

**East Haddam Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2019**

Attending: C. Grillo; S. Kraszewski; M. Larson; M. Davis; L. Conroy
Absent: P. Laffan; C. Miner; T. Pisciotti; M. Roberts
Guests: S. Wheeler

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Guests & Audience

There were no guests or audience at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2018 Regular Meeting

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of December 10, 2018.

MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. DAVIS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2018 REGULAR MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Committee Reports

The follow committee reports were discussed at the meeting:

Music On The River – Ms. Conroy reported that there was a small profit made from last year's Music on the River concerts resulting in a beginning balance of \$11,400.00, which is enough to cover the contracts for this year's bands. She stated that there will be six concerts this summer, beginning on July 8th, and that four of the bands have been selected. She advised that she would like to develop a comprehensive program which would include a schedule of the events and information on the bands and how to make donations. She stated that the Rec Commission could also sell ad space in the booklets.

Ms. Conroy noted that she is working on updating the Music on the River web and Facebook pages.

In response to a suggestion Ms. Larson made about hiring local musicians to open for the main event, Ms. Conroy advised that Land Trust Committee organizes a Music-on-the-River wrap-up event at the end of the season which features local musicians.

Ms. Conroy advised that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 18th.

Director Report

Ms. Conroy reported on the following:

- There has been a large uncollected balance of registration fees from past programs. This total has been reduced by 50% though balances paid and errors in billing corrected. Bills have been

emailed to the individuals responsible for the remaining unpaid balances. The registration website has been updated to prevent a similar reoccurrence.

- She would like to have the tennis courts renovated, however, the cost is estimated to be \$130,000.00. She advised that approximately \$12,000.00 has been reserved for the project and the Municipal Office Building Committee may contribute any unexpended balance from their project to the renovation work.

- a. Winter and Spring Program Update – Ms. Conroy reported on the winter programs, including basketball, indoor disk golf, pickleball, and a middle school cooking program. She also stated that an “Unplugged” event was scheduled for this weekend at several Town locations.

Ms. Conroy said that, in addition to soccer, there are plans for several new spring programs, such as a cornhole league, horseback riding, and flag-football.

Ms. Conroy reported that the Recreation Department co-sponsors events with the East Haddam PTO and the Commissioners discussed cost-sharing of the registration fees.

MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. DAVIS, TO RETAIN \$5.00 OF THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE PTO/RECREATION COMMISSION PROGRAMS AND ALLOCATE \$5.00 TO THE PTO. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Larson reported on plans for an adult co-ed softball league. She advised that she has drafted rules based on the ASA rules and needs to recruit umpires. Ms. Conroy stated that she has reserved Nicols Field for Thursday nights and also put in a request for the middle-school ball field. The Commissioners discussed several registration and organizational logistics for the league.

Old Business

Mr. Davis reported that 18 individuals participated in a recent community CPR certification course and the class went well. In response to a question, he advised that the event is part of the Town’s Heart Safe program and is always held on Valentne’s Day weekend.

Mr. Davis advised that a Stop-the-Bleed course has also been scheduled.

New Business

- a. Budget 2019-20 – Ms. Conroy reported that the Board of Selectmen made several changes to the Rec Commission’s submitted budget; however, the request for monies to purchase of a scoreboard for the new gym remains in the budget at this time. She advised that there are funds remaining in this year’s budget to coat the skateboard park with graffiti-block paint.
- b. Summer Ideas – Ms. Conroy reported that a donation of \$3,000.00 from the Foliage Folk Festival was made to the Parks and Recreation programs to be used towards camp scholarships fund (Lukas Breton Scholarship Fund). She stated that she would like to modify the program to include field trips in the scholarships. She further stated that she would like to change the billing process for camp to include field trips so that parents can pay one all-inclusive registration fee.

MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. KRASZEWSKI, TO ALLOCATE THE \$3,000.00 DONATION TO THE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND TO AMEND THE SEPARATE CAMP AND FIELD TRIP REGISTRATIONS TO AN ALL-INCLUSIVE FEE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Conroy reviewed the plans for day camp and other summer programs. She advised that five beach lifeguards and the lifeguard supervisor have agreed to return this summer. She stated the Department is going to offer tuition reimbursement for the Water Safety Instructor course, noting that the swimming lessons can be offered if there is a lifeguard with a WSI certification.

The Commissioners discussed the ages for summer camp and agreed that the program should be restricted to students entering 1st grade through 8th grade.

Ms. Conroy reported that an aviation club, a safe-place drop-in center for teens, and several other summer programs are being considered. She noted that the Little Noises Sports Academy has expanded their programs to include a music component.

- c. Interest in Joining Committees – Ms. Conroy stated that she plans to speak to the Music on the River committee about expanding their membership. She asked the Commissioners to consider volunteering for the committee.
- d. Registration Software – Ms. Conroy advised that she is researching alternative program registration software. She stated that several appear to be more user friendly than the package the Recreation Department now uses.

Mr. Carbo advised that, due to work and family commitments, he regretfully was resigning from the Recreation Commission.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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