

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 7, 2017

PRESENT: Lori Lavolpicelo, Casey Biuso, Lyndsay Lund, Laura Lorio (Chairman), Justin Garzia, Steve Sidmore, Janet Kidder and Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director

ALSO PRESENT: Colby-Sawyer students Theresa Edick (President of the Community Service Club) and Calum Dixon

The Minutes of February 2017 were approved.

The members reviewed a memo from Kim Hallquist regarding the Revolving Fund and Scott's evaluation. The group felt it was important that they have input with regard to Scott's evaluation. Kim will attend the next meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion of the Revolving Fund. The philosophy of the Recreation Commission has been that the fund will subsidize programs, if needed; replace equipment (i.e., docks, boat motors, etc.) when necessary and to further program offerings to the Town of New London residents. If a program is offered, and, there is a shortfall, then the money has, in the past, been deducted from the Revolving Fund. Many events that are free to the public, are subsidized through the Revolving Fund (i.e., Easter Egg Hunt, etc.). Scott has understood this to be the policy of the Recreation Commission, but has been concerned that some members of the Budget Committee were unaware of this policy, based on their questions regarding his budget. The Recreation Commission emphasized that this policy represents the goals of the Recreation Department.

Next, relationships with other organizations were discussed, and, it was noted that Scott has worked well with other groups in Town, and he has been happy to partner with organizations on various events. There have been comments that perhaps this is not the case, but the Recreation Commission emphasized to Scott, that they are pleased with his leadership and the outreach he has provided.

The Recreation Commission also discussed the suggestion that a Friends of the Recreation Department group be established. The members felt this was not necessary. Scott has been very successful in procuring donations when he feels he needs additional funds for events.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place April 15th at the New London Historical Society. There will be an adult Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 14 from 6-7pm., also at the Historical Society. There will be a \$10.00 fee per person for the adult hunt, and there will be wonderful prizes for the participants. The Historical Society will not charge for the use of their facility for the children, but will charge \$100.00 for the adult evening event. The money from the Friday night event will go for camp scholarships. Scott has two interns who will assist with games.

The February Day Camp was full and very successful. The April Day Camp is scheduled for the 25 and 27 at the New London Historical Society. Casey will oversee art classes and there will be an art show in May of the campers' work.

The recent Mature Adventurers visit to the Ice Castles was wonderful, and, the trip to the Boston Flower Show is full. Scott is partnering with the New London Hospital for a trip to Foxwoods. A large bus will be used for this trip.

Registration for summer day camp is already 1/3rd full (there is an early bird special until the end of February – reduced rate).

Justin has been working with Richard Lee, regarding the poles for the hockey rink. Before the rink is taken in, Justin would like to have the pole supports placed in the ground (they will not be above ground, but installation of the supports when the ground is no longer frozen, will make it easy to put the poles in next winter). He has the netting for the rink. The cost for the poles and netting will be approximately \$4200.00.

There was a brief discussion about the small storage units that might be erected at both beaches. Scott has reached out to abutters regarding this, and, discussed the logistics with Richard Lee. There is adequate room at Elkins for a unit, but Bucklin presents a challenge due to the small site.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet R. Kidder