East Haddam Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2022

Attending: M. Davis; B. Free; T. Goodie; C. Grillo; F. Tremblay
Absent: D. Carbo; P. Laffan; T. Pisciotti; M. Roberts
Guests: L. Conroy

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The meeting followed a standard order of business; therefore, no formal motion for approval of the agenda was required. A verbal approval was made.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the June 6, 2022 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GRILLO, SECONDED BY MS. FREE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2022 MEETING AS WRITTEN. MR. DAVIS ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH A MAJORITY OF AYES.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Disc Golf** – Report on Disc Golf was postponed.

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that the Music On The River concerts had finished for the season. She advised that one had to be moved to a Tuesday and another was moved inside because of rain. She noted, however, that she had gotten a lot of good feedback regarding the dance contest that was held at the indoor concert. Ms. Conroy stated that the committee has received several requests for a Motown/Rock & Roll/Oldies concert be included next year but advised that it has been difficult to find Motown groups.

  Ms. Conroy reported that an average of approximately $1,500.00 had been collected at each concert but the financials have not yet been finalized. She also stated that she would like to add some new members to the committee and solicited volunteers from the Recreation Commission.

  There was a general discussion regarding recruitment of new members for the MOR committee and the impact of the Swingbridge repair work on the concerts.

5. Director's Report

A. **Summer Programs Review** – Ms. Conroy reviewed the following:

- She provided an overview of the financials of the Noises Sports Academy programs.
- She advised that she had a great staff for Day Camp and the program averaged 92 participants each week with a maximum of 102 one week.
- Sky Hawks and Mini Ski Hawks registration was full.
- She stated that the Abrakadoodle Art Camp, soccer and tennis camps, open gym programs, Boot Camp, Yoga, Pickleball, and 18+ basketball were all successful programs.
- 114 beach day-passes were sold and 178 permits issued and she noted that the lifeguards reported a marked improvement in behavior at the beach. There was a general discussion regarding what to charge for a season pass to the Town Beach for the 2023 season.

Ms. Conroy reported that she plans to review the guidelines for the Day Camp Scholarship program and make some changes for 2023 because a number of this year's scholarship recipients did not show up for some/all of their camp sessions and/or field trips. She responded to several questions from the Board.

B. **Planning for Fall**

Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- Youth Soccer Camp registration is full and there is a waiting list.
- The following programs will be offered: Abrakadoodle, Sky Hawks programs for grades 2-3 and 3-5, a Pickleball Clinic, Boot Camp, Yoga, basketball, and volleyball.
- Activity Kits will go out in October.

C. **Budget**

Ms. Conroy reported that the Town's FY2022-2023 Capital Improvements budget includes $25k for the community playground project and $20k to add a climbing structure at Nicols playground.

Ms. Conroy also reported that 12 applications had been received for the assistant to the Recreation Director position and five individuals had been interviewed. She advised that the interview committee selected Cathy Tozier for the 20-hour position. Ms. Conroy stated that Ms. Tozier is a Town resident, has headed up Project Graduation, and has excellent managerial skills; she believes she will be a valuable addition to the Recreation office.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

7. New Business

A. Playgrounds

Ms. Conroy reported that she has met with a local resident who is interested in working on the community playground project. She stated she would also like to create an informal advisory group made up of local parents who could provide input on the community playground's location, design, equipment, etc.

In response to Mr. Goodie's inquiry about the potential to use open space for the proposed playground, there was a general discussion regarding potential sites.

B. Facilities/Equipment – Town Beach/Nicols

Ms. Conroy provide the following facilities update:

- The lifeguard stand at the Town Beach needs to be replaced; Mr. Davis suggested putting it out as a potential Eagle Scout construction project.
- The Municipal Office Building Committee has funds to purchase scoreboard(s) for the gym and she will be presenting options at their next meeting.
- The Skateboard Park was painted.
- Windscreens for the tennis courts have been ordered.
- She plans to order new soccer goals for Nicols Field.

Ms. Conroy also stated that she would like to enlarge the swimming area at the Town Beach for 2023.

D. Open Space

Ms. Conroy advised that the Open Space Committee would like to purchase the Kronberg property, a 95 acre parcel on North Moodus Road, and has asked that the Recreation Commission endorse their plans to pursue a state grant for the purchase. She noted that typically, the state approves grant funding of 35% to 65% of the cost to purchase open space. There was a general discussion regarding the property and the state grant.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GRILLO, SECONDED BY MR. GOODIE, TO ENDORSE THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE'S STATE GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE KRONBERG PROPERTY FOR OPEN SPACE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

E. Rec Commission Term Renewals

Ms. Conroy advised that Mr. Davis', Mr. Laffan's and Mr. Carbo's terms on the Recreation Commission are up for renewal. She stated that Mr. Davis and Mr. Laffan have agreed to renew their term; however, Mr. Carbo is still considering whether or not to renew his term.

MOTION MADE BY MR. TREMBLAY, SECONDED BY MS. FREE, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RENEW THE TERMS OF MR. DAVIS AND MR. LAFFAN ON THE RECREATION COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

8. <u>Adjournment</u>

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary