



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2021

5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Justin Garzia (Zoom)

Jackie Christensen

Sheri Cote

Chris Lorio

Kim Pruett-Ilg (Zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gregory Partham

Lyndsay Harkins

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

Jamie Hess, Energy Committee

John Ellis, New London resident

Energy Committee – Electric Bike Week

Jamie Hess, Chair of the Energy Committee attended the meeting to discuss an Electric Bike Week program that will take place from October 11-30th. This program started last year in the Upper Valley, and it was so popular that many towns decided to participate this year. Last year there were only three different models of bikes and this year they've added a fourth one. There is an online reservation system to reserve a timeslot. This program ties into the goals of the Energy Commission to reduce energy consumption and promoting healthier lifestyles. It's also a great form of recreation.

Work is still being done to find a place to store the bikes as they need to be stored in a secure location and the space also needs a few wall outlets to be able to charge the batteries. Kim Hallquist reported that Putnam Kidder has offered his office space to store them so that may be an option. The logistics for volunteers to be able to access the space will also need to be worked out. The volunteers will be responsible to provide a safety lesson and a quick overview of the controls and how the bikes work.

Chris Lorio suggested having a pamphlet or brochure that identifies where you can purchase an electric bike if you are interested.

Waterfront Update

Chair Garzia stated that Putnam Kidder provided him with a report that things are going well at the beaches. There have been no issues or complaints other than some residents being upset that swim lessons were not held and sail boats were not lent out this year. Hopefully both will be available next year.

Chair Garzia stated he would like Mr. Kidder to communicate to this years' beach attendants that if they want to take the training to become lifeguards next year, we could preemptively offer them jobs for next year.

Recreation Director – Plans for Fall and Winter

Sheri Cote asked for clarification on what the hours would be for the part time Recreation Director position. Chair Garzia replied that it depended on the hours worked over the summer, but it was approximately 20-25 hours a week. This position does not include benefits. One option would be to see if Putnam Kidder was interested in staying on.

Jackie Christensen stated it's important to understand what is going to be required of the part time Recreation Director. Going through the list of events that usually take place in the fall and winter we need to understand what the Recreation Commission will commit to doing for the rest of 2021/2022 and what events we not going to do. This will help set the expectations of what programs the Director is expected to run.

Chris Lorio has concerns about some of the programs falling off if the person in the part time role is unable to complete all the tasks. There has also been discussion about other organizations helping with programs but that still involves coordination to do that.

Jackie Christensen asked if the job posting needs to be revised at all and she would like to review what the requirements are for the position. Chair Garzia is hopeful that Putnam Kidder is interested in the position because it should be integrated with the waterfront planning for next year. Kim Hallquist stated the process would be to post the position internally first so current employees would have the first option. The group decided they would like the job posted as soon as possible.

Update on Outing Club

Kim Pruettt-Ilg reported there isn't much of an update as the Outing Club did not have a meeting in July. Ms. Pruettt-Ilg is hoping after the August meeting she will have an update for the Recreation Commission.

Chair Garzia commented that the Outing Club hired a program director and a camp director. Their plan was to get through the summer and then they will be able to discuss plans for fall/winter activities.

Yoga at Elkins Beach, Summer 2022

Kim Hallquist received a request from a New London resident who would like to conduct yoga classes on Elkins Beach next summer. She was informed she would need insurance and stated she already has it. This could be done if it was considered a Recreation program. The Recreation Commission was in support of this idea.

Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London