East Haddam Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2025

Attending: B. Free; C. King;; P. Laffan; B. Thiele; F. Tremblay; T. Goodie
Absent: C. Grillo; M. Roberts; J. Kehlenbach
Guests: L. Conroy

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Tremblay called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

   MOTION MADE BY MS. FREE, SECONDED BY MS. KING, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

3. **Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2025**

   MOTION MADE BY MR. LAFFAN, SECONDED BY MR. GOODIE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. **Committee Reports**

   - Disc Golf – Mr. Laffan reported that the signs for the new nine holes will be installed very soon.

   - Music on the River – Ms. Conroy reported that the Committee had met and reviewed the surveys for the 2025 season and discussed the potential line-up for the 2026 season. She stated that they are receiving submissions for next season and that they will begin reviewing the submission tapes in mid-January. Ms. Conroy also advised that the Committee is looking into purchasing new lights for the stage.

5. **Director's**

   A. Fall Review

   Ms. Conroy provided the following update:

   - The fall soccer program went well and closed on October 18th.
   - The 5th through 8th grade Open Gym Volleyball program was very popular and benefited from its volunteer coach and several parents.
   - Planning for Project Safe Halloween is well underway and several new decorations have been acquired this year. The Police Department purchased $4,500.00 worth of candy. The Rec Department is still accepting donations and soliciting community groups to sponsor hand-out tables in the gym.

- Basketball with Coach Lombardo, Boot Camp, Basketball and Yoga all had solid registration numbers. The 18+ Soccer program registrations were a bit lower this fall and the Volleyball program is on hold until January.
- The Lego program starts on October 27th.
- Pickleball clinics were held on October 18th & 19th and two more are scheduled for November 25th and December 2nd.
- The October Stop-the-Bleed program was cancelled due to low registrations and she plans to reschedule it in November.
- Puzzle Palooza had 12 teams sign up and went very well.
- There was an issue with the Home School Open Gym program in which a participant took a pickleball net from storage on the stage. Recreation Director Conroy informed the individual that the nets cannot be used for the Open Gym program, however, the behavior was repeated several times and during one incident a net was damaged. Ms. Conroy is working on a solution.
- Ms. Conroy and Ms. Tozier will be attending the CT Recreation & Parks Association trade show and conference on November 24th.

Ms. Conroy listed the following "community sharing" occasions:

- The High School is borrowing several stanchions for their Hollywood themed Home Coming event.
- The Music Boosters are borrowing several Halloween decorations for their October fundraiser.
- Franklin Academy uses the community gym on Friday afternoons.
- The Stage Company stores some of their props in the Municipal Office Building and loans some out to the Rec Department.

Ms. Conroy provided the following facilities update:

- The screens at the tennis/pickleball courts were blown down during the Columbus Day weekend storm. They will be reinstalled in the spring.
- Skateboarders have been observed on camera throwing rocks into the tennis/ pickleball courts and into the basin drain. She and Officer Southworth will meet with the offenders and their parents to discuss the incidents and potential consequences.
- The Town Beach has been winterized.

B. Winter Preview

Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- She has started planning for the holiday Kids' Night on the Green. The artificial tree has outlived its useful life and a live tree will be used this year. The Rec Department and Youth & Family Services share the cost of the event and local businesses underwrite the cost of the drop-in stations they sponsor.

- The elementary school Food Explorers program will focus on holiday deserts.
- A CPR class will be offered on November 18th
- Wednesday and Friday morning pickleball sessions will be added in November and a Monday morning session will be added in December.
- Registration for the Youth Basketball program has opened, is going well, and the first game is scheduled for January 3rd. The program is in good shape as far as having enough coaches.

C. Financial Report Update

Ms. Conroy called the Board's attention to the FY2024-2025 departmental financials in their meeting packets. She stated that she transferred some of the Lifeguard salary expense, for those days dedicated primarily to the Camp programs, to the Day Camp budget to reduce the impact on the department's taxpayer funded Operating Budget. She also noted that no expenses are yet reflected in the Building Maintenance line because most of the maintenance projects typically happen in the spring.

6. **Unfinished Business**

A. Gym and Stage Mat Estimate – Ms. Conroy reported that the updated quote for the gym and stage mats reflected an increase of $320.00. She responded to several questions from the Board.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GOODIE, SECONDED BY MR. LAFFAN, TO APPROVE A $13,135.00 EXPENDITURE FROM THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF GYM AND STAGE MATS. UNANIMOUS AYE.

7. **New Business**

Ms. Conroy stated that the next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 2.

Ms. Conroy solicited volunteers for the Project Safe Halloween and the Kids' Night on the Green events.

8. **Adjournment**

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. THIELE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. KING, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon Wheeler
Recording Secretary