East Haddam Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022

Attending: M. Davis; B. Free; T. Goodie; C. Grillo; P. Laffan; F. Tremblay
Absent: T. Pisciotti; M. Roberts
Guests: L. Conroy; J. Kehlenbach; S. Wheeler

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the October 4, 2022 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. TREMBLAY, SECONDED BY MR. GOODIE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2022 MEETING AS WRITTEN. MR. DAVIS, MR. GRILLO AND MR. LAFFAN ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH A MAJORITY OF AYES.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Disc Golf** – Mr. Laffan reported that they have almost completed laying out the new 9-holes. In response to his question about having the parking area plowed, Ms. Conroy stated she would forward his request to the Public Works Director.

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that the committee has already been receiving demo submissions for the 2023 season. She stated that she expects to schedule the committee's first meeting for the 2023 season in mid-January. She solicited input from the Commissioners for potential new committee members.

5. Director's Report

Ms. Conroy advised that the Recreation Department had received a grant of $1,136.40 from the M. Jones Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting summer 2023 camp programs.

Ms. Conroy advised that the Middle School is giving the Rec Department an electronic scoreboard for Nicol's Field and she is looking into the cost of running electricity to the Field to power the scoreboard. She stated that the Bearcats AAU team, who play at Nichols Field, have several electricians affiliated with the team who have offered to help wire the scoreboard and install outlets for sound equipment. She noted that they have asked if they can hang banners on the fence by the dugouts and she has forwarded their request to the

Town's Facility Manager. The was a general discussion about the Bearcats request and the general consensus was supportive.

A. **Winter Programs/Events Review** – Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- Basketball: This is the first week of practice for 4th to 6th graders and she reviewed the makeup of the teams. The 1st and 2nd grade program begins January 28th and there will be a Skyhawks program for 2-, 3-, and 4-year olds and kindergarten.
- Pickleball: She reviewed the schedule for beginners, intermediate, and open play. Ms. Conroy noted that pickleball continues to be a very popular program and stated that she added a new session on Sundays and an additional session on Wednesday mornings to accommodate the interest.
- Tennis/Pickleball Courts: Nets being taken down Friday 12/9 for the winter and the courts will be locked.
- Volleyball: There are 8-10 players registered for Tuesday evenings.
- Abbrakadoodle: There has been a problem with the instructor arriving on time. Consequently, she discussed with owner moving the program from the Elementary School to the Rec Department's activity room so she can oversee it. Instructor assured her tardiness will not be an issue moving forward.
- Programs starting in January include: First Aid/CPR and Futsal for ages 9-18, Activity Kits, and Lego for 4th and 5th graders.
- When I'm in Charge and Babysitting will be scheduled in January and February
- There are virtual and in-person Yoga sessions scheduled.
- The Winter Kids Night on December 1st was very well attended. The event was held on the Moodus Green and at the Municipal Office Complex. Ms. Conroy reviewed the related activities. She stated that she will need more adults to help out next year.

B. **Annual Report Information,**

Ms. Conroy reported that she had submitted a draft report about the Rec Commission's 2022 activities to the Financial Department for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report. She reviewed some of the metrics that she had included in the report. She also noted that profit from this year's Summer Camp program was approximately $14k. She stated that a portion of the profit will be added to the Rec Department's Lukas Breton Scholarship Fund.

6. **Unfinished Business**

Ms. Conroy reported that the Bearcats AAU team offered to donate an equipment shed for Nicols Field approximately two years ago and it went through the Town's acceptance process at that time. However, when Covid hit, everything was put on hold. The donation is moving forward again and the shed will be installed in the spring.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Tremblay, Ms. Conroy advised that she has published a notice that mowing and weed-whacking at the dog park has been suspended until spring. She will reevaluate the situation at that time.

Mr. Davis inquired about the status of a suggestion made at a previous meeting to have an Eagle Scout build a new lifeguard stand as a project and Ms. Conroy agreed to follow-up on the suggestion.

7. New Business

Ms. Conroy reported that there was an incident at the Town Beach where graffiti was spraypainted on the entrance sign, entrance road, and the backside of the building. She advised that the Public Works crew was able to remove the graffiti and a warrant is being issued for the individual responsible for the vandalism.

A. Playgrounds

Ms. Conroy reported that the sub-committee is meeting on December 20th to discuss potential locations and the appropriate lot size for a new community playground. They will also draft a list of "wants" for a new playground.

B. Unified Family Event

A Unified Family Event has been scheduled for December 10th. The Board of Education is providing pizzas and the Rec Department will provide cupcakes.

C. Rec Commission New Member Recommendation

Ms. Conroy introduced Mr. Kehlenbach and stated that he has expressed an interest in joining the Recreation Commission. She provided a brief overview of his involvement with several Recreation programs.

MOTION MADE BY MR. DAVIS, SECONDED BY MR. LAFFAN, TO RECOMMEND JAMES KEHLENBACH TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION ON THE RECREATION COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Conroy also advised that Ms. Pisciotti will be resigning from the Commission due to family commitments. She asked the Commissioners to let her know if there is anyone they would recommend to fill the vacant position.

8. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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