

# **Town of East Longmeadow Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes 1/21/26**

Call to Order at 5:02 PM by Chair Bill Rinaldi

Present: Don LePage, Carolyn Bliss, Donna Prather

Absent: Nancy Roberts

Guest: Tom Christensen

The approval of meeting minutes of November 2025 meeting were tabled.

## **Director Report**

### General

Pine Knoll Masterplan - 1/8/2026 Walk thru the buildings, talked about the need for indoor space, accessibility, outdoor space

School Payment was \$3,322.36 for 7/1-12-31

PK Camp registration is scheduled 3/2, we are working with the Health Department on state requirements that need to be rectified before we open registrations.

### Summer Employment

Summer hiring to begin 3/2. We are working with HR on job descriptions.

Ellis lifeguard retrain - 2/21, 8am - 6pm

Ellis lifeguard full class - 2/27-3/1

### Sports

Basketball is going well, we are running 7 days a week

Ski Club is going well as the weather is cooperating

Cheer & Wrestling are all running smoothly

Soccer, boys and girls lacrosse, volleyball have all recently opened up for Spring Registrations

Sponsored sports baseball and softball have opened for the Spring Activities

Ice Rink - lost water when it thawed & the liner is exposed in several areas. I couldn't see any visible rips, but it has to leak somewhere. We did have nice ice, but it just didn't take off.

ART-venture for grades K-5, Epic Landmarks starting 1/30

### Upcoming Events

Someone Special Event - 2/14, 11:30-1:30, located at the COA. This is a FREE event with our partners the EL Rotary Club & Busy Bees Preschool. The menu is mac & cheese, veggie soup, meatballs & deserts

Egg Hunt - 4/4, 9:30-11:30, on the Rail Trail

### Possible upcoming community events

ELHS/Marlins Alumni Swim Meet - we will need to work fast for this to succeed. The pool closes for good on 4/20

Trivia Night

### **New Business**

Chairman Brian Calandrucchio has stepped down from the Recreation Commission. Carolyn Bliss nominated Bill Rinaldi to become the Chairman, seconded by Don LePage. Vote: 3 Yay – 0 Nays

The Recreation Commission posted the question to Town Manager Tom Christensen asking what is expected of the Recreation Commission.

Tom suggested that the Recreation Commission be there to support the Recreation Department by helping at events and assisting in CPC applications as examples.

Advertisements at outdoor fields was brought up. Tom pointed out that Temporary signage is OK. Suggestion was made that Procurement could be developed for sponsoring fields such as Leahy from April 1-September 30 every year so that signs can be left up for that period of time.

Donna questioned how we can run events with sponsors and if it is legal that we have run events with the assistance of sponsors. Enterprise funds for Recreation is recommended as any revenue generated any other way does not benefit Recreation as unused funding goes back to the General Fund.

Tom C. and Donna suggested that the Recreation Department with the assistance of the Recreation Commission come up with a long term schedule on town field renovations. Generate a Capital Replacement Plan and start the process of presenting plan in front of Town Council. Prioritize funding of approximately \$200k every couple of years or so.

Donna/Carolyn mentioned the town trails...Donna suggested the Recreation Commission work with Alex from the Conservation Commission on putting together a town trail plan.

Pine Knoll ADA compliant issues is currently being investigated by GZA Engineering...grant opportunities may be available to assist in funding.

Donna informed the Commission that the School Use fee has dropped from \$12,500 to \$4,000.

The new high school pool will have 6 lanes and there will be different functions going on in various lanes...each function/event will pay for their own life guards.

Bill Rinaldi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26pm...motion was seconded by Carolyn. Vote: 3 yays – 0 nays.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**