PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
April 2, 2026, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, April 2, 2026, in the town hall, large conference room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Members also present were Leona Bevins, Amanda Mele, Ken Kovaleski, Ella DeSimone, Robert Ravens-Seger, Jim Lindberg, Alexa Bednarz and Marc Dlugolenski. Nicole Sokolowski was absent. Alicia Van Neil, Program Director, was also present.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**
   None

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**
   R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for March 5, 2026. K Kovaleski seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   A Van Neil received 4 student member applications to be discussed under New Business.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil reported that summer programs are open for registration. Some new and favorite programs include: a soccer camp run by an EG alumni, a basketball program with Kara Walters, a Drones program, and a Theater program. After school programs are going well. Currently there are programs running four days a week at Seymour and 3 days a week at Allgrove. A Van Neil has met with two new local businesses to hopefully set up future programming with- Fly Badminton Club and Fortify Wellness & Physical Therapy. The tennis courts will be redone at the beginning of the summer at the High School, so Parks and Rec programs will need to be relocated.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   K Kovaleski reported that we are on track through the end of March, and it is time to start thinking about committee wish lists for the year-end financials.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** – K Kovaleski reported there is a tree down on the Red Trail. J Lindberg reported the Orange Trail needs a lot of trimming and bridge repair.
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- see under Farmington Valley Heritage Trail.
      b. **Trails Day**- K Kovaleski reported that there will be a Trails Day clean-up on Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 am.

   B. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – R Ravens-Seger walked the trail last weekend. The Great Swamp area has a deteriorating surface with new frost heaves. The fences look great. It is recommended to post "Be Aware of Bear" signs in the area.
      a. Emergency Management Markers – L Bevins reported that the Commission is moving forward with making the signs- the Fire

Department said they are still useful for emergency purposes. She will be meeting with Ken Beliveau to finalize placement of the signs.

b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- No update.

C. **Granbrook Park** –

a. **Playscape-** Mike from Game Time came out to measure for the new playscape area (same company the new playscape at EG Farms came from). A final plan will be put in place once Jason Hayes hears whether the town is receiving additional grant money or not. DPW will be removing the old pieces soon. A Van Neil expects new structures to be installed early to mid-summer and is hopeful of having a celebration of all the new updates coinciding with the Lion's Club Duck Derby.

b. **Softball Field-** A Van Neil reported the water system and features, along with the softball field updates are on the schedule to begin soon.

c. **Gate opening/closing-** The committee is in favor of continuing this process from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. M Bengel will circulate a sign-up sheet.

D. East Granby Farms – A Van Neil mentioned there are new discussions about building a community garden.

a. STEAP Grant updates- M Dlugolenski reported that at least 4 days of 50-degree weather is required before repainting the basketball surface. A Van Neil said the committee needs to decide how to use the remaining funds to close out the grant.

E. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** M Bengel is still waiting to receive information from Jenn Derleth. No other update.

F. Program Committee –

a. Easter- The flashlight egg hunt is tonight after this meeting and the regular egg hunt is on Saturday. Please arrive at 8:30am if you are volunteering at the event. The events have both been relocated to the fields behind Allgrove School. The Saturday event will coincide with the Northern CT Veterans Association Pancake Breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

b. 250th Celebration (Summer 2026)- M Bengel mentioned the Parks and Rec will put all the town events for the 250th Celebration on their website, not just Parks and Rec events.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Member Recruitment- Regular member, 1 position open. Student members, 2 positions open in June. A Van Neil mentioned she has one adult interested in becoming a member and has received 4 applications from interested students. She will send these and any additional applications received to committee members for review before the May Meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made by A Mele and seconded by L Bevins to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk