

The Recreation Director and Recreation Commission are in favor of keeping the Special Events budget at \$12,500.

From our Rec. Revolving Fund Policy:

“Recreation is an important part of any community and the Town of New London supports the continued efforts to provide numerous recreational opportunities to its citizens but also encourages self-funding activities whenever possible. The Town of New London recognizes the importance of budget friendly and free programs and activities to the New London community. In an effort to continue to provide such programming, the Town is committed to continue to subsidizing funding of these programs through the Recreation Operating Budget and the Recreation Revolving Fund”

Having a combination of the RRF and the Special Events budget supports our ability to balance revenue producing programs and events with options that are free and or budget friendly to the public. The RRF also helps us offset costs that would be added into the Rec. Department operating budget.

If we Eliminate the Special Events Budget:

*The RRF will be depleted over time and be unable to keep up with costs related to hosting all of our events and programs.

*The Halloween event, which is our largest and most popular, could be impacted. Which would go against the strong public desire to host this event, that led to the addition of the funds to the Special Events budget in 2023.

*The Recreation Department will need to explore options of increasing costs of programming, eliminating free events, and more frequent fund-raising efforts. While we do want to produce revenue to help invest in programs and build the Recreation Department as a whole, too much reliance on the RRF will deplete it quickly and limit the necessary investments needed to build the Recreation Department events/programs and facilities.

*The possibility of paying for events or other recreation equipment or supplies that would have come from the RRF could be added back into the Operating Budget.

*This would contradict the commitment of the Town stated in the RRF policy to fund recreational opportunities with both the RRF and the Operating budget.

To summarize:

Prudent and supportive investment in the Special Events budget combined with growing, but not overtaxing the RRF, will facilitate the best path forward for our Recreation Department to continue to best serve our residents and the wider community.

New London Recreation Mission

Statement:

- * Provide safe and well-maintained recreational spaces which encourage healthy lifestyles and appreciation for our beautiful natural surroundings.**
- * Promote community connection through cross-generational and inclusive recreation and leisure experiences.**
- * Offer quality programs and activities in a cooperative spirit with community partners.**