

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 4, 2020

PRESENT: Justin Garzia, Chairman, Carol Kinzler, Lyndsay Harkins, Pete Hamel, Joy Kubit, Janet Kidder and Scott Blewitt

The Commission met via Zoom due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Justin called the meeting to order and Janet read the Governor's instructions for the Right to Know Law Meeting electronically.

Scott noted that even though the Easter Egg Hunt had been cancelled. He delivered Easter Eggs to 125 children. It proved very popular and welcome.

Track and Field as well as Yoga classes have been cancelled. Scott is looking into virtual programs.

Scott reported that he has 35-40 vendors lined up for the Strawberry Festival, also entertainment. The Festival is to take place June 20. A decision will have to be made at least 4 weeks prior to the event on whether to host it. It certainly won't take place in the traditional format, but logistics will have to be worked out. Greg Berger only needs a reasonable amount of time to secure the strawberries. Scott will not do the usual advertising for this event, but wait to see if it is held. All the vendors and the entertainment realize that this event might be cancelled.

There followed a lengthy discussion about use of the beaches. The following issues were discussed:

Opening the beaches, if yes, what date

Opening the bathrooms, and how to keep them clean

Allowing use of the playground equipment

If the beaches are open, will there be lifeguards

The feasibility of moving the docks off the beaches

How is social distancing achieved at the beaches

Keeping the picnic tables cleaned

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Swimming lessons
Sailing lessons
Use of the paddle boards

Also, what types of activities will be offered to campers. The concerns outlined were for the health and safety not only of the public, but also of the staff.

Depending upon the decisions that are made, more signage will be needed outlining the use of everything at the beaches.

Scott will develop a policy for staff to have safe interactions with the public.

It was agreed for Scott to order 8 picnic tables (they are of a composite material and are easier to clean) for the beaches. The \$5500.00 will be taken from the Revolving Fund. The Fund has over \$35,000.00 as of April 30, 2020. Scott is not taking deposits until he knows there will be programs.

Matt has built to life guard chairs, one for each beach.

It was decided to wait on purchasing a new chase boat and snowmobile until we know what the economic situation looks like for the town.

The next meeting will be May 18, 11:00 am via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet R. Kidder