

TOWN OF NEW LONDON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2020

PRESENT: Justin Garzia, Pete Hamel, Carol Kinzer (via Zoom), Lyndsay Harkins (via Zoom), Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

Kim reviewed RSA 91-A, explaining that the business of the Rec Commission must be conducted in public with a minimum notice of 24 hours. The Commission may meet anywhere in New London, but the meeting must be open to the public and noticed. Individual members may take on delegated assignments, but in the event a subcommittee is established, the subcommittee must follow the same sunshine rules as the Commission as a whole. Kim also advised us to stay away from conducting Commission business over email.

Justin reviewed a list of questions that have been posed, including recommendations on future hiring, recreation planning and other responsibilities of the Rec Department, thoughts on a combined position with the Outing Club, the course of action moving forward, and the time commitment of each responsibility broken down by month.

On the last question, we agreed we cannot answer without more clarity on the future structure of the department.

Likewise, we do not feel we can comment on the Outing Club proposal without more detail on programming and costs and benefits to New London, as well as a fuller discussion with the OC.

We also need data on Rec Dept program participation broken down by NL and non-NL residents. However, the point was made that opening New London programs to non-residents has been beneficial in providing critical mass.

Regarding the budget, most of the variable costs of the program are self-supporting and we will still need all of the administrative, waterfront management, salary and benefits line items to be funded, thus implying a relatively flat budget unless savings may be made on salary level for the Director. One additional line item proposed is the hiring of someone to manage the ice rink this winter.

Next Steps:

- Rec Commission meeting with the Outing Club – Justin to arrange
- Outreach to COA (Carol), Center for the Arts (Lyndsay), and Chamber of Commerce (Lyndsay) to request feedback on their relationships with the Rec Department.
- Meeting with SAU to discuss future space options – Justin.