



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2022

Whipple Hall

5:30 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jackie Christensen (Chair)

Chris Lorio (Vice Chair)

Greg Parthum

Tara Stone

Scott Fitzgerald

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Putnam Kidder, Town of New London Recreation Director

5:30- 6 PM Outing Club (OC) representatives, Peter Smith (President), Drew Drummond, Ben Crowell (Corbin Crowell, son of Ben OC baseball player)

**IT WAS MOVED by Jackie Christensen AND SECONDED by Tara Stone to start meeting  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IT WAS MOVED by Jackie Christensen AND SECONDED by Tara Stone to accept Minutes  
from 3/17/22 Rec. Commission Meeting THE MOTION WAS APPROVED  
UNANIMOUSLY.**

\*Proposal by OC representatives in regard to asking for financial support from NL Recreation budget for Spring Sports Equipment and Field Maintenance costs. Reps. Shared a breakdown of potential costs for proposals. Spring sports numbers are strong this season for baseball, lacrosse, and track and field. The first proposal was to purchase a wide variety of Spring sports equipment for a total of \$15,848 (this total could increase as a small portable generator could be added to the overall list). The second request was for field maintenance costs, mainly focused on baseball fields. This proposal was broken up into multiple phases that were presented, but not asked for at this time. The second request was focusing on an estimated cost of \$10,100 for the first phase of the project. *See attached documents outlining specifics of proposals.* Reps. And Commission members discussed the need for this financial support to help with the growth and efficacy of the OC Spring sports programs. The OC has a long history of providing quality recreational programming to the Town and the community as a whole. The Commission was in favor of both proposals and the opportunity to have OC reps. bring them the next Selectmen's meeting Thursday 4/14/22. It was discussed that the Selectmen would have additional clarifying questions about proposals. How much the OC was going to put towards the requests, how many of the Spring sports participants are from New London, if the OC had approached other regional Towns for financial support, and possible other questions. The Commission discussed the proposal and that it could be provided and would not deplete Recreation funds so as to limit meeting other program needs. The OC had made a request and was given \$40,000 from Town Rec. Budget last Spring/Summer to support Summer Camp costs and help hire an Executive Director (\$ was part of salary). The concept of ongoing collaboration between the Rec. Department and OC on a skating rink located at Woodward Park for next Winter was discussed and will be continued to be looked at as to whether it is feasible or not.

**IT WAS MOVED by Scott Fitzgerald AND SECONDED by Chris Lorio to accept proposal of \$15,848 + for OC Spring Sports Equipment to be brought to Selectmen for further discussion and possible approval at 4/17 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IT WAS MOVED by Scott Fitzgerald AND SECONDED by Chris Lorio to accept proposal of \$10,100 for OC Field Maintenance plan to be brought to Selectmen for further discussion and possible approval at 4/17 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

\*Commission reviewed current terms of members and identifying roles of current members. On the Town website there is the need to fix dates to reflect correct term dates for several members. Justin Garzia has agreed to another 3-year term which he committed to last meeting. Jackie Christensen will remain Chair and Chris Lorio will be Vice Chair.

**IT WAS MOVED by Chris Lorio AND SECONDED by Greg Parthum to have Jackie Christensen be Chair. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IT WAS MOVED by Jackie Christensen AND SECONDED by Tara Stone to have Chris Lorio be Vice Chair. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

\*Rec. Director reported on:

Annual Easter Town event to be held on Saturday 4/16 on the Town Green from 9-11 am. There seems to be excitement about this annual event returning after being cancelled the last couple of years due to the pandemic.

Ongoing preparation for summer staffing. Some returning staff have committed and advertisements and other social media are being used to get more staff. The Commission discussed the need to offer competitive wages for staff, due to staffing shortages in the region. Director will follow up with Town Administrator on wages. The plan is for the Town to offer swim lessons at both beaches like in past (pre-Covid) Summers, based on staffing availability. There have already been several qualified applicants that Rec. Director is reaching out to. Rec. Director and Commission spoke about the impact of increased wages for staff and that with swim lessons added the expenditures for this Summer will be increased significantly from last Summer.

**IT WAS MOVED Tara Stone by AND SECONDED by Jackie Christensen to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5/5/22 at 5:30 at Whipple Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Putnam Kidder  
Recreation Director  
Town of New London