



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday August 4, 2022
Whipple Hall
5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jackie Christensen (Chair)
Chris Lorio (Co-Chair)
Tara Stone
Kim Ilg

OTHERS PRESENT:

Putnam Kidder, Town of New London Recreation Director
Russell Moore, New London Walk Bike Coalition

IT WAS MOVED by Kim Ilg at 5:34 PM AND SECONDED by Jackie Christensen to start the meeting THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

*Russell Moore, New London Walk Bike Coalition was on the agenda and presented his proposal about replacement bike racks for Bucklin and Elkins beaches. It is agreed that the current bike racks are in need of updating. Russel Moore has approached Selectmen (and Rec Commission last month) with the proposal, and he said they were supportive of exploring the idea further. Russell Moore and Rec. Director met prior to this meeting to look at old racks and look at possible placement for new racks. As a part of his presentation Russell Moore offered proposals from two vendors for replacement racks. The project already has \$3,000 from a DHMC grant to put towards the larger project of additional rack placement in the Town. Russell Moore asked for \$4,500 for the project to be allocated from Recreation Activity fund to cover the replacement of the old bike racks with new ones at both beaches and the necessary signage. The Rec. Commission was supportive of this proposal and feel like it would be a benefit to the recreational opportunities for the Town. There will be ongoing research into the exact price and timing of this proposal and ensuing installation plans.

IT WAS MOVED by Kim Ilg AND SECONDED by Tara Stone to approve the proposal for \$4,500 from the Recreation Activity Fund for the replacement and installation of bike racks at Elkins and Bucklin beaches. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED by Chris Lorio AND SECONDED by Kim Ilg to accept Minutes from Rec. Commission Meeting 7-7-22 THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Report:

*Beaches update. Swim lessons went well over the course of July, four, week-long sessions with two at each beach with 30 + participants. The need and interest is present in the community and the hope will be to offer more lessons next summer and have them be official Red Cross

sponsored instead of our own versions which we did this summer. The NLPD has been closing the beach bathrooms at night and the cleaning crew opens them in the morning and that seems to be working well. Finding the balance between having the bathrooms open and useable to the public and keeping them from being open overnight and subject to possible vandalism or other issues has been challenging at times. It seems like this plan is working adequately well. The Rec. Department will continue to look at options to make this work as smoothly as possible. The lifeguarding staff participated in training over the month that was focused on having them practice and review their life guarding techniques. The second training offered the lifeguards the opportunity to interact with staff from the NLFD and collaborate on how they could work together in the case of an emergency at one of the beaches. The swim lines at Elkins beach were discussed. There was a concern about one of the lines being too close to boat moorings. The Town has applied for and received a permit for the lines from the State. The Rec. Department has been working with the group that oversees the mooring field to manage the situation and ensure that the moorings are a safe distance from the swim lines. After incident at Bucklin beach the paperwork for kayak and boat loaning program has been updated and tightened up. One aspect that has brought several complaints from beach users is the age limit for using the boats, which is currently 12 years old. The Rec. Director will follow up with Town Administrator to investigate where these age restrictions originated and whether they might be altered and still offer a safe experience for users while still meeting liability requirements for the Town.

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

IT WAS MOVED by Chris Lorio AND SECONDED by Jackie Christensen that the Recreation Commission is in support of moving to a Full-time Recreation Director position from the current Part-time role, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

*The presentation and accompanying PowerPoint will be presented for Selectmen to review at their next meeting on 8-18-22 at 6 PM by Rec. Commission members and Recreation Director.

IT WAS MOVED by Kim Ilg AND SECONDED by Tara Stone to adjourn at 6:43 PM. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM Thursday 9/1/22 at Whipple Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Putnam Kidder
Recreation Director
Town of New London