

East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2025

Attending: C. Grillo; C. King; B. Thiele; M. Roberts; F. Tremblay

Absent: T. Goodie; P. Laffan; B. Free; J. Kehlenbach

Guests: L. Conroy

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

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

3. **Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2025**

MOTION MADE BY MR. TREMBLAY, SECONDED BY MR. THIELE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2025 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Music on the River** – Ms. Roberts reported that the series line-up is all set and pre-season donations are on pace to be greater than 2024 season. MOR website is up to date and includes multiple ways to donate including a new QR code linked to Venmo and PayPal. This can be used to purchase items at concerts as well.
- **Disc Golf** – Ms. Conroy will follow up with Mr. Laffan to get status of new holes at Disc Golf Course.

5. **Director's Report** – Ms. Conroy provided the following reports:

A. **Spring Review**

- Youth soccer ended June 7. 18+ Soccer and Basketball attendance has been a bit slow, while 16+ Volleyball attendance has since an increase in participants this spring.
- Food Explorers after school program was well received. Positive feedback via survey responses and roster was full.
- Youth open gym basketball for grades 3-5 went really well with 15+ participants. Coaches and families are interested in continuing in the fall.
- The outdoor pickleball courts opened on March 29th and have been full each morning during the week. New nets have been well received and players seem to be navigating first come, first served basis well.

- CT DEEP conducted a state boating certification class on April 29th and 30th with 20 people attending.

B. Summer Preview

Ms. Conroy provided the following updates regarding summer programs.

Day Camp

- Registrations for camp and most of the field trips filled up quickly (Ocean Beach not full yet) and there is currently a waiting list.
- The maximum number of campers accepted to camp was increased from 115 to 125.
- Summer staff hired...total of 9 lifeguards (7 returning). Due to internship schedules of many with weekend availability 2 additional positions were needed. Lifeguards are scheduled to attend a Waterfront Safety Class on June 27. 32 summer camp staff will be employed this summer, including a new art specialist and sports specialist.
- Day camp will be held at Cave Hill Resort 3 days this summer.

Other Programs

- Noises Sports Academy numbers are similar to past years. Soccer: 20, Softball: 12, VB: 22, Baseball: 10, Cheer: 32. We will likely cancel cross country and basketball due to low enrollment.
- The Food Explorers Camp will be held in the Middle School's Consumer Science room which has kitchen facilities. Ten out of 12 spots are filled at this time.
- LEGO Camp currently has low numbers but Ms. Conroy is optimistic this camp will ultimately run.
- CAS Soccer Camp currently has 13 registrants.
- Mad Science currently has just 2 registrants with a minimum of 10 needed to run.

- C. Budget Update – Ms. Conroy reported that the Rec Commission's proposed FY2025-2026 was submitted with a 5.25% (\$9,170.00) increase over last year's budget. No cuts have been made to the budget that will be proposed at the next referendum. The status of the outdoor volleyball court at the Town Beach is still pending. This is dependent upon approval by the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance once final capital needs projects are reviewed later this summer.

6. Unfinished Business

Ms. Conroy followed up on Mr. Grillo's question regarding the status of an electronic message board from the April 21 meeting. The electronic message board is one of the many projects the town is considering. There may be funds leftover from the Municipal Office Complex budget that would go to this project. HVAC, generator, and water refill stations are currently the priorities for those funds and message board will be considered once those projects have been completed. Westbrook completed a similar project in 2023 at a cost of approximately \$49,000.

7. New Business

- A. Repairs/Purchases – Ms. Conroy reported that when determining the location of the septic for the playground addition at the Town Beach, it was determined that a new septic tank is needed and the leaching fields need to be moved. The project has been completed at a cost of \$19,880 which is lower than the original estimate. The cost of this repair was taken out of the Rec Department’s Maintenance budget line and from the Special Revenue fund.

- B. Accept Haslam Foundation Donation – Ms. Conroy presented a check in the amount of \$1000 to be accepted by the recreation commission to be used towards special events at summer camp.

MOTION MADE BY MS. KING, SECONDED BY MS. ROBERTS, TO ACCEPT A GIFT OF \$1000 TO BE USED TO PROVIDE SPECIAL EVENTS AT SUMMER CAMP. UNANIMOUS AYE.

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Conroy advised that the next Commission meeting will be held on a future date in September as the previously scheduled date of August 18 coincides with the last MOR concert.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Coroy
Recreation Director