

OL Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
03/12/25 – 6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting (in person and telephone call-in)
In-person location: Meeting Hall, Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

In Person: Bob Dunn (Chairman), Mary Ellen Garbarino, Missy Garvin, Tim Gavin, Ryan Lee, Winnie Edmed (Assistant PR Director), Don Bugbee (Director)

Absent: Brendan McKeever, Sara van Vliet (Vice Chairman)

Guest: First Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker

APPOINTMENTS TO PRC

Bob Dunn reported that Tim Gavin and Missy Garvin were re-appointed to this commission by the Board of Selectmen.

APPROVE previous meeting minutes – January 2, 2025

Tim Gavin moved to accept the meeting minutes of January 2, 2025, and Ryan Lee seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Presented by Don Bugbee
Update on PRC programs and facilities

Parks and Rec Programs

Rec-Desk registration is required for all Parks and Rec programs. All details are listed on Rec-Desk and are advertised on the Parks and Rec website, Facebook, and Instagram.

Youth Basketball

The program ran on Saturdays and ended for the season on February 22. Thanks go out to the volunteer coaches, the parents, the referees and staff and all of the 167 participants for making it a very enjoyable and successful season.

On-going Programs

Women’s Basketball

The sessions run on either Mondays or Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 37 registered participants.

Men's Basketball

The sessions run on Wednesdays 7-9 pm and on Sundays 10 am-12 noon at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 30 registered participants.

Adult Volleyball

The sessions run on Thursdays, 7-9 pm at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 38 registered participants.

Zumba Fitness

The sessions run on Tuesdays, 6-7 pm at the LOLMS. The 6-week sessions will run from February 25-April 8. The fee is \$60, with a drop-in fee of \$10. There are currently 5 registered participants.

Up-coming Programs

Summer Daycamp and after-care

These camps are scheduled to run June 25-August 1 and will be held at LOLHS. Registration is scheduled to begin on April 1, at 9:00 am.

Pickleball, Tennis, Youth Basketball, Adult Softball, Adult Soccer and Adult Basketball
These programs are in the planning stages for Spring and Summer. Updates will be provided.

Summer Staff

Assembling the summer staff is in process and is expected to be completely in place by early May. This includes daycamp supervisors, counselors, counselors-in-training, lifeguards and parking lot attendants. We are anticipating hiring 50 seasonal employees and have approximately 12-15 volunteer CIT's on staff.

Facilities

As previously stated, all buildings are winterized and closed for the season. The water will be scheduled to be turned on soon, but this will obviously be weather dependent. The docks at Hains Park were reinstalled on Saturday, March 8 by the rowers. The dunes at White Sand Beach will be leveled off by Public Works soon. The power line from Mile Creek School to the Cross Lane softball field was inadvertently cut during the school construction process and will be fixed as soon as possible.

There is a property boundary situation at the Cross Lane softball field wherein the location of an existing fence and a batting cage is apparently on school property and interfering with the location of the proposed drainage pond. Don Bugbee met with the Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Facilities about these situations. Updates will be provided.

We are currently discussing the Spring season field use requirements at Town Woods Park with the CT River Lacrosse Club, the Lyme/Old Lyme Soccer Club, Lyme/Old Lyme Little

League and AAU Softball groups. Updates will be provided when the clubs provide their complete list of needs. The high school rowing schedule currently includes 4 events at Hains Park, Rogers Lake, in April.

Swim Lines

As previously reported, a meeting was held with the P&R Director, the First Selectwoman and the Harbormaster on Thursday, December 19 to discuss the 2025 swim line installation and the required permits. New equipment (floats and marker buoys \$23,063) is required to comply with current DEEP codes at Sound View and White Sand Beach. We now have DEEP permits for the Sound View area and White Sand Beach. Funding (\$3,094) came from the P&R Budget and additional funding (\$19,969) was approved by the Board of Finance on February 11. All new equipment has been purchased and is expected to be installed prior to Memorial Day weekend. A new vendor has been selected to install the equipment under the direction of the Harbormaster. It should be noted that at this time we do not have a permit for Hains Park.

Budget Process

As previously reported, the Parks and Recreation budgets (P&R TWP) were reviewed initially with the First Selectwoman and the Finance Director on Friday December 20 and on Monday, December 30 with the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Director, and several members of the Board of Finance. The final review was then completed at the Board of Finance meeting on February 11. The Parks and Recreation budgets (P&R \$399,696 / TWP \$152,708) were unanimously approved. The fireworks and Memorial Day budget (\$29,500), listed under Parks and Recreation was approved as well.

Mary Ellen Garbarino moved to relocate agenda item **NEW BUSINESS White Sand Beach Pavilion Options** to this place in the agenda. Missy Garvin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

NEW BUSINESS White Sand Beach Pavilion

Don Bugbee reported that he and Erik Olsen (Town of OL Facilities Manager) agreed that the pavilion at White Sand Beach could be repaired and easily last another year. Martha Shoemaker reviewed the cost of an engineering study for a total replacement. She would like to see the engineering study done and paid for this year and the replacement placed in a future year's budget. Members agreed that the pavilion is well-used.

OLD BUSINESS

Dredging at Hains Park / leech mitigation / meeting with Jacobson and Associates

Bob Dunn reported that the newest estimate from Nathan Jacobson and Associates for dredging Rogers Lake (Hains Park) was over one million dollars - far more than the \$300,000 estimate we received from another company last summer. Members agreed that the PRC will request that the expense for the study should be placed in the P&R capital budget request for the upcoming budget year. After the study is complete, the Town should put the dredging out for competitive bids. Correspondence included at the end of these minutes.

Goose mitigation at Hains Park / USDA Agreement

Bob Dunn reported that the BOF had agreed on the \$1,300 budget item for goose mitigation by the USDA. Because of the federal freeze on the USDA at this point it is unknown when this can be done. Don will be placing the coyotes at Hains Park and Cross Lane Park soon.

Docks

The docks at Hains Park were installed in the water by the rowers and the kayak launch was also placed. The proposed placement of the kayak launch and docks was supported by James Hagen (President of the OLRA) and Parks and Rec, but was not followed to our specifications. Bob Dunn and Don Bugbee will ask for a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools Ian Neviasser to discuss any issues. Correspondence between James Hagen, District 18, the OLRA and the PRC is included at the end of these minutes.

Survey Monkey for Hains Park

Missy Garvin presented a handout to members with the results of the survey regarding Hains Park. Members reviewed the results, will study it further and to be discussed more next meeting. Bob Dunn thanked Missy and Sara for all their hard work on getting this survey out to the public.

Hains Park Pavilion / Playscape

Members discussed moving forward with the pavilion and the playscape as the dredging has been held up, but members wanted Sara van Vliet's input before a decision is made and Sara was not present at the meeting. Bob will contact Sara.

NEW BUSINESS**White Sands Beach Pavillion Options**

Discussed earlier in the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Included at the end of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None**ADJOURNMENT**

Missy Garvin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM and Ryan Lee seconded the motion.
SO VOTED.

The next meeting of this Commission is scheduled for April 3, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Garbarino, Secretary

Correspondence from James Hagan (OLRA President to Regional District 18, PRC and OLRA.

From: JAMES HAGAN

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 12:06 PM

The Parks and Recreation team of Bob, Don and Winnie invited me to meet them at Hains park to tell me how their committee wanted the docks configured. We all know the park is a shared area with rowers, swimmers, fishermen and kayakers using the location.

Of the 19 sections they want nine on the side closest to the launches. The other ten will be placed to the right closer to the swimming area.

Placement of the ten sections to the right will allow flexibility to attach the adult kayak launch away from the swimming area and still be easily accessible from the dock.

Don mentioned the kayak launch might be moved but we need to be respectful partners and follow their instructions in the meantime.

The new board of OLRA appreciates the generous park access and ongoing support of the town of Old Lyme and its representatives. This is our chance to show a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

Hopefully this will not be a problem for anyone.

Yours in rowing,

Jim Hagan president OLRA/ BSS

From: J. Howard Pfrommer

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 at 10:18 AM

Subject: RE: Dredging Quote / Hains Park

Hi Martha.

The dredging contractor we met with on site provided a construction budget figure this past Saturday of approximately \$900,000 for removal and disposal of dredged material, and beach front restoration with sand. They are figuring disposal in Torrington, so the price would be less if a local disposal site was made available to them. If contaminated or impacted sediments are discovered the price would be higher.

This contractor is on the EZIQC program they could be hired directly by the Town without a competitive bid process, saving the Town the cost of the bidding process. We can discuss this in more detail if you are not familiar with this program. The budget price below assumes the Town will use the EZIQC process.

To the \$900,000, you should add approximately \$130,000 for surveying, soil testing, design, permitting, construction administration and part-time construction observation, for a total project cost of \$1.03 million.

Please call if there are any questions.

J. Howard Pfrommer, P.E.

Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates

Consulting Civil and Environmental Engineers

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