PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
June 5, 2025, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, June 5, 2025, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Members also present were Leona Bevins, Ella DeSimone, Amanda Mele, Robert Ravens-Seger, Chloe Rapose, Jim Lindberg and Nicole Sokolowski. Marc Dlugolenski, Jen Derleth, and Carly McKenney were absent. Alicia Van Neil, Program Director, was also present.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**

Karen Hines shared that the new playscape looks great! She also thanked the group for the planter they gave her, and she shared how she misses coming to meetings.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**

R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for April 3, 2025. M Bengel seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for May 1, 2025. A Mele seconded. All in favor. Motion passed

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**

A Van Neil reported registrations for the summer programs have been slow, but other towns nearby are reporting the same thing. Last weekend was the dance recital and it went well. The auditorium was sold out at 548 tickets. Revenue from tickets goes towards dance class equipment, paying people to work during the recital, and towards parks and rec programing. The money offsets program costs to keep the cost of programs down for families. There will be dance programs this summer and classes will start up again in the fall. The winter dance recital will be on December 14th, with a rehearsal date of December 12th. Flag football has also been going well with minimal problems this year. There will be tournament games this weekend on Friday and Saturday. The TeamSnap App worked well for communicating with teams and will be kept in use next year. Nourish My Soul will not be holding any summer programs this year due to a loss of funding.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**

N. Sokolowski reported that a few line items are over budget. Repairs and Maintenance is because the Landscaping was just paid for, and Field Maintenance because tree work was done at East Granby Farms.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **Cowles Park** – A Van Neil mentioned that Tommy is working on the bridges.
   a. **Emergency Management Markers**- C McKenney sent a report on the progress. A sample picture of a sign was discussed. The group wonders how big the signs are. There is small print at the bottom and the group is wondering how visible it will be. One suggestion is to make a bigger sign

for the entrances and then simpler, smaller signs on the trails. M Bengel will forward C McKenney's email to the group. A Van Neil mentioned there are different emergency systems that towns use. East Granby uses the TN system, so the signs need to be approved by them.

B. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – R Ravens-Seger reported he walked the trail north from Copper Hill. The temporary fix on the bridge decking looks smooth and nice and will hold up until it can be permanently fixed. A Van Neil is getting quotes for a more permanent fix and there is previous grant money available to pay for it. The conditions on the rest of the trail remain unchanged.

a. Emergency Management Markers – Same as for Cowles Park.

b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- The solar company started some work along the trail. Once their work is done, repaving can begin. The trail will have to be closed during repaving since the work will have to be done during the day.

C. **Granbrook Park** – M Bengel mentioned that the gate has been left open many nights, which is noticed when members are going to open it in the mornings on the weekends. A Van Neil will remind the officers to close the gate. A Van Neil mentioned the work to fix the water fountain will be done soon. M Bengel mentioned that the report from the insurance company has not come back yet.

a. Softball Field – J. Lindberg reported that he is waiting to hear back about 3 bids on a scoreboard. Putting dugouts in has been a bit more complicated. There are several steps to the process. He will talk to AFS Contracting to get a quote on installation.

D. East Granby Farms –

a. STEAP Grant updates- A meeting was held to appoint a new chairperson. It will be Tony from AFS Contracting. The group received 4 bids. A new person is being appointed Clerk of the Works, and he will help organize assessing the 4 bids. The group is meeting again next week.

E. EG Farms Playscape Fundraising/Update – M Bengel's family and friends have been enjoying the new playscape. She mentioned the mulch has been settling, making the first steps high to reach. A Van Neil mentioned more mulch will be added after the other pieces are put in. The 3 additional items have a ship date of 6/27/25. Installation should be done by mid-July. An official opening of the playscape will be held on July 18 or 25. There will be an icecream truck, music, and possibly other activities to make it a fun community event. The businesses that donated will be invited to attend.

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

G. Program Committee –

a. Summer Concert- August 22, 2025 with a raindate of August 24. The following activities have been lined up: Kona Ice Truck, Frankie's Food Truck, Face Painting, Zoo, and an inflatable.

b. **250th Celebration-** M Bengel mentioned the 250th Celebration Commission is considering holding a parade in the summer of 2026. She would like Parks and Rec to help support the 250th Celebration.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. **East Granby Volunteer Fair 8/23/25-** The town selectperson is combining the Ambulance Association's pancake breakfast with a volunteer fair where each group in town is invited to have a table to represent their group. Several members are unable to staff the Parks and Rec table. All the volunteers invited have a conflict because they are all invited to represent their group the night before at the Summer Concert. A discussion was held as to whether the commission can staff a table on 8/23. It does not seem likely that anyone is available.
   B. **Student Member Update-** There were three applicants for the open student position. A discussion was held regarding each applicant.

Motion: N Sokolowski made a motion to elect Alexa Bednarz to be a student member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. R Ravens-Seger seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

   C. **Committee Wish Lists-** A discussion was held to prioritize committee wishes since how much money is left, if any, is unknown:
      1. Safety mulch at the playscape in Granbrook Park
      2. Transportation
      3. Cowles trail maintenance
      4. Safety Markers
      5. Help pay for the Summer Concert

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   The group formally said goodbye to Chloe Rapose, who is graduating next week. They said thank you and good luck with her future. A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by N Sokolowski to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk