



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES November 3, 2022 Whipple Hall 5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tara Stone
Greg Parthum
Jackie Christensen (Chair)

No quorum, so no motions/votes were taken, and minutes were not accepted from previous meetings.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Putnam Kidder, Recreation Director
Russell Moore, New London Bike/Walk Coalition

The meeting started at 5:31 PM

In Person Presentation:

Russell Moore, presented update to Commission about Bike Rack Replacement Project, racks at Elkins and Bucklin beaches. There were not funds available in this year's budget cycle. The hope is to return to the Selectmen in March with proposal and inquire about funding and a request has been made for the project in FY2024. Request was for \$10,000. NLBWC has funds already from a grant to put towards the project or other bike rack options. There were also options of other funding sources for the racks discussed sponsorship from local businesses or other grants. Recreation Commission is supportive of this project and the positive impacts it will have on recreational opportunities. RM also updated Commission on proposed Downtown Bike Loop in New London. This project is in the formative stages at this point and the hope is to hire an engineer to do a study of the feasibility of the project. There is a map with possible route options that RM will share with Comm.

Rec. Director Report:

Director had a productive meeting COA (Council on Aging) directors about working together to offer programs in the future. This was something that had been in place pre Covid and the hope revamped programs and events, utilizing Whipple Hall, Rec. Van, or other options.

Flag Football report. 16 coed participants on the Green after school for 5 Mondays. We brought in money from the fees and had happy participants and parents. Highlights the desire for quality programming in the hours after school for elementary-aged kids.

Holiday options were discussed moving into December. There will be the Santa via Fire Truck event on the Green Sunday 12/18 3:30PM-5PM. Option to look at putting on an evening or weekend morning program in Whipple for ornament making for families, holiday themed movie in Whipple, or other possible options.

Halloween Wrap Up- Very large turn-out of folks from all over (Chichester, New Hampton, Lebanon, were some of the places), estimates of 2,000-2,500 more? Overall, very positive, weather

was perfect, and people seemed happy. Chief Cobb had to extend Main Street closure from Main/Pleasant to Main/Seamans at 4:30 on the night of the event, large numbers of people were crossing the road and safest choice was to extend closure. Candy drive was very successful. Story telling event was not well attended, but seems to be a great fit for the holiday and look at ways to incorporate it next year on a different day, during Trick or Treating event? There were several community volunteers who helped with putting up “No Parking” signs and then with traffic support on the night of the event. Looking ahead to next year and learning from this year and ideas to make it safer and more organized, move time back 5-7 PM instead of 4-6 PM? More volunteers, possibly year-round group that could oversee events. Bring back the Haunted Trail on trails behind SAU, collaborate with the Barn Players/CSC on that? Director had a follow up meeting with NLFD Chief and NLPD Chief to assess the event from their perspectives and look at options for next year.

The hiring process for Full-Time Director continues, Putnam interviewed this week along with other candidates, and a decision will be made soon.

Director reviewed recent budget presentation to Selectmen. The next step will be to review it with Budget Committee. Biggest changes were made in adding to the Staff wages and training (in-service trainings and certification reimbursement for Guards). See Budget for more details.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday Dec. 1st 5:30 PM at Whipple Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Putnam Kidder
Recreation Director
Town of New London