

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
July 5, 2017

PRESENT: Laura Lorio, Justin Garzia, Casey Biuso, Janet Kidder and Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director

Regarding Scott's evaluation, Laura will send an email to Commission members reminding them to forward comments to Town Administrator Kim Hallquist. Kim had outlined areas to consider, when making recommendations.

Concern was expressed about the process for swimming lessons at Elkins. It appeared that an assessment of each swimmer had not been done, in order to place them in the correct skill level lesson. Also, the lessons were not always started on time, and, finished early. Scott will speak with Noelle Surette regarding these issues.

Scott noted that Elizabeth Manchester quit her job as a life guard/swim instructor. However, both beaches are adequately staffed.

The life guards are on duty from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Saturday, and, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.

The bathrooms are open 24 hours a day, and there has not been any vandalism. However, sometimes the doors get inadvertently locked.

Professional cleaning is done once a week at the bathrooms, and, sweeping, mopping, etc. are done daily. The sand is raked periodically throughout the day.

The Strawberry Festival was a huge success, and, Scott estimates that there will be a net profit of \$2000.00. The 35 vendors who participated were pleased with the turnout, and, are interested in participating next year.

Justin will contact Paul Manson to fabricate the posts for the ice rink. The cost is approximately \$3600.00.

The Commission agreed that the philosophy of the Recreation Department will continue to be to create programs for the needs of New London residents, and, welcome others if space is available in programs.

Discussion followed regarding a community center, and, it was agreed that the members would consider only space the Recreation Department requires. Once everyone has had an opportunity to reflect on uses, then a recommendation will be made to the Capital Improvement Program Committee.

Scott noted that the PA system was used by the Pleasant Lake Protective Association for playing taps at the conclusion of the fireworks on July 1st.

Also, the police department borrowed the van to transport a large number of young people, who had been drinking illegally at a party.

Two new docks will be ready soon, one for each beach. The cost for each dock is approximately \$1000.00. The shed for Elkins is being built at a cost of about \$2000.00. It was agreed to take this money from the Revolving Fund. It was noted, however, that quite possibly the money should be withdrawn from the maintenance fund, as the docks and shed are not fee generating. These items benefit all residents, not just ones attending summer camp or swim lessons.

Ruth White of the Conservation Commission has requested ideas to increase usage of the town's trail system. Laura thought adding a caption to trails, such as "great for kids", "ok to bring dogs", etc. would be very helpful, in addition to the current listing of difficulty for each trail.

It was agreed to try to meet at least once a year with the Conservation Commission to discuss mutual ideas.

Surveys will continue to be sent to all participants in the swim lessons and camp. It was suggested to create a general survey for the end of the year, and, also, ask for volunteers. The interns should be tasked with creating such a survey.

Chief Ed Andersen repaired several of the Sun Fishes, and, now all six sailboats are fully functioning.

Some parents had requested that camp start immediately when school is out, but Scott noted that planning and training need to take place prior to the start of summer camp.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet R. Kidder