



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES October 5, 2021 5:30 PM

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Justin Garzia – via Zoom  
Jackie Christensen  
Chris Lorio  
Kim Pruett-Ilg – via Zoom  
Gregory Partham

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Putnam Kidder, New London Recreation Director

### **Fall/Winter Events**

#### **Halloween**

Putnam Kidder reported that he spoke with Police Chief Emily Cobb, and she suggested setting the time for trick or treating on Main Street from 4-6pm on Sunday, October 31. The Commission asked if it would be possible to add an hour and have it from 4-7 or bump it to 5-7pm. Main Street will be closed during this time for safety reasons. Chris Lorio stated once we get this finalized, we should advertise the information, so the public is aware. Chair Garzia suggested putting the information in the Shopper.

Chair Garzia asked if the Recreation Commission should hire a social media person to build a Facebook page and maintain it. This is where they could post upcoming events and disseminate information. They could use funds from the Recreation fund or marketing. Mr. Kidder felt this would help kick start the process and then he could figure it out from there. Chair Garzia proposed spending money on this as Mr. Kidder should not be spending his time doing this.

It was suggested that if needed, the activity fund could be used to purchase candy to hand out. There is a line item in the budget for special events so this would qualify. The candy drive has been successful in the past, but we shouldn't have to rely solely on that. We should not hold back and skimp on candy.

Mr. Kidder asked for ideas for the Recreation Department and the pumpkin people contest. The hope is to get this more widespread and out into Warner, Springfield and Wilmot. Residents are also encouraged to participate, not just businesses.

#### **Jack Frost**

Mr. Kidder discussed the Jack Frost event and stated the Recreation Commission needs to think about what this is going to look like this year. He has seen many different iterations of this done over the years. Restaurants and staffing issues could possibly be a problem this year. There is also a lot of effort and time put into this event but if the weather isn't just right it could present a challenge.

There was a suggestion about doing a Jack Frost food truck event with live music. Chair Garzia felt that at a minimum we should start thinking about winter carnival week and starting to plan things around that. In the past they have done a broom hockey tournament, snow shoeing, ice carving etc. Mr. Kidder will start gathering information and ideas and if anyone has any ideas send them to him. Chair Garzia would like to set a date for winter carnival week by next month.

### **Winter Activities**

**Ice Rink** – For the ice rink on the main green, Putnam Kidder should reach out to Public Works Director Bob Harrington as he knows the best time to put it up.

The Outing Club is in the process of finalizing plans for a request for a hockey rink at Woodard Park. Chair Garzia has not seen the proposal but thinks it is approximately \$15,000 but this does not include plowing the rink.

**Morris Trail Grooming** – Chair Garzia asked Chris Lorio if he felt the Morris trail was liked by the community. Mr. Lorio responded he enjoys using the trail but doesn't know how many other people use it. He suspect's college kids probably use the trail. Chair Garzia noted it would be worth reaching out to Colby Sawyer to see if they will allow the Recreation department to keep the snowmobile there and he would be happy to groom the trail when it snows.

### **FY 2023 Budget**

Chair Garzia stated he shared the final budget with the Recreation Commission. There was some confusion with the Outing Club since that line item was set at \$0. Chair Garzia stated the confusion was that the Outing Club thought that there are no funds available to request but there are funds that can be requested from the activity fund. Chair Garzia does not think any requests the Outing Club wants for money as a non-profit should be going through the Recreation Department. If they want money, they should be requesting it from the town. The Recreation Commission will present their budget at the joint Board of Selectmen/Budget Committee meeting on November 8, 2021.

### **Adjourn**

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Justin Garzia) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary  
Town of New London