

East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2014

Present: William Willetts
Charles Fenick
Roger Nadeau
Jackie Curry
Milan Keser

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
DEC 10, 2014 AT 11:00 AM/PM
William Willetts
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: David Putnam, Director of East Lyme Parks and Recreation
Kevin Seery, Ex-officio from the Board of Selectmen
Tracy Todd
E. J. Macks
Karen Danshin
Ann Schenk
John DeSantis
Bob Collins
Robert Kelley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Willetts called the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of December 4, 2014 to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Mr. Putnam reported he spoke to Karen Danshin and informed her this Commission would like her to come to a meeting of this Commission to allow them an opportunity to ask questions regarding the Spreading Light Music Festival.

Ms. Danshin informed the Commission that their mission is to support mental health in our community. She stated we propose to host a music and arts event and for the community to learn about the resources that are available. She reported we would like to have the Spreading Light Music Festival on May 31 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. to allow returning college students to be able to attend. Many of us have been touched with mental health issues. She gave copies of its Mission Statement.

Any profits received will go towards the Brian T. Dagle Memorial Foundation and towards sponsoring a Fresh Check Day run by the Jordan Matthew Porco Memorial Foundation.

Ms. Schenk reported we wish to raise awareness on mental health. The Jordan Matthew Porco Memorial Foundation is very interested in collaborating with us. We wish to open this event to families, high school seniors and college students. We hope to have a community event.

Mr. Willetts asked if profits received will be going towards charitable purposes? Ms. Schenk stated we will charge a minimal fee as individuals come in and possibly give them a bracelet. Mr. Putnam stated after receiving more information he is in support of this request.

Mr. Keser suggested that they include Junior High students and their families. She replied they would like to have a website. Mr. Putnam would like to have this event included in the Parks and Recreation brochure. He would like Parks and Recreation and Youth Services to co-sponsor this event. The Commission received email dated December 12, 2014 from Ann Dagle of the Brian T. Dagle Foundation stating it supports this event.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved that Parks and Recreation and Youth Services co-sponsor and approve the Spreading Light Music Festival on Sunday, May 31, 2015 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at McCook Point Park. Seconded by Ms. Curry. (5-0) Unanimous.

Bob Collins, of Roxbury Road, gave Commission members a copy of letter from Beth Hogan, former First Selectwoman, regarding playing fields on Roxbury Road.

He expressed disappointment that this Commission has developed a plan for playing fields, as well and have an excavator dig holes, without informing residents. Mr. Putnam stated this is a preliminary concept. Mr. Keser felt it is necessary to develop a plan in order to intelligently discuss it with taxpayers. Mr. Collins noted there were 280 parking spots and two playing fields. Mr. Nadeau informed him this is a concept that no one has voted on.

Mr. DeSantis, of Corey Lane, reported at the last meeting of this Commission it was stated you are doing this for the youngsters. East Lyme has had a decline in student enrollment.

Mr. Kelley stated he is all for kids. He coached in Waterford and taught for 32 years. The rationale for the needs for new field was because of the plan to build a new elementary school on the site of the present athletic field behind the Middle School. Now the plans are to renovate the Center School and use Lillie B. Haynes for the Town Hall. There will no longer be a need for new fields. Were there any other options for developing this gift from the state? We have very few open spaces left in Town. He suggested using it for open space for the community to enjoy walks.

Mr. Willetts replied this Commission is responding to a need. It is our responsibility to have a plan. Mr. DeSantis stated there will be 225 more cars. Mr. Fenick replied in the past he has lived on Roxbury Road, and he would have loved to have playing fields at that site. Mr. DeSantis felt there was too much traffic in that area. He also felt it will devalue his property. Mr. Fenick agreed it is the third busiest street in East Lyme. Mr. Keser added it is our job to look to the future, collect information and bring it to the community. We would be negligent to not plan if residents feel it is desired. Mr. DeSantis asked if there were other alternatives? He was informed there are sixty acres on Mostowy Road. Mr. Putnam stated 200 acres are a conservation easement.

Mr. Kelley reported he attended a meeting and a gentleman discussed how uncomfortable he is at his home, because of the noise from Peretz Park. He sympathized with him. He asked what rationale is there for more playing fields? Mr. Willetts replied if they rearrange the schools, we would lose a playing field. The Board of Education has control over the field. Mr. Willetts was aware that the neighborhood is very much against these fields. Mr. Collins stated he feels strongly, because he had four sons, and his family liked seeing the cows at the State Farm. That was the reason he bought his house. Mr. Keser stated this Commission has to think about the quality of life in East Lyme. He would like to see what young people think about a playing field on Roxbury Road. Mr. Collins stated young people are moving out of town. Mr. Collins stated he has no intention of selling his house, but would like it to remain as open space.

3. MINUTES

- a.) Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 6, 2014.

MOTION: Mr. Keser moved to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2014, as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Fenick. Mr. Fenick abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (See attached report.)

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a.) Email from Gene Carini to Dave Putnam, East Lyme Parks & Recreation regarding beach suggestions.
- b.) Email from Charles Ambulos to Dave Putnam, East Lyme Parks & Recreation regarding a Dog Park.
- c.) Memo from Lesley Blais, Town Clerk to Boards & Commissions regarding meeting duties and procedures.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) Future Park Development. There was no further discussion on this matter.
- b.) Boardwalk Construction Update. Construction of the Boardwalk is progressing.
- c.) Facilities Request - Spreading Light Music Festival. There was no further discussion on this matter.
- d.) Facilities Request - Dog Days Adoption Event. This matter was tabled.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Field Usage Fees. The Commission was asked to review the field usage fees and discuss it at the next meeting of this Commission.

b.) McCook Sticker Fees. The Commission was asked to review the McCook sticker fees and discuss it at the next meeting of this Commission.

c.) 2015 Meeting dates. Mr. Putnam was asked to change the meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month.

MOTION: Mr. Fenick moved to approve the 2015 meeting dates for this Commission for the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Seconded by Mr. Nadeau. (5-0) Unanimous.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Curry moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting of December 4, 2014 at 8:20 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Fenick. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Director's Report
December 4, 2014

McCook Point Park:

- Jingle Bell Run 5K run will be held on Saturday, December 13 starting at 10:00 a.m. with all the proceeds going to the Brian Dagle Memorial Fund.
- All bathroom facilities have been winterized.
- Provided in your packet is the following:
 - Recommendations for Sticker fees for 2015
 - Recommendations for Pavilion/Tent fees for 2015
 - Revenue and sticker sale amounts from 2014
- Ice Cream/Food Vendor fee needs to set at our January meeting for McCook and Peretz Park @ Bridebrook last year the minimum bid for McCook was \$1,900.00 and for Peretz Park was \$600.00.

Boardwalk:

- Sheeting piling continues toward the Hole in the Wall.

Athletic Facilities:

- Completed work at Peretz Park @ Bridebrook includes the resurfacing and crack sealing of the Basketball Courts and the renovation Parking Barriers and the re-setting of the chain link fencing on the Baseball Outfield.
- All facilities and irrigation systems have been winterized.
- Sod work has been completed to all the goal mouth areas at Peretz Park, fields held up tremendously well the maintenance crew continues to do an outstanding job.

Winterfest/Light Parade:

- Scheduled weather permitting for this Saturday, December 6th with a 6:00 p.m. start time.

Budget:

- The first draft is included in your packet of information. Preliminary budgets are due to the Finance Office on December 29th, my review is with the Finance Director and First Selectman is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13.

Staffing:

- Robin Grandieri has been promoted to Administrative Assistant position. Arlene Wilbur has been hired as the Administrative Secretary to fill Robin's position; Arlene will start on Monday, December 8. Arlene is transferring from the Tax Collector's office.

Miscellaneous/Programs:

- Events magazine with our program offerings was mailed to each home the week of Thanksgiving.
- New York City bus tour for Saturday, December 13th still has a few remaining seats left.

