

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 8, 2020

PRESENT: Justin Garzia, Pete Hamel, Lyndsay Harkins, Janet Kidder, Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator and Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director

The meeting was called to order in Whipple Memorial Town Hall at 11:00 am.

Scott reported that more signs have been ordered (8) for both beaches. The guidelines for beach usage will be more prominently displayed. Also, there will be more signage indicating New London residents only. The signs are red and white, similar to the signs at the dam.

Justin suggested that the requirements for identification for beach usage should be spelled out on the Recreation web-site.

Lyndsay submitted a diagram of where the signs should be placed at Bucklin Beach.

It was agreed if there is negative reaction for the number of signs, some can be removed.

Scott has two bulletin boards for rules and announcements. It was agreed not to utilize these yet.

The cleaning company will clean the bathrooms seven days per week, either in the morning before the beaches are open or at the end of the day. Staff will wipe down the bathrooms every two hours throughout the day.

A lengthy discussion followed on how to generate ID cards for use at the beaches. It was decided to get an ID machine (similar to what the police department has). A MOTION WAS MADE BY LYNDsay HARKINS, SECONDED BY PETER HAMEL AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE RECREATION DIRECTOR TO SPEND UP TO \$3000.00 FOR AN ID MACHINE.

Scott was also directed to order lanyards for these cards, which can be sold for use with the card. A policy needs to be developed and adopted by the Recreation Commission before the cards will be issued. The policy will include, but not be limited to, who gets the card (resident/nonresident property owners, children, guests, etc.).

The beaches see higher usage between 5:30 – 6:00, and, staff should be present.

The new Beach Ambassador Program was discussed. Individuals will offer information regarding rules, help staff navigate problems and be a welcoming presence at the beaches. Nancy Rollins, Maureen Prohl, Lyndsay Harkins, and Bebe Casey have all volunteered. Scott is soliciting more volunteers through the Recreation Facebook page and website. Scott will conduct background checks prior to volunteering and will conduct the necessary training. There is a volunteer bib that was lent from the Fire Department.

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There followed discussion of numbers of people allowed at the beaches. Currently 75 at Elkins and 80 at Bucklin. Scott has chatted again with Chief Cobb and Chief Lyon. They were in favor of keeping the current numbers. However, members felt the number at Elkins should be increased to 125 and the Commission agreed. Scott will let the staff know of this change.

The Commission wondered if parking should be allowed on the Dump Road. This is a selectmen's decision. Janet will bring it up at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Scott wondered if we should change the age limit for children. Limiting unattended children to a particular grade instead of age. It was decided to leave it that 11 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

The social media policy was discussed, and there were concerns about recent postings. Scott should be the only person posting pictures.

Discussion followed regarding the rates of pay for the staff based on their job. Scott indicated that he goes over the rate of pay with each staff member; checks regularly with them about their working environment and seeks to encourage a team approach. Nevertheless, Justin asked for a breakdown of the rate of pay for each job.

Scott then left the meeting.

Lyndsay Harkins moved to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted, and Justin Garzia seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Lyndsay Harkins (yes); Pete Hamel (yes); Justin Garzia (yes); Janet Kidder (yes).

The Commission went into non-public session at 12:47. TA Hallquist remained.

The Commission returned to the public session at 1:30PM

Justin Garzia moved to seal the minutes and Pete Hamel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Lyndsay Harkins (yes); Pete Hamel (yes); Justin Garzia (yes); Janet Kidder (yes).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet R. Kidder