East Haddam Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2026

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Recreation Commission was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Grillo, at 7:03 PM at the Municipal Office Complex.

Attendance

Members Present: Patrick Laffan, Fern Tremblay, Margy Roberts, Barbara Free, Chick Grillo
Members Absent: Jamie Kehlenback, Barry Thiele, Christine King, Travis Goodie
Also Present: Lisa Conroy

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Laffan to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Ms. Free, and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

1.Call to order – change Travis Goode to Travis Goodie

A motion was made by Ms. Free to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Tremblay and unanimously approved.

4. Committee Report

Music on the River – Ms. Conroy provided the brochures that were mailed out to the previous donors along with a letter. The mailer will be sent to everyone in town soon. She will be reaching out to the business sponsors this week as well. She reviewed who is on the schedule for this summer's festival and the music genre they play. The August 3rd concert does not have a rain date, so if it rains, the event will move into the High School auditorium.

5. Director's Report
   a. Spring Review

Soccer starts this week; Ms. Conroy provided a rundown of the numbers. It has been a challenge to get coaches this season. There is a wait list, but more coaches must be hired before additional kids can be enrolled. Games are being figured out and scheduled. There is a coach meeting coming up.
The Lego program started today.
The hoops program is quiet for now, but she anticipates it will ramp up.
The Safe Boating class is full.
Yoga programs are growing, so she is looking for additional space at the Elementary School Gym.

The CPR class will be on May 30 and June 1st, it is likely to be filled with the summer staff, getting them trained and certified/re-certified.
Stop the Bleed will also have summer staff attending.
There will be a flyer sent out for Grades 4-5 Girls Basketball shortly.
Open Gym has good enrollment.
Pickleball kids program has 4 of 8 spots full.
Food Explorers is going to be advertised more.
Pickleball Boot Camp has 7 of 8 spots filled.

b. Summer Preview

There are still some openings for the upcoming summer camps, and she added an additional week for summer due to where 4th of July falls. Enrollment is strong:

- 84 of 125 spots filled for week 1
- 98 of 125 spots filled for week 2
- 103 of 125 spots filled for week 3
- 114 of 125 spots filled for week 4
- 105 of 125 spots filled for week 5
- 89 of 125 spots filled for week 6
- 123 of 125 spots filled for week 7

All field trips have very strong enrollment.
She learned that the school has changed the contract with the bus company. Ms. Conroy will be talking to the new company to gather the pricing for the summer field trips. She is unclear what the fees are; Mr. Laffan noted that he feels like the new company may be very fair in terms of their fees.
A trip to Ocean Beach has 30 kids on a waitlist. Brownstone is also scheduled for the same day and some families signed up the same kids for the same day, so that must be addressed.
It is still early for sports camp enrollments; she anticipates enrollment will grow as we get closer to summer.
Cheerleading camp is a separate program this year, with a coach not affiliated with the schools, and it has some good enrollment.
She has requested all the coaches provide information around their camps that Parks and Rec staff can use when marketing.
The numbers are always low for the sports camps at this point in the year; the regular 6 week summer camp enrollments typically happen first. As time goes on, enrollment in the sports camps increases, so there is no cause for concern right now.

c. Budget Update

Ms. Conroy reviewed the budget in ClearGov to determine what was kept and cut. She learned that everything that was asked for was approved except for the beach attendant.
Ms. Conroy reviewed how the finances were handled to cover this attendant. The Town will only cover $2775 of the salary, which will require an additional $2000 be covered by Parks and Rec's special revenue funds. She is going to reach out to the Board of Finance to understand the reasoning for the cut to ensure she did not cause confusion on how she wanted to fund the position, and also to ensure they understand how much the beach attendant contributes –the beach's cleanliness has skyrocketed and there is now enforcement for out of

town residents' to pay for parking. She noted the beach attendant is really critical for keeping the safety and quality of our Town Beach experience strong.
Ms. Conroy provided several key pieces of information to the commissioners: the Town is now collecting on every registration/enrollment, there are a number of Parks and Rec capital projects not being covered by the Town and the Parks and Rec special revenue fund has been used to cover those projects.
Ms. Conroy also reviewed salaries; she is requesting more details on the wages to conduct some analysis to be accurate around the wage budgeting.

d. Facilities Update

Ms. Conroy noted the beach restrooms will open around May 9th. Staff starts on Memorial Day Weekend.
Pickleball nets are being replaced.
Soccer net has been replaced at Nichols Field.
She received a quote to replace the ropes around the Town Beach. It will be around $1400.
Resident Quinn McKenna would like to volunteer his time to install.
There was a complaint from a family that lives near the beach reporting ATV activity, but no narrowed down timeline provided, making it hard to investigate. She also asked the police to be a more active presence during camp pick up and drop off to make sure traffic is handled more effectively. Pick up seems to be the busiest time.
A 2nd port-a-potty is being installed to provide additional bathroom facilities at Nichols Field until the conclusion of the spring soccer season.

6. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business to report on.

7. New Business

June 15th is the next meeting.
The August meeting date needs to move as it is the last Music on the River.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary