East Haddam Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2025

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

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Grillo called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

3. **Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2025**

   MOTION MADE BY MR. LAFFAN, SECONDED BY MS. FREE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2025 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. **Committee Reports**

   - Disc Golf – Mr. Laffan reported that nine new holes were added to the existing 18-hole disk golf course and noted that the new holes are beginner friendly.

   - Music on the River – Ms. Roberts reported that the 2025 season of Music on the River (MOR) went very well and there were fortunately no rain dates.

     Ms. Conroy reported that a QR code was added to the 2025 brochure and donors could scan the code and use Venmo to make contributions. She reviewed the feedback from a MOR survey that had been sent out. She advised that she has started receiving submissions for 2026 and that she has sent a request to the Coast Guard for its Jazz Band to perform at one of the 2026 events

5. **Director's Report**

   A. Summer Review

      Ms. Conroy reviewed registrations for the following programs:

      - Noises Sports Academy – baseball, cheer, soccer, volleyball, and softball. She noted that the basketball and cross-country programs had been cancelled due to low registration and that the program raised $8,883.98 was for the coaches/programs and $1,567.00 for the Recreation Department.

- Sky Hawks – Age 2-5 soccer, baseball, basketball, and track & field. She noted that the tennis, pickle ball and flag rugby programs had to be cancelled due to low registration.

- Food Explorers and Lego programs.

Ms. Conroy reported that the Summer Day Camp program went very well and she complimented this year's counselors, directors and specialists. She stated that the total registration for the six-week program was 728 participants and that $6,012.50 in scholarships had been awarded. She advised that the 2026 program will be moved to the Elementary School because the Middle School will be re-doing its floors; consequently, due to space issues, the number of registrations for next year's program could be limited. She provided an overview of the survey responses for the Summer Camp program.

Ms. Conroy reported that the beach ran smoothly this summer and that 83 day passes and 4 season passes had been sold for a total of $2,140.00. She noted that the revenue raised by the beach passes off-sets one-third of the salary expense for the parking monitor.

B. Fall Preview – Ms. Conroy reviewed the registration numbers, to date, for the following Fall programs:

- Youth Soccer
- Foor Explorers
- Puzzle Palooza
- When I'm in Charge
- Lego
- Pickle Ball instructions & weekend clinics
- 18+ Basketball
- Basketball Clinic with Coach Lombardo

Ms. Conroy stated that the Yoga, Boot Camp, and 30+ Basketball programs continue to be popular programs. She noted that she is also considering a 5th-8th grade volleyball program if she can find a supervisor for it. There was a brief discussion about the 16+ Volleyball program and the possibility of blending in the middle school group.

Ms. Conroy reported that planning for Project Halloween is underway and that the Rec Department, Police Union, and Youth & Family Services have each contributed $500.00 for new animatronics and decorations. She stated that the budget for candy this year is projected to be $3,500.00 to $4,000.00 and that the event will be open one-half hour early for families with children that experience sensory sensitivities.

C. Budget Update – Ms. Conroy reported that the Town's FY2025-2026 budget passed referendum; however, the Rec Department's request for funds for a beach volleyball court had been cut from the Capital budget.

Ms. Conroy advised that a Foosball Table had been donated to the Recreation Department for use in the Summer Camp game room.

MOTION MADE BY BARBARA FREE, SECONDED BY CHRISTINE KING, TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF FOOSBALL TABLE FOR THE SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM. UNANIMOUS AYE.

6. **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

7. **New Business**

A. Gym Wall and Stage Mats– Ms. Conroy advised that in January of 2024 she had received an estimate of $12,815.00 to replace the wall and stage mats in the gymnasium. She stated that she had previously submitted a capital request for the mats; however, her request had not made it into the final budget. She said that there is currently approximately $120,000.00 in the Recreation's Special Revenue Fund and she would like to get an updated quote for the mats and use some of the Special Revenue Funds for the purchase.

MOTION MADE BY PAT LAFFAN, SECONDED BY FERN TREMBLAY, TO AUTHORIZE RECREATION DIRECTOR CONROY TO SOLICIT AN UPDATED QUOTE FOR GYM WALL AND STAGE MATS. UNANIMOUS AYE

B. Copyrighted Picture – Ms. Conroy advised that in 2019 a Recreation Department employee created a newsletter which contained several pictures she had sourced on-line. Ms. Conroy noted that one of the pictures was copyrighted and she had received a Cease and Desist notice and demand for payment of $15,000.00 for the use of the picture. She reported that she had conferred with First Selectwoman Haines and the Town's insurance agent about the demand. Ms. Conroy stated that a settlement for $6,700.00 had been reached which was covered by the Town's insurance policy. There was a brief general discussion about this matter.

8. **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon Wheeler
Recording Secretary