



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES November 2, 2021 5:30 PM

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Justin Garzia – via phone, 5:30-6 PM  
Jackie Christensen  
Chris Lorio  
Kim Pruett-Ilg

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Putnam Kidder, New London Recreation Director  
Peter Smith, Outing Club President, via phone, 5:30-6 PM

### **NL Rec/OC Collaboration: Hockey Rink at Woodward Park**

- Pete Smith dialed in to discuss the Hockey Rink funding proposal he shared with Justin.
- Location would be the first soccer field on the left side of Woodward (where Kinder Soccer is currently played.) Would not be a full-size rink.
- Idea is that this set up is optimal for "pond hockey" (knee high boards) and would be an ideal activity for tweens, teens and hockey loving adults. No current plans for organized team usage. Although, it would be interesting for the OC to consider additional winter programming on or around the ice (snowshoe, learn to skate, etc).
- Depending on popularity may end up having sign up form available for organized pick-up game times.
- There was discussion around:
  - Whether there would be lighting for nighttime hockey.
    - One thought that surfaced is to *not* invest in lighting the rink in year 1. Not only to save on costs but also to avoid challenges around having to monitor activities at rink after dark. Also, would avoid any challenges with abutters who are concerned with light pollution.
  - Would the skating rink on the Green be designated for recreational skating only and the Woodward rink be for hockey only?
    - Maybe something to consider in the future. However, in year 1 we would continue to allow hockey on the Green and recreational skaters could certainly use the Woodward rink. Get a proof of concept and then re-evaluate having more explicit usage guidelines.
  - What are the estimated future costs beyond the initial \$24,400 and which organization would be responsible for them?
    - Pete didn't have a specific estimate. He mentioned that he's discussed plowing with Pillsbury. It seems this would need to be analyzed a bit more before submitting the request to the Selectmen.

- What are the security considerations?
  - The OC has had occasional challenges with vandalism on the Tennis Courts as well as afterhours trespassers. There is continued discussion around adding security cameras as well as closing the gate to prevent vehicles from entering after hours.
- **Next Steps/Action Items**
  - **Pete** is going to discuss further with the OC board to get a sense of whether the timeline is truly to get something set up for Winter 2021/2022 OR if they want to use another year to plan and let their new Director get settled into existing responsibilities before adding this to his plate. He will follow up with Justin by Friday.
  - **Putnam** will follow up with Pete on any insight he can provide on signage/liability concerns. Basically, how do we ensure those using the rink are clear they are skating at their own risk and neither organization will be responsible for injury, etc.
  - **Putnam** will also consult with Kim on any other questions she anticipates will come back from the Selectmen if/when the OC submits this funding proposal.

#### **Joint Board of Selectmen/Budget Committee Meeting**

- NL Rec is scheduled to present our budget at the joint meeting on **Monday, November 8th at 6:30pm**
- **Kim and Putnam** will present. **Chris** will be there to add color commentary.
- Would also be great if **Sheri** could attend as our crossover OC Board member.
- Will likely be asked questions around how the collaboration with the OC is going as well as other plans for using our resources to enrich the community.

#### **Halloween Recap**

- Halloween on Main Street was a success!
- NL Rec was supportive of both residents and businesses by distributing donated candy as well as candy we purchased using the revolving fund (\$220).
- Putnam also was present and gave out NL Rec swag.
- There was discussion around
  - Getting Halloween on the calendar and the NLPD radar in the summer. See if we can get the NLPD on board with Saturday night trick or treating and extending how long the street is shut down.
  - Add more activities around Halloween such as:
    - Haunted Walk (collaboration with Colby-Sawyer Players)
    - Dance Party at OC Gym (collaboration with OC).

#### **Winter Carnival/Jack Frost Planning**

- Putnam and Ashlee Rowley (Executive Director of Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce) had a brainstorming meeting regarding activities around the holidays/winter.
  - Chamber wants to offer a Shop Local incentive again this year. Previous years they've done punch cards that could get submitted for raffle drawings after spending x dollars in local stores.
  - Chamber also wants to have a night where Santa arrives to town on a Firetruck. Possible date is 12/11.

- Other ideas that were floated included
  - Main Street restaurants participating in some sort of "in house" Jack Frost dinner. Where people can purchase a ticket and then stroll Main Street and enjoy small bites, etc at participating locations. Idea would be to lighten the burden of having to set up in the middle of a frozen field. One drawback is this excludes other area restaurants that may want to participate.
  - Hosting a Movie Night for kids/families
  - Fireworks/Smores
  - Collaborating with COA and/or Tracy Library to offer something for our older folks.
  - Broom Ball/Dodge Ball/Kickball tournaments

**New NL Rec Commissioner**

- We did not have a quorum and therefore were unable to vote to recommend Tara Stone be added to NL Rec.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Christensen  
Rec. Commission Member

Putnam Kidder  
Recreation Director  
Town of New London