



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES July 6, 2021 5:30 PM Whipple Town Hall

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Justin Garzia, Chairman  
Jackie Christensen  
Lyndsay Harkins  
Chris Lorio  
Kim Pruett-Ilg

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sheri Cote, Gregory Partham

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator, New London Beach Director, Putnam Kidder, Jerry Coogan

### **Food Truck Festival Proposal**

Jerry Coogan is a member of New London Rotary Club and would like to discuss putting on a food truck festival this year as it was very well received in the past. Mr. Coogan has teamed up this year with Ashley Rowell of the Lake Sunapee region Chamber of Commerce to help with registration, marketing/social media, advertising etc. Mr. Coogan would like to hold this event on September 26, 2021, and would like to request that the Recreation Commission help offset some of the costs (tent, porta potty).

Justin Garzia asked if this was a fund-raising event and Mr. Coogan replied yes, it is a fundraiser for the New London Rotary Charitable Foundation. Funds raised go towards scholarships, literacy and gifts to non-profit groups in the Kearsarge area. The decision to allocate funds for this would come from the Board of Selectmen but they would want to know if the Recreation Commission is in support of it. Lyndsay Harkins feels this is an appropriate request but would like to get a breakdown of what the estimated costs will be. Mr. Coogan noted that he would come back with additional information as the plans for the event progressed.

### **Waterfront**

Beach Director Putnam Kidder reported the beach is staffed five days a week (Wednesday–Sunday) with lifeguards and beach attendants. Chris Lorio asked if we've had issues with high numbers of people at the beach this year. Mr. Putnam stated the issue is more about parking, especially at Elkins Beach.

Jackie Christensen stated only three people signed up to volunteer for the waterfront ambassador program. Ms. Christensen is questioning whether they can uphold and enforce their policies this summer and if not, is it sustainable for future summers? Chris Lorio stated it is already the first week of July and there haven't been any issues with beach capacity or parking. Lyndsay Harkins agrees and stated we need to use the resources we have and they are completely limited. We can make the policy known but can only enforce it when we have the appropriate staff.

Ms. Christensen asked if they should let the Selectmen know they aren't going to physically check ID's and the plan for enforcement is to put up a sign that states New London residents ID's required and they will lean on the old way of using the parking pass to control parking. We aren't asking the beach attendants to check IDs like they did last year and not putting adult ambassadors there. Justin Garzia stated this is inconsistent with what was decided a few months ago which was to enforce the ordinance.

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated that parking is always an issue; the last few years the Police Department hired a person to patrol beach parking an issue tickets for non-permitted vehicles. New London residents were happy that the beaches last year were not crowded with people from other towns because ID's were being checked and only New London residents and guests were allowed due to the COVID reduced numbers allowed on the beach. She stressed that at this time, we don't have the staff this year to consistently enforce this as well as check out beach equipment like paddleboards and sailboats. Justin Garzia asked why it needs to be consistent. Fish and Game does not check a license for every person that is fishing but people know they could be randomly asked and fined without one. Ms. Hallquist stated inconsistency raises the level of people getting upset and complaining that staff are not doing their jobs. She noted that she does not want staff to quit because they are given a hard time for enforcing or not enforcing. Justin Garzia suggested having a sign in sheet at the gate. If there is an attendant there, they can ask for an ID. If asked and the person has no ID, they can sign in with their name and address, and be let into the beach – people will not be turned away if they say they are a New London resident or taxpayer. Chris Lorio suggested enforcing by several small things that may deter people such as having a sign that states the rules, have ambassadors there when they can be and having a sign in sheet but not having every person asked to show ID's at the gate like last year. Ms. Hallquist stated that people need to know what the expectations are and everyone needs to be on the same page. Putnam Kidder doesn't have an issue with beach attendants using soft enforcement but doesn't want them to have to be confrontational.

The Recreation Commission reviewed a draft of the rules for use of paddleboards, kayaks and sailboats as well as the Release and Waiver of Liability form.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary  
Town of New London