

OL Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
04/3/25 – 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 6:03 pm.

ATTENDANCE

In Person: Bob Dunn (Chairman), Mary Ellen Garbarino, Tim Gavin, Ryan Lee, Brendan McKeever, Sara van Vliet (Vice Chairman), Don Bugbee (Director)

Absent: Missy Garvin, Winnie Edmed (Assistant PR Director)

Guest: Michele Dickey

APPROVE previous meeting minutes – March 12, 2025

Tim Gavina moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 12, 2025, and Brendan McKeever seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Presented by Don Bugbee

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.

On-going Programs

Women’s Basketball

The sessions run on Mondays 7-8:45 pm into June at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 37 registered participants.

Men’s Basketball

The sessions run on Wednesdays 6:30-9 pm and on Sundays 10 am-12 noon into June at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 30 registered participants.

Adult Volleyball

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

Zumba Fitness

The sessions run on Tuesdays, 6-7 pm at the LOLMS. There are currently 5 registered participants. Updates will be provided if the program continues after April 8.

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 began on April 1. Currently there are 250 participants registered for daycamp and 47 for aftercare camp.

Pickleball, tennis, youth basketball, adult softball, adult soccer and adult basketball programs are in the planning stages for the Spring and Summer. Updates will be provided.

Summer Staff

Assembling the summer staff is in process and is expected to be in place by May 1. 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. We are expecting to replace 7 daycamp counselors and up to 4 lifeguards from last year's staff. We are not anticipating being unable to fill the positions at this point. The choices for new daycamp counselors are under review and expected to be completed by April 4.

Lifeguards will follow soon after.

Facilities

Cross Lane Park

The water has been turned on at Cross Lane Park. Cleaning services will start next week.

Little League representatives have been working on site. A new turfed infield has been installed at the boy's field and work on the new t-ball field is continuing. The softball field boundary situation previously reported has been updated. The construction company has agreed to relocate the batting cage to the satisfaction of Little League. The power line will be reinstated as well.

The courts are all ready for play. Parks and Rec is looking into acquiring and installing a bulletin board near the courts to post updates on court use and regulations. Public Works will do their initial park Spring clean-up shortly. The (2) coyote decoys are missing and will be replaced.

Hains Park

The water has been turned on and the initial water testing has been satisfactorily completed.

There was additional testing requirements placed on the site, and it has been recommended that a camera be used to inspect the well to find the source of coliform contaminants. The State of CT requires these additional inquiries, as the well water tested positive for higher than acceptable levels twice in the previous seasonal year. That process will be done soon. It is anticipated that the building will be initially cleaned and open for use by April 15. Updates will be provided. The High School and Rowing Club activities have started. The Old Lyme Rowing Association has requested that the annual National Learn to Row Day event be scheduled for Saturday, June 7. The (3) coyote and (2) swan decoys have been installed. Public Works has started their initial park Spring clean-up.

Town Woods Park

The water has been turned on, satisfactory water testing completed, the initial cleaning has been completed, and the building is expected to be open for use starting Friday, April 4. The field maintainer has started the Spring clean-up process, the fields are being lined, and goals are put out. The park entry gate has not yet been reinstalled. Spring schedules for baseball, softball, lacrosse and soccer are in process. Discussions have started with the current field maintainer concerning all aspects of the park maintenance process. This is in anticipation of putting the contract out to bid in the Fall, as this is the last year of his contract prior to his retirement

Sara van Vliet suggested that we hold a public clean-up day at Cross Lane Park and everyone agreed. Don Bugbee will look into possible dates. Sara requested that public works refresh the wood chips at the playground area at Cross Lane Park. Don will reach out to public works.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bob Dunn reviewed the decision of Martha Shoemaker and the BOF to hold off for a few more years regarding dredging Rogers Lake at Hains Park. It is the opinion of the PRC that dredging is very much needed and should not wait. Bob Dunn suggested that residents write to the BOS and show support for the dredging. Sara van Vliet noted that the recent survey taken showed a high response in favor of dredging. Guest Michele Dickey stated her disappointment in the decision.

Goose mitigation at Hains Park / RLA

Bob Dunn reviewed the email from Mark Hastings of the Rogers Lake Authority stating that the goose eggs on the private islands will be added. (correspondence included at the end of these minutes)

Bob Dunn stated that in June the first application of goose scam will be applied at Hains Park. There will be a total of four applications.

The three coyotes and two swans have been placed.

Docks

The docks are installed, although the rowers did not follow the directions from the PRC. Bob Dunn and Don Bugbee had met with the superintendent of schools to make him aware of the problems.

Survey Monkey for Hains Park

Sara van Vliet reviewed the totals on the survey. The commissioners all felt that the survey answers confirmed exactly what the PRC is hoping to accomplish. Sara will write up a summary of the survey for the next PRC meeting that can be published.

Hains Park Pavilion / Playscape

Original plan for Hains Park was to hold off on the pavilion and the playscape until after the dredging was done. Since the dredging will not happen as planned, commissioners agreed that we should go ahead on the new pavilion and playscape. Sara van Vliet will get the park schematic, and a meeting will be planned to meet and confirm placement.

NEW BUSINESS

Any other new business

In review of the correspondence from BOF member Kim Thompson, suggesting changes to our fee structure for the summer daycamp, it is too late for this year as sign-ups have already taken place. There was a discussion, and members will think about this for next year, but members are very adamant that the daycamp was never meant as a money maker, but most importantly a service to the community. Don Bugbee will do a financial analysis of the camp and include other programs that PR offers.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email from the RLA Mark Hastings regarding goose egg addling on the private islands.
An email from BOF member Kim Thompson inquiring about our fee structure for the summer daycamp with suggestions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Michele Dickey thanked the PRC for their help in bringing dredging of Hains Park to the forefront and she was disappointed that it was turned down by the Town. She stated that Hains Park is a gem, and we are very lucky to have it, and the dredging is desperately needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Brendan McKeever moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM and Mary Ellen Garbarino seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

The next meeting of this Commission is scheduled for May 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Garbarino, Secretary

From: Old Lyme ParksRec <ChairPandR@oldlyme-ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 7:49 AM
To: Rogers Lake Authority <RogersLakeAuthority@oldlyme-ct.gov>
Subject: Re: Geese Egg Addling

Hi Mark,
The USDA folks are on hold under Trump. Would you please addle goose eggs on the islands.
The PRC as well as homeowners on Rogers Lake would be very thankful.
Best Regards,
Bob

From: Rogers Lake Authority <RogersLakeAuthority@oldlyme-ct.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:04 PM
To: Old Lyme ParksRec <ChairPandR@oldlyme-ct.gov>; Don Bugbee <dbugbee@oldlyme-ct.gov>
Cc: Martha Shoemaker <mshoemaker@oldlyme-ct.gov>
Subject: Geese Egg Addling

Bob and Don
I noticed from the Parks and Rec meeting minutes that you are looking at addling geese eggs.
The RLA is registered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to addle Geese eggs.
We will be visiting the islands with geese nests over the next few weeks.
Regards
Mark Hastings
RLA Co-Chair