

**TOWN OF GRANBY
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MEETING
Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

Members Present: Anthony McGovern, Greg Dion, Jennifer Bilodeau, Sheri Litchfield, Francis Armentano, Jared Barry, and Valerie Eastwood

Staff Present: Sandra Yost and Terri Ziemnicki

Absent: None

Public: A few members of the Community were present

Chairman McGovern called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of April and May meetings deferred to the next meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION: Presentation and Update from GZA on Parks Master Plan Study

Chairman McGovern gave an opening statement and introduced Dan Shaw, representative from GZA, Springfield, MA.

Mr. Shaw gave a brief recap of the last meeting for the people that may not have been in attendance. The items that have been completed to date:

- Site Analysis
- Stakeholder Interviews (Recreation, Little League, Rovers, LAX, etc)
- Public Engagement (survey)
 - The survey has open for 27 days and received 619 responses
- Master Plan Intro at the last meeting

Mr. Shaw review the survey question results with the group and shared the Master Plan (drafts). These plans to be used as a road map for improvements/additions.

M. Delaney asked if they (GZA) are aware that the dog park area floods as well. Mr. Shaw said they are.

G. Dion asked that if the baseball fields are reoriented, if scoreboards could be added to fields 3 and 5.

Director Yost announced to the group present that the Town received a STEAP Grant to improve the Route 20 park access path and connect it to the new walking path.

V. Eastwood brought up the issue raised at the last meeting about the services trucks being parked overnight in the Route 20 lot as well as the fact it is being utilized as a Commuter Parking lot. D. Shinder stated that the overnight parking issue had been addressed and that there were only a handful of cars that utilized the lot for commuting.

D. Collins (Granby Youth Football) inquired about the possibility of adding lights to the fields, including the football field at Ahrens.

Chairman McGovern reminded the group that this is a big picture – no fine details yet.

G. Dion stated the Granbeast Little League's goal is to have a couple of fields with lights.

M. Delaney stated that she is concerned about lights being installed at the park – as a neighbor of the park, she thinks the neighbors should be considered.

A community member said that if pickleball courts were placed down by the dog park, it would cause a parking nightmare.

M. Delaney thinks that any new elements should be installed at Ahrens Park.

Director Yost reminded the group that the plans are conceptual and that selected projects wouldn't happen all at once but over many years.

Public Session concluded at 7:20pm

NEW BUSINESS:

Bearcats Football – modified field request

D. Collins – Bearcats Football President and also a Granby resident gave an overview of the organization. Includes participants from Granby, East Granby, Suffield, and Windsor Locks. Open to youth in grades K-8.

He stated that they usually utilize the lighted football field in Suffield but it's currently unavailable due to renovations. They are seeking permission to utilize portable lighting during the months that it gets dark early (October/November). The lights would be on the football field only, not the LAX fields out front. They would alternate nights between football and cheer.

Chairman McGovern said the Park and Rec Board's role in this would be to put forward their recommendations to the Board of Selectman. He stated that Town Manager Walsh had asked the Board to be involved in this initial step.

F. Armentano stated he has no concerns regarding the lights on the field, however, safety is a concern regarding the parking lot where it is not lighted.

G. Dion said he shares F. Armentano's views.

J. Bilodeau agrees with both F. Armentano and G. Dion.

Chairman McGovern endorses light use.

ON A MOTION by Chairman McGovern, seconded by J. Bilodeau, the Parks and Recreation Board supports Bearcats Football request for lighting structures for the 2025 season. The Board recognizes the need for additional lighting to address parking lot safety concerns and will submit its recommendations to the Board of Selectman for further consideration. (7-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by G. Dion, seconded by F. Armentano, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daphne Shinder".

Daphne Shinder
Recording Secretary