



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Thursday July 7th, 2022 Whipple Hall 5:30 PM

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jackie Christensen (Chair)  
Chris Lorio (Co-Chair)  
Scott Fitzgerald  
Tara Stone  
Justin Garzia  
Kim Ilg

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Putnam Kidder, Town of New London Recreation Director  
Russell Moore, New London Walk Bike Coalition (had reached out to PK to get on agenda and was put on agenda last minute)

**IT WAS MOVED by Scott Fitzgerald at 5:33 PM AND SECONDED by Kim Ilg to start the meeting THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

\*Russel Moore, presented the idea of his group's desire to look at the option of replacing the bike racks at both Elkins and Bucklin beaches as part of initiative to offer more and better bike racks to promote more biking in Town. The current bike racks at the beaches are older models and are showing their age and newer models will hold bikes more efficiently. He also proposed signage on the road to show the location of racks. His group is pursuing some grant funding for the project and wanted to ask for the support of the Rec. Commission to explore the option and possibly provide some financial support to fund the project. The Rec. Commission was in favor of exploring and that the old racks would be good to replace and that new racks would promote recreational opportunities and benefit the Town and community. The cost and possible design concepts were discussed. RM will get more information about pricing and other details and try to gather support and funds from other sources as well. Rec. Commission will hope to be able to support the concept as more information is gathered.

### **Director Report:**

\*Beaches update. Swim lessons have started and will happen through the month of July, 4 week long sessions alternating between beaches with 10+ participants in each session. Staffing is mostly consistent. Discussion of making sure the bathrooms stay open at beaches from when the staff leave at 5 PM to dusk. Making sure it is consistently done, as when doors are left open overnight there can be problems and the cleaning company has difficulty doing their jobs. Rec. Director has been doing it and will connect with NLPD to have them close both beach bathrooms at dusk. It was thought that more police presence at beaches in the evening would not be a bad thing. Rec. Director will be in contact with cleaning company to make sure there are no issues with bathrooms being left open overnight.

\*Reviewed email to Town Administrator and Rec. Director from resident of Wilmot about frustrations about beach access for non-residents. This is an issue that Commission will continue to address and discuss as there are many different feelings in the community about the policy and also the Commission needs to consider how the policy can be implemented in an effective manner.

\*Family Fun Fest update: Rec. Director was part of Rotary sponsored event on Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Green from 12-4 putting on games and activities for all ages. The event received funds to offset costs from the Town and the Rec. Department activity fund. The event was well attended, and Rec. Director reported a positive experience and the ability to have a community event was appreciated by all.

\*New London Hospital Days, plan is for Rec. Department to have the Rec.van in the parade, various events at the beaches Thursday and Friday, and games and activities on the Green on Saturday. Rec. Department will also be involved with Triathlon to have Lifeguards help with swim portion of the race.

**IT WAS MOVED by Justin Garzia AND SECONDED by Kim Ilg to accept Minutes from Rec. Commission Meeting 6-1-22 THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IT WAS MOVED by Chris Lorio AND SECONDED by Tara Stone to adjourn at 6:15 PM. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM Thursday 8/4/22 at Whipple Hall

Respectfully submitted,  
Putnam Kidder  
Recreation Director  
Town of New London