PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
May 1, 2025, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, May 1, 2025, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Vice-Chairperson Leona Bevins called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members also present were Amanda Mele, Ella DeSimone, Robert Ravens-Seger, Jim Lindberg and Nicole Sokolowski. Marc Dlugolenski, Jen Derleth, Carly McKenney, Morgan Bengel, and Chloe Rapose were absent. Alicia Van Neil, Program Director, was also present.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**
None.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**
Approval of the March 6, 2025 minutes was done at the previous meeting. Approval of the minutes from the April 3, 2025 meeting has been tabled until next month due to a lack of quorum

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
None.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
A Van Neil reported that there will be a bus trip to Ellis Island to see the Statue of Liberty in October. The May New York City on-your-own trip was cancelled due to low enrollment. Summer camps have low enrollment, but numbers should increase. Counselors are currently being interviewed to rehire/hire. CIT interviews start next week.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
N. Sokolowski reported that all expenses have been normal and are right on track. Alicia mentioned some repairs were done on the Greenway- DPW replaced some rails and fixed a hole in the bridge with a temporary patch. EG Farms has an unexpected expense coming up- the keypad on the door is broken and not repairable. Replacing it could cost about $1,000.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** – A Van Neil mentioned about 4 acres had a brushfire behind Winding Hills, but the damage wasn't too bad. Bridges on a different section need repair.
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- C McKenney reported via text that she received good information from the fire department and will be making progress on the markers soon.
   B. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – R Ravens-Seger reported he walked the trail from Rt 189 to Floydville road with his son. The trail was nice until near Imperial Nursery where there were a lot of frost heaves. He also saw two rails down, but many had been recently replaced. A Van Neil mentioned she may have found pre-existing grant money to fix the bridge. She is currently obtaining an estimate for repairing it.
      a. Emergency Management Markers – Same as for Cowles Park.

b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- There was a discussion about what section of the trail is being repaved. Alicia is waiting for new quotes.

C. **Granbrook Park** – J. Lindberg said the Earth Day celebration held at the park with the Middle School Youth Action Council and the Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy was very nice. He also walked around the playground with the insurance agents today for an assessment. They will write a report with recommendations. One notable item of concern is the hard-packed sand under the structure. This will only help protect a fall from about 4 feet up. Safety mulch would be better but may not be feasible since the area floods occasionally. A discussion was held regarding how the park can be better utilized.

a. Softball Field – J. Lindberg is helping A Van Neil order the dugouts and scoreboards. These are being funded by private money from the East Granby Little League.

D. East Granby Farms – Jason Hayes did find a person to do the necessary tree work at a much lower price than the original quote.

a. STEAP Grant updates- The RFP is up on the website. Not many questions have arisen. Erika Fairle needs to step down as committee chairperson. A Van Neil is looking for a new one. Bids on the project are due by May 12th.

E. EG Farms Playscape Fundraising/Update – A Van Neil reported that the main structure is in place. The East Granby Greater Together Community Fund with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded another $10,000, so we will be able to order the last piece of the structure. AFS Contracting has been doing the groundwork. The second and final load of mulch will be delivered tomorrow and then the playscape can be open for use. An ADA compliant walkway to the road and the footprint for additional pieces are dugout, and the mulch will be in place, then moved to add the additional pieces and then pushed back. The remaining pieces will be ordered and delivered in 8-12 weeks. A Van Neil is hoping to have a ribbon cutting celebration when everything is done.

F. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** No update.

G. Program Committee – Easter- L Bevins reported that the Thursday night event went very well. Everyone had a lot of fun. Saturday had lower attendance than expected, possibly due to snow on the ground and it was the first weekend of school spring break. A Van Neil thanked the Boy Scout Troop 70 for helping with parking.

a. Approve Event Dates- 2025 Events and dates previously discussed, but dates still need to be approved:

Easter- Flashlight egg hunt (grades 3-5) – Thurs, Apr 10 at 8pm
Preschool-2nd grade- Sat, Apr 12 at 10am
Summer Concert- Fri, Aug 22 from 6-8pm; Raindate – Sun, Aug 24
Halloween- Sat, Oct 25
Tree Lighting- Fri, Dec 5; Raindate – Sat, Dec 6

Motion: Amanda Mele made a motion to accept the event dates as presented. Robert Ravens-Seger seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

b. **Summer Concert Funding**- Amount of $1,100 already decided in the January 2025 meeting. A discussion was held regarding the amount and the decision was to keep it at $1,100.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. **Student Member Update-** C Rapose is graduating and term ends in June. E DeSimone has agreed to stay for another year. A Van Neil has the name of one interested student. Jennifer Kovaleski will send a couple more names to her tomorrow.
   B. **Committee Wish Lists-** Any money left at the end of the fiscal year will be encumbered for items prioritized by the committees. Members to send their requests to A Van Neil by June 1st.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by L Bevins to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk