

OL Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
05/12/25 – 6:00 PM
American Legion Room, Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Bob Dunn (Chair), Mary Ellen Garbarino, Brendan McKeever, Sara van Vliet (Vice Chair), Don Bugbee (Parks and Recreation Director)

Absent: Missy Garvin, Tim Gavin, Ryan Lee,
Winnie Edmed (Assistant Parks and Recreation Director)

Guest: Gretchen Gregg (President OLRA)

APPROVE previous meeting minutes – April 3, 2025

Brendan McKeever moved to accept the meeting minutes of April 3, 2025, with one change. The date of the meeting was April 3 and not April 13. Sara van Vliet 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 advertised on the Parks and Rec website, Facebook, and Instagram.

On-going Programs

Women's Basketball

Sessions run on Mondays 7 - 8:45 pm to June 9 at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 37 registered participants.

Men's Basketball

Sessions run on Wednesdays, 6 - 8:30 pm and on Sundays 10 am-12:00 pm to June 4 and June 8 respectively at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 31 registered participants.

Adult Volleyball

Sessions run on Thursdays, 7 - 9:00 pm to June 5 at the LOLHS gym. There are currently 40 registered participants.

Zumba Fitness

Sessions run on Tuesdays, 6 - 7:00 pm, to June 3 at LOLMS. There are currently 7 registered participants.

Adult Soccer

Sessions run on Fridays, 5:30 - 7:00 pm to June 6 at Town Woods Park. There are currently 23 registered participants.

Adult Softball

Sessions run on Sundays, 4 - 6:30 pm to June 15 at Town Woods Park. There are currently 43 registered participants.

Adult Open Play Tennis

Sessions run on Saturdays and Sundays, 8:00 - 9:30 am into September at Cross Lane Park. There are currently 8 registered participants.

Intermediate Adult Tennis

Sessions run on Tuesdays, 6 - 7:00 pm to May 20 at Cross Lane Park. There are currently 2 registered participants.

Pickleball Sessions

All pickleball sessions are held at Cross Lane Park.

Old Lyme Parks and Rec open play sessions are held on Mondays and Thursdays, 8:00 - 10:00 am. The Lymes Senior Center sponsored pickleball sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12:30 - 3:00 pm.

The following sessions will be starting this week and will run weekly through the summer.

Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 pm round robin play - women 3.5+

Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:30 pm round robin - all invited

Fridays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - drills with instructor

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - point play with instructor

Up-coming Programs

Spring Pickleball Tournament

This tournament is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 7 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at Cross Lane Park. There will be recreation and premier divisions for both men and women. Team registration opens this week. Updates will be provided.

Summer Daycamp and After-care Camp

These camps are scheduled to run June 25 - Aug 1 and will be held at LOLHS.

Registration began on April 1, at 9:00 am. Currently there are 271 participants registered for daycamp and 50 for aftercare camp.

CAS Soccer Camps

The Old Lyme Parks and Rec sponsored CAS Camp is scheduled for Aug 4 – 8, and the Lyme Parks and Rec sponsored CAS Camp is scheduled for June 23 - 27. Both camps will be held

at Town Woods Park.

Summer Staff

Assembling the summer staff is in process and is expected to be finalized soon. This includes daycamp supervisors, counselors, counselors-in-training, lifeguards and parking lot attendants. We are anticipating hiring 50 seasonal employees, and have approximately 15 - 20 volunteer CITs on staff.

Facilities

Cross Lane Park

Cross Lane Park is in daily operation with Little League baseball and softball, pickleball, tennis and basketball. A message board was purchased, and public works installed it near the tennis/pickleball courts. The message board lists court rules and scheduled events.

Town Woods Park

Town Woods Park is open and in use by the lacrosse club, the soccer club, Lyme/Old Lyme Little League and Parks and Rec. All fields are lined, and they are in particularly good condition. The park's (previously damaged) entry gate has been replaced and re-installed.

Hains Park

The high school and rowing club activities are active on a daily basis. The last LOLHS home crew regatta was April 30. There were 4 LOLHS home events (April 9, 19, 23, 30) scheduled this season. The Old Lyme Rowing Association has requested that the annual National Learn to Row Day event be scheduled for Saturday, June 7.

On the evening of April 18 it was noted that a low water alarm was flashing which indicated a problem. It was determined that a major toilet water leak was in the men's room, and it drained the entire 800-gallon system. The building was closed for several days until the toilet and flush valve were replaced and the water tanks refilled.

White Sand Beach

The gazebo repairs are expected to start this week. The water has been turned on, and the bathrooms are now open on a daily basis. The handicap walkway has been reinstalled. The parking lot is scheduled to be swept and re-lined soon. The beach cleaning schedule will be starting soon as well. Swim buoys are expected to be installed prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

Goose mitigation at Hains Park / Rogers Lake Authority (RLA)

Bob Dunn reported that the RLA did a wonderful job of locating the geese nests and adding the eggs. Currently there are very few geese at Hains Park. The Scram product will be applied at the park in June or July.

HP Docks, remove dock section on beach

The section of dock that was on the beach is now in the water.

Survey Monkey for Hains Park – Summary

Sara van Vliet sent the summary of the survey to the commissioners a couple of weeks ago. There were no questions. A handful of results are included in Sara's letters to be sent to the BOS and the BOF. A weekly clean-up of the park will be requested in the letter. Don Bugbee will speak to Martha Shoemaker, and after speaking with her, he will speak to Ed Adanti of public works.

Hains Park Pavilion / Playscape

There was a discussion, and a decision was made to not purchase a pavilion for Hains Park at this time. One reason was that the money would be better used towards dredging in the future. It was decided that three picnic tables will be ordered and placed. One of the tables will be ADA compliant.

Sara van Vliet reported that the revised quote for the new playground at Hains Park is \$72,000, which includes installation. Commissioners were reminded to consider reinforced turf pathways to the playground area that qualify as ADA compliant.

It was noted that the new T-ball field is complete at Cross Lane Park. Thanks to the Little League volunteers for their hard work.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gretchen Gregg was welcomed as the new president of the OLRA.

ADJOURNMENT

Mary Ellen Garbarino moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM and Brendan McKeever seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

The next meeting of this Commission is scheduled for June 5, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Garbarino, Secretary