

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018
4:30 pm

PRESENT: Carol Kinzler, Laura Lorio, Justin Garzia, Lori Lavolpicelo, Janet Kidder and Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director

The Minutes of January 2, 2018 were accepted.

Scott reported on the variety of trips that took place during vacation week. Including a movie at the I-Max Theater in Hooksett; the Montshire Museum; Cowabungas in Concord; the Bounce House in Hooksett and swimming at the Claremont Community Center. Ashley Rowley and Kaylee Hays worked with Scott during the week.

Scott reviewed previous and future trips for seniors. One lunch trip with COA members was to Bubba's in Newbury, and, another COA lunch trip is planned for Tilton. Also, trips to the Boston Flower Show and Foster's Clam Bake. A Boston Red Sox trip, available to the residents from the towns of Claremont, Sunapee, Newport and New London (a coach bus will be rented and the towns will share the cost). There will be multiple pick-up sites for the four towns.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 31st (9:30 am) at the New London Historical Society, and, Scott has three CSC interns helping, as well as a number of volunteers. There is a coloring contest in conjunction with this event.

Among the programs being offered this spring and summer are swimming, sailing, day camps, track and field for 8-14 years olds (a version of the Hershey Track and Field program) at CSC track; acting camp (no conflict with any programs put on by the Barn Playhouse) and a farming course offered by Greg Berger of Springledge Farm.

Touch a truck will be at the shopping center on May 5, 10-12am. This is an event sponsored by Clarke's Hardware.

Free Hot Dog Day at the town offices on May 18th from 11:00 – 1:00 (donations appreciated).

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The Strawberry Festival will be on June 23. There are already 15 vendors signed up. Plus, the UNH Traveling Theater will perform at noon. The celebration for the Whipple Town Hall Centennial will take place from 3-5:00 on the 23rd as well.

Hospital Days are August 2nd to the 5th, with the Triathlon on Sunday.

In old business, it was noted that the Winter Carnival at CSC was well attended despite the weather being very cold. The college did offer babysitting, but no one used that service. Next year it will be held the second week in February. Lori recommended it would be nice to have some activities on the common and skating rink.

Regarding the skating rink. Justin noted that the ground must be frozen before the liner is put down. It takes about a month for the ground to freeze. This season it was put down too soon, and it was hard getting the posts to stand up and the ice to become smooth. Also, the town's new snow blower throws the sidewalk snow with salt in it onto the rink, which is a problem. In the past, salt on the bottoms of people's shoes have also caused problems on the ice. Justin mentioned that Jim Buchan has volunteered to help with maintaining the ice. He has done a great job. Justin and Scott have also spent a lot of time keeping the ice ready for skating.

Discussion followed regarding beach staff, and the need to have adequate staff at both beaches to maintain safety. Scott has been successful in hiring, and noted that a number of staff are returning.

Justin commented that more programs need to be offered for teenagers. Maybe this could be a project for CSC students to organize and run (rock climbing, movie nights, etc.). Justin noted that more teenagers would attend events if college students were in charge, rather than parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet R. Kidder