting.
- Lifeguards did an outstanding job this summer with two (Evan Opsahl and Andrew Brown) being recognized by the Board of Selectman for their efforts.
- Special Events this summer included:
  - Celebrate East Lyme – July 18
  - Niantic Bay Triathlon – August 2
  - Wednesday night concerts – month of August
  - Family Camp Out and Movie night – August 28
  - Movie nights – every Friday in September
  - Jeffrey's Rainbow Run – Friday September 18
- Tent rentals to date – 84

**Boardwalk Construction Update:**

- Concrete work is continuing on the caps of the sheet piles as well as the sidewalk portion toward Hole in Wall. Fencing poles are being installed as well.

**Athletic Facilities:**

- See new schematic from Verizon regarding the re-location of their enclosed 8'x8' fenced area as per the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation.
- Fields are in good shape – maintenance crew has done a good job with the lack of rain fall. Most fall sport teams start their seasons this weekend.
- EL Lacrosse would like the Commission approval to install a scoreboard on the Keser Field and an addition of a cement kick/throw wall in the area between the Firehouse and the Big Baseball Field. I included a rough site plan showing the proposed areas.
- Peretz Park improvements to date have included:
  - New Pavilion
  - New parking barriers and fencing
  - Sealing and re-stripping of the parking lot
  - New dugout roofs hope to have installed later this fall.
- We will be re-sodding field #2 at the Little League complex last fall we did field #3.
- We have selected by the UCONN extension agency to conduct to be a test site for a new grass seed, they have over-seeded and fertilized the PeeWee football field and the

Middle School Soccer Field. This is a study in regards to the State of CT bans on pesticides on school grounds for grades K-8.

**Program Update:**

- Events magazine has been issued to every home in Niantic and East Lyme, we continue to receive very favorable feedback. Relationship with Essex printing remains very positive.
- Men's Softball completed play in late August.
- Regional Theater program completed their production of Suessical the weekend of August 7-9, all four shows were well attended.
- Playground and Hangout programs were well attended this summer – summer staff did an outstanding job this year, we had very few issues.
- Tree's for Tomorrow program with the East Lyme Public Trust – to date we have planted three trees we have six to plant in the fall.