



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES July 14, 2021 5:30 PM Whipple Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Justin Garzia
Jackie Christensen
Lyndsay Harkins
Sheri Cote
Chris Lorio
Kim Pruett-Ilg

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Putnam Kidder, New London Beach Director

Waterfront

Chair Garzia asked the Recreation Commission members if they had a chance to review the information provided by Sheri Cote with regards to the beach survey. Chair Garzia felt that collecting this data was very helpful and thanked Ms. Cote for her work on this.

Information was gathered from surveying 48 residents and 2 non-residents at Elkins Beach on Sunday July 11, 2021.

People were asked their thoughts on checking ID's at the beaches and if they liked the idea of having a beach ambassador at the lake.

- 100% of people surveyed thought their New London transfer sticker was their pass to the beach and parking.
- 36% of people surveyed were very much for an ambassador at the gate checking ID's upon arrival.
- 64% of people surveyed were not for an ambassador at the gate checking ID's.

Jackie Christensen commented that having this data helps to back up the recommendation of the Recreation Commission.

The Recreation Commission is recommending the following to enforce the New London residence requirement for Bucklin and Elkins usage:

- The primary responsibility of the Beach attendants will be to focus on managing water sports equipment.
- Enforcement for beach use will continue to be done via signage as well as the existing parking stickers and guest passes.

- Water sports equipment should only be lent out to residents and ID's will be checked as part of the liability acceptance process.
- Capacity restrictions are no longer required.
- Some New London residents are displeased when they believe the beach is being utilized by non-residents. The Recreation Commission does not think that overcrowding is enough of a problem to warrant enforcement of a policy that is difficult to sustain and creates a negative environment.
- If overcrowding becomes an issue in the future, the recommendation would be to add additional paid staff whose main responsibility is beach use enforcement.

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Harkins) AND SECONDED (Kim Pruett-Ilg) to approve the recommendation as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated we have the ID machine if people still request and want a New London issued ID.

The Recreation Commission will be on the next Board of Selectmen's agenda on July 26, 2021 to provide an update on their beach usage requirement recommendation. Ms. Hallquist suggested Recreation Commission members attend the meeting as there is also a proposal for a Dog Beach Day on the agenda. This would be held after Labor Day and is a fundraiser. The Selectmen may want the Recreation Commission to weigh in on this.

Next Meeting – The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 5:30pm.

IT WAS MOVED (Justin Garzia) AND SECONDED (Lyndsay Harkins) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary
Town of New London