

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
December 5, 2018

PRESENT: Joy Kubit, Carol Kinzler, Justin Garzia, Janet Kidder and Scott Blewitt,
Recreation Director

The Minutes of November 7, 2018 were approved.

There was a brief discussion of the recent budget presentation.

The skating rink will be installed Thursday, December 6. However, the ground is still not frozen, which presents problems. It was noted that when the ice is cleared with the snow blower, it is sometimes blown onto the adjacent sidewalk. Also, when the Town clears the sidewalk, snow, etc. is blown onto the rink. The mixture of salt and sand put down on the sidewalk can cause the ice to melt. These are problems keeping the sidewalk and ice in good condition.

Regarding the Buker Building for a Community Center, it was noted until the police department is relocated, there is no point in discussing the possibilities for the use of the building.

It was decided to request a donation for skate and snowshoe rentals (\$1.00) and to request name, address and telephone number. Also, there will be a plaque placed in the warming hut thanking the owners of Village Sports for the donation of the skates and snow shoes (approximate value is \$5,000.00).

Scott is working with Colby-Sawyer College about using the Morris Trail for cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and hiking. The college has requested that the Town provide an insurance umbrella for liability. Town Administrator Kim Hallquist is checking into this. Scott would use the snow mobile to keep the trail packed down, and the college has indicated that it could be kept near the trail. It was suggested getting a game camera to record how many times the trail is being used.

The Recreation Department is running an after school program, entitled "Mystery Mondays". It is one day a week, for 12 students that offers hiking, sledding and

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outdoor activities. There is a definite need for more after school programs, but staffing is a problem.

Future activities include a Bruins Game (Newport and Claremont are participating to lower the cost of transportation, etc.); Christmas event with a coloring contest; and since Santa will be at Mascoma Bank, it was decided he did not have to appear at another location.

There will be children's programs on Thursday and Friday during the Christmas week vacation, and the entire week of vacation in February.

Scott has been working with CSC on Winter Carnival. Scott noted it is a pleasure to work with college staff. There will be the Jack Frost dinner; S'mores party; Fireworks; Ice Castle Trip, etc. from February 7 to the 9th.

The Board will review the By-Laws in January. Two areas to focus on are attendance at meetings and budget preparation.

Justin was elected chairman.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 6 at 10:00 am at the Buker Building.

The meeting concluded at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet R. Kidder