



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2022  
Whipple Hall  
5:30 PM

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Jackie Christensen (Chair)**

**Justin Garzia**

**Greg Parthum**

**Kim Ilg**

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Putnam Kidder, Town of New London Recreation Director

**IT WAS MOVED by Kim Ilg AND SECONDED by Justin Garzia to start the meeting THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IT WAS MOVED by Justin Garzia AND SECONDED by Greg Parthum to accept Minutes from Rec. Commission Meeting 5-19-22 THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Proposal by New London Rotary Club to get funds from the Recreation Activity Fund to support their upcoming Family Fun Festival Sunday July 2, 12-4 on the Town Green. The Rotary is asking for \$6,300. There was a detailed outline of the proposal and the use of funds that the Commission reviewed. A similar proposal was made last Summer, but the event did not occur due to Covid. The Commission was in favor of the event and feels that it will provide the community with a much-needed event to come together. The Commission felt that supporting this event would be a good use of the Rec. Activity Fund. Commission did have some clarifying questions about where the money raised by the event was going and those and other questions could be raised by Selectmen when the proposal goes before them for a final decision. The Rec. Director will also be helping with this event and offering games and other family activities during the event.

**IT WAS MOVED by Kim Ilg AND SECONDED by Jackie Christensen to support the Rotary Club proposal and pass it on to the Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commission reviewed invitation for Rec. Director and Rec. Commission Chair to attend Citizen's Committee meeting Saturday 6/4 at 7:30 AM. The group also invited Outing Club President. The Commission discussed the opportunity to share with the group more about what the Rec. Department has done so far this year and ongoing efforts to collaborate with and improve communication with OC. Commission Chair had prepared a brief written outline of the Rec. Department's new mission and our events so far this year and our collaboration with OC and outlining Town financial contributions to OC.

**Rec. Director reported on:**

- Summer update. We have a solid number of staff hired, we can use more guards and possibly attendants, but we have enough for the time being. We are moving ahead with swim lessons that will occur in July. There was a big interest in having these back and it is a positive to be able to offer this to the community again. Director continues to look at ways to offer all services safely, but also keep an eye on ways we can reduce staff wage costs. The swim lesson costs will be removed from the general budget and taken out of Rec. Revolving Fund as it is a program that the Town charges a fee for. The Director proposed possible reallocation of staff to help reduce costs as well as look at no guards or attendants on Mondays.
- Director shared recent email from resident about concerns at Bucklin Beach. The Rec. Director will follow up about those concerns and address them as possible. The concerns bring up some good points that the Commission and Rec. Director will continue to address. The importance of community feedback is very important as is Commission and Rec. Director, hearing those concerns and taking them into consideration to best offer programs and develop policies.
- Van usage proposal by Dance Arts Academy in Sunapee that was discussed at previous meeting was updated. A letter outlining the proposal is being drafted by Ashley Rowley (DAA representative) with all necessary details to present to Selectmen for further discussion at their next meeting, June 9th at 6 PM.
- Commission continued to discuss the proposal to look at making part-time Rec. Director position full time. Rec. Director will develop presentation outlining the benefits of that change that the Commission will review at the next meeting and then plan to present proposal to Selectmen at July meeting. The full-time proposal needs to show how the change would help Rec. Dept/Rec. Commission meet proposed mission goals and is financially prudent. The Director feels that there is a very solid case to make this change and discussed some of the limitations of the position being part time. Commission Chair and another member were planning on following up with Town Administrator about details related to the proposal.

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

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM**

**The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM Thursday July 7th at Whipple Hall**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Putnam Kidder  
Recreation Director  
Town of New London**