

**Haddam Park & Recreation Commission**  
**“Regular Scheduled” Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2020**  
**7:30 pm EDT**  
**Via GoToMeeting Teleconference**  
**MINUTES**  
***Approved as Printed at the June 11, 2020 Meeting***

In attendance: Chairman Jason Loneragan, Vice Chairman Jennifer O’Neal, Commissioner Daniel Belanger, Commissioner Peter Christopher, and Commissioner David Law - all commissioners are present

Staff in attendance: Barbara Galloway, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order  
Chairman Loneragan called the teleconference-Meeting to order on GoToMeeting at 7:33 PM.
2. Mucket Madness (August 2020) representative(s) present to discuss the plan with the commissioners  
Because the first Mucket Madness event, as well as many other planned town Summer events, had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the Mucket Madness representative was not present at this meeting.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 12, 2020 Regular Meeting  
**Commissioner Law made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O’Neal to approve as printed the March 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes. The Motion was approved unanimously.**
4. Facilities and Field Use Requests – discussion/approval  
Chairman Loneragan noted that the only field use request forms that had been received so far were from the Over 40 Men’s group and the Outlaws Baseball group. No requests were received from Haddam Little League and the Soccer teams (Chairman Loneragan said he would have filed the latter application). Chairman Loneragan said that some groups started out practicing early in the season, but they now must follow the Governor’s emergency declaration and local decrees local RE: Covid-19 restrictions. Chairman Loneragan stated that from his standpoint, due to the Town’s restrictions for activity on/in town-owned properties, there will be no field use organized activity form approvals for the foreseeable future. He plans to email all of the usual groups/users from the previous year to inform them that the fields will not be in official use until further notice, reflecting local, state and federal restrictions.  
  
The commissioners agreed that all of the fields, playgrounds, and courts should be checked to ensure that proper signage stating the property is either closed or will be used at the participant’s own risk has been displayed. Commissioner Christopher said he had seen signs in various conditions in a couple of sites he had visited recently.
5. General Review of current budget financial reports (04/2020)  
The commissioners reviewed the April 2020 financial reports that had been distributed earlier: “Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures – General Fund July 2019 to June 2020, dated 05/05/2020” and “Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures Capital Non-Recurring July 2019 to June 2020, dated 05/05/2020”. There were no comments or questions.

6. Unfinished Business

a. *Reports of/Discussion regarding servicing activities (inspections, repairs, renovations) initiated and/or completed at each town field site*

i. Haddam Elementary School property/Higganum Center

Apparently, the plan for a potential lease of the HES property by a private school has now fallen through due to the issues related to current Covid-19 restrictions. There have been no other new developments regarding either Haddam Elementary School or new activity in Higganum Center. Commissioner Law said that he has seen children using the courts at the former elementary school. Chairman Lonerger has contacted the playground inspection company and requested them to complete an inspection of the playground and courts at HES (as well as the playscape at Great Hills) and provide a report enumerating needed repairs/replacements. There is money in the commission's budget lines for these purposes. There was a brief discussion about the availability of using the HES building if the Covid-19 issues continue and more school space is required due to ongoing social spacing requirements at the schools.

ii. Great Hills Fields and Brickyard properties

Chairman Lonerger stated that it will be necessary to notify the property service providers from the contracted maintenance company that there will be very limited activity on the fields for the near future and they can therefore switch to minimal required care and general upkeep of the properties for the time being. Chairman Lonerger had already asked Langer to fill in the sinkhole on the soccer field for safety reasons and will ask the maintenance companies to make repairs where they see safety is an issue. Chairman Lonerger said he had not yet ordered the portable toilets to be delivered to the properties because of the drastically reduced fields usage, but there continues to be one at Great Hills from its use throughout the winter. Chairman Lonerger thinks the trash cans should now be put out since there is some casual use of the fields, and he will contact Pete's Waste Removal regarding monitoring the trash pickup schedule. Chairman Lonerger had noted that the playscape at Great Hills still needs to be inspected and any needed maintenance completed. As he had previously noted, contacted the company, but the inspections have not yet been completed. Vice Chairman O'Neal noted that there is broken equipment at and attention needed on the playscape. Chairman Lonerger stated that both the playground at HES and the Great Hills playscape will need to be repaired/replaced soon. He recalled there had been a fundraiser started for that purpose several years ago, but the funding had never been completed. Chairman Lonerger said he would try to reach the playground inspection company again to see when it plans to complete the inspection of the playscape and playground and its observations regarding the sites could be expected.

The discussion about making sure signs are displayed at the sites was repeated, and that the signs should read that the public is using the properties at their own risk during the Covid-19 restriction period.

The proposed walking trail improvement/extension was discussed. The commissioners agreed to do individual site walks of Great Hills and the existing walking path for further discussion at the next Meeting. Chairman Lonerger said he would take some site photos while there and then contact the Town Planner for further guidance and suggestions. An item would be added to the next Meeting Agenda to discuss the Great Hills walking path and updates on the needed repairs and planning for additional improvements to it.

The entrance at Brickyard has been redone by the town crew again and Commissioner Christopher reported that it looks good now. Commissioner Christopher reported that the work at the Brickyard continues. The backstop is now gone and some of the materials for its replacement are on the site. He also noted that the fencing has now completely been flipped. He said that when he gets the field maintenance company's contact information from Chairman Lonerger, he will

contact Chuck and meet him to map out the location of second base so the backstop can be properly centered. He also suggested signs be installed ordering no dogs and fire-lighting at the site. It appears someone had a fire near first base. Chairman Lonergan said that they should order new warnings and prohibitions signs for all properties.

a. *2020-2021 Budget Request Outcomes*

Chairman Lonergan reviewed with the commissioners the 2020-21 budget requests and approvals that the Board of Selectmen had earlier reported to him.

b. *2020-2021 Capital Planning Budget*

Chairman Lonergan reported not yet having been contacted regarding the outcomes of the commission's 2020-21 Capital Plan requests.

7. New Business

a. *Discussion/ any required Motions/Votes on New Business items*

No motions were made or votes taken on activities in New Business.

b. *Additions to the Commission ongoing list re: any new ideas for potential park-related and recreation-related activities*

Commissioner Law informed the commissioners that at the Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting the previous night, they had discussed some ideas for further development at the Higganum Cove. A kayak lodge is being considered and a survey of the area is planned at that site. There was a brief discussion about the existing walking path at the Higganum Cove, which Commissioner Christopher, having visited the site recently, noted was in good condition, although it could use minor cleanup and either hole-filling or installation of drainage measures where puddles develop after it rains. There is an existing parking area surfaced with gravel on the site.

Chairman Lonergan said that he would like to contact EDC Chairman Kate Anderson to see if this commission can assist EDC with the Higganum Cove and other town-site planning and offer its input. Commissioner Law, who is also a member of the Economic Development Commission, offered to act as a liaison between the two boards. Commissioner Law informed the commissioners that the EDC reported at its meeting that there had been some unexpected graffiti damage on the bridge and more oversight of the area would be attempted.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence received or presented for commission review.

9. Adjournment

**Vice Chairman O'Neal made the Motion seconded by Commissioner Law to adjourn the video meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara D. Galloway  
Recording Secretary