PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
June 4, 2026, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, June 4, 2026, in the town hall, large conference room. Chairperson Morgan Bengel called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members also present were Amanda Mele, Ken Kovaleski, Robert Ravens-Seger, Jim Lindberg, Alexa Bednarz, Leona Bevins, and Pat Arnott. Nicole Sokolowski, Ella DeSimone and Marc Dlugolenski were absent. Alicia Van Neil, Program Director, was also absent. Jon Mazzaferro, new student member as of July 1st, was present.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**
   None

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**
   R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for May 7, 2026. K Kovaleski seconded. 5 in favor, 2 abstained. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   None

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil sent a report: Enrollment for summer camps picked up. There was an anonymous donation for a bus trip to see the tall ships in Boston on July 15th. The trip is being offered to EG residents and their guests for a discounted price of $25/person.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   K Kovaleski reported that everything is on track. There is some money left for the fiscal year. June's expenses need to be added before the amount of money is known for any additional projects.
   a. Wish Lists for year end- the list of projects and their priorities was reviewed. Top of the list is to fix the bridges in Cowles Park.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** – J Lindberg reported that Mike from Newgate Builders assessed the condition of the foot bridges. The bridges are in worse condition than originally considered. Mike suggested the following: 1. Fix the surface of a couple of the bridges that pose an immediate danger to users, and 2. Put a plan in place to fix the bridges more thoroughly moving forward. The commission started a discussion on how much that could cost depending on the materials used, which would determine longevity.
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- Leona reported that she and Alicia need to walk through the park to determine where to place signs.
      b. **Trails Day May 16 wrap-up-** J Lindberg reported that a small crew attended and was able to clean up the trails.

B. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seger walked the trail on Wednesday. There were 16 bicyclists and 4 pedestrians. The poison ivy alongside the trail is getting lush.
   a. **Emergency Management Markers** – No update.
   b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- No update.
   c. **Poison Ivy Management**- M Bengel spoke with Jennifer Frank, a resident concerned with using chemicals to control growth, to see if her volunteer group will be going out to manage the growing poison ivy. Jennifer will go out to the trail to look at it and see what they can do. P Arnott has a pesticide license and commented that using a pre-emergent weed control product would help prevent further growth. He is willing to apply it if the commission wants him to. The group decided to wait and see what Jennifer and her group could do first.

C. **Granbrook Park** –
   a. **Playscape-** No update.
   b. **Softball Field-** The scoreboard installation has been delayed.
   c. **Gate opening/closing-** Police will be closing and opening the gate due to the recent vandalism. Volunteers to open the gate are not currently needed. Police will be donating mobile cameras until permanent cameras can be installed.

D. **East Granby Farms –**
   a. **Community Garden-** A discussion was held about who would maintain unused plots.
      1. **Approve invoices-** A Van Neil requested approval for the following items:
         - A lock for the garden not to exceed $25.
         - Signs for the garden not to exceed $225.
         - Mulch for the garden not to exceed $3000.

Motion: R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the requested items for the community garden as presented in an amount not to exceed $3,250. L Bevins seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

   b. **STEAP Grant-** No update.

E. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** No update.
   a. Mission and Goals- No update.

F. **Program Committee –**
   a. **Easter- Decide Dates for 2027-** Tabled until next meeting.
   b. **250th Celebration (Summer 2026)-** A Mele reported that the band and the food trucks are all scheduled for June 24th concert at East Granby Farms. The remaining detail to figure out is the stage area for the band- they require a 12x16 flat dry surface.
   c. **Granbrook Community Day/Duck Derby- 9/13/26-** No update.

d. **Dance Recital-** This event will be held on June 14th. Commission members available to volunteer on that day from 11:30-1:30 in the lobby can contact A Van Neil.

Note- The commission decided to take a break from the meeting to attend the Town Meeting at the Community Center.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. **Commission Purpose & Vision-** M Bengel led a discussion about the Commission, sub-committees, and general operations of Parks and Recreation. Jason Hayes, town First Selectperson, has taken an active role in supporting the group and the town properties. This renewed energy led M Bengel to want to understand what each member of the commission finds most important for their volunteer efforts. L Bevins and P Arnott like being able to offer activities to the town that are family oriented and low-cost. Other members agreed this is important. The group discussed how the updates being made to East Granby Farms and to Granbrook Park will help support this initiative. The group also agreed that other methods of promoting, other than on social media, could help more residents attend activities and events. Especially since hardcopies of the "Let's Talk Turkey" will no longer be delivered to homes. M Bengel then discussed with the group her thoughts on how changes to the current meeting structure and communication between meetings could help the group coordinate their efforts with Jason Hayes and his town committee better.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made by R Ravens-Seger and seconded by K Kovaleski to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk