PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
May 7, 2026, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, May 7, 2026, in the town hall, large conference room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Members also present were Amanda Mele, Ken Kovaleski, Ella DeSimone, Robert Ravens-Seger, Jim Lindberg, Alexa Bednarz and Marc Dlugolenski. Nicole Sokolowski and Leona Bevins were 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 April 2, 2026. A Mele seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   A Van Neil received an invoice for community garden signs. She also received applications for new members.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil reported that summer and spring programs are open for registration. Camp registration is low. Surrounding towns have also reported low enrollment. One director will be hired for both East Granby camps. CITs have been chosen and notified. Counselors haven't been contacted yet.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   K Kovaleski reported that we are on track through 4/23/26. A list of items for the use of any remaining funds in the fiscal year budget is needed. After a committee discussion, they came up with the following list: wood for bridges in Cowles Park, wood to repair the bridge on the Farmington Valley Heritage Trail, signage for the minibus being assigned to Parks and Rec, items to finish the STEAP project, and playscape pieces at Granbrook Park.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** –The bridges are a safety concern. J Lindberg talked to Mike from Newgate Builders and will get a quote for assistance in rebuilding the bridges. A Van Neil mentioned the parking lot needs repair as well.
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- see under Farmington Valley Heritage Trail.
      b. **Trails Day**- K Kovaleski reported that the new Trails clean-up day will be May 16th.

   B. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail – R Ravens-Seger walked the trail north from Copper Hill Rd. He noted the newly resurfaced bridge has deteriorated. The area past the bridge with brand new asphalt also has some deterioration. Poison Ivy has

started creeping in. M Bengel will reach out to Jennifer Frank, concerned citizen from a previous meeting that may have volunteers to help manage it.

a. **Emergency Management Markers** – A Van Neil received an invoice for the signs to be able to complete the CT Rec Trails Grant.
b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- No update.

C. **Granbrook Park** – A Van Neil reported that the water system and mister parts have been delayed. She also reported that a couple will be farming the area in the Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy (formerly the East Granby Land Trust) property. They will be donating to the food pantry and Foodshare and have requested to have a vegetable and flower stand. The parking lot needs maintenance.

a. **Playscape-** A Van Neil got a call today that the large playscape piece will be delivered next week. The old playscape has been torn down.
b. **Softball Field-** The dugout has been rebuilt and painted. The benches need to be repainted, and the batting cage has been partially installed. The scoreboard will be installed after the water system is repaired.
c. **Gate opening/closing-** M Bengel will be circulating a sign-up sheet for opening the gate on weekend mornings.

D. East Granby Farms –

a. STEAP Grant updates- M Dlugolenski reported that they are waiting to hear from the company for an update on when the work will be completed. Power has been turned on. Cameras will be connected to the command system (town security cameras that are overseen by DPW). A Van Neil heard from the company that they will be coming in the next couple weeks. M Dlugolenski mentioned that the pickleball courts should be locked at night because dogs are scratching the surface before the lines have been painted. He also suggested moving the bleachers from the baseball field to the basketball/pickleball courts. There is also a possibility that parking will be added on the left side at the North entrance, especially now that the Community Garden has taken up some of the parking in the upper lot.

E. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** M Bengel received information from Jennifer Derleth. The committee should get together soon to go over this information.

F. Program Committee –

a. Easter- A Mele reported that the Easter event went great. She wouldn't change anything for next year. Combining the event with the Veteran's pancake breakfast went well.
b. 250th Celebration (Summer 2026)- A Mele reported that all the food trucks have been secured for the summer concerts.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Member Recruitment- A Van Neil reported that one application for the open member position was received. She shared the application and a discussion was held.

Motion: Amanda Mele made a motion to approve Pat Arnott as a new member to the East Granby Parks and Recreation Commission. All approved. Motion passed.

A Van Neil received 5 applications for the 2 student member positions that will be open after June. She shared the applications with the committee and members had time to review them. A ballot vote was held.

Ballot vote: Kayla Lengyel and Jon Mazzafaro are the two students voted in to be new members after June.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by J Lindberg to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk