

**Town of New London
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 30, 2020**

Recreation Commission Members Present: Justin Garzia, Chairman; Carol Kinzler; Lyndsay Harkins; Janet Kidder
Others present: Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator; Bob Harrington, Public Works Director

The meeting was called to order at 10 am by Justin Garzia, Chair. Roll call attendance was taken of Recreation Commission members.

Skating Rink

Bob Harrington met with the Commission to give an update on the skating rink: it looks good and could be opened to the public now. Justin asked about the netting, Bob noted that the netting and aluminum pipes are in the shed; Matt built a ramp to allow easy access for the snowblower. Kim Hallquist noted that many have asked about when it would be opened. Kim will contact Jim Buchan to see if he will maintain the rink as he has done in the past. Justin noted that he would also help if needed. It was determined that the Rec Commission would be in charge of opening and closing the rink as the weather dictated. The Commission thanked Bob for all of his efforts getting the rink up.

Budget presentation January 6, 2021

Justin presented his thoughts for a presentation to the Budget Committee that includes two options:

Option 1: budget as originally presented (\$181,697.52) with a plan to hire part-time year-round recreation director, but the funds will be available should a part-time director not be available or if the need for a full-time director becomes apparent. Funding for the Outing Club or other organizations is handled outside of the Recreation Department. If the part-time director works out and a full-time director is not needed, this option will come in \$50,000-\$60,000 under budget.

Option 2: budget set at \$221,697.52 with a plan to hire a part-time year-round recreation director and \$40,000 will be allocated to the Outing Club so they can hire a full-time director, and \$70,000 recreation activity fund to be used to support other organizations to assist them in putting on programming and events in town. The recreation activity fund to be spent by the Recreation Commission upon a showing of need and whether the requested activities are in line with recreation goal. A discussion was held concerning whether the \$40,000 should be earmarked specifically for a full-time director at the Outing Club. Justin noted that this option incentivizes the Outing Club to work with the Recreation Commission and it allows them to hire a full-time director, which they are unable to without town support. Justin noted that he likes

the Outing Club presentation and the direction they are going in, but it lacks the level of detail needed to hand over \$95,000 at this time.

Carol Kinzer suggested more details on programs that the Outing Club will take over. Justin noted that the Summer Day Camp and ice-skating rink are the only areas the Outing Club has committed to so far, there has not been details of what they intend to provide for the \$95,000 requested. All agreed that Option 2 is a way to encourage the collaboration between the Outing Club and the Recreation Department, a desire that has been expressed by many over the years, because it doesn't just hand over the money. It was noted that COA receives \$35,000 so giving the Outing Club \$40,000 puts them in that category of getting a large amount of money. Justin noted having the activity fund will enable the recreation department to leverage and flexibility in utilizing other groups and their volunteers to put on programming for the town. It was agreed that if the Outing Club steps up and does what it says it will do, and other groups get financial support from the activity fee in the budget, the town may have more recreational programming available than in the past.

Justin noted that back in October it was decided not to have the summer day camp program. Lyndsay noted that there are options in the area for summer camps. It was noted that the #1 goal for the summer is to improve waterfront management and have the beaches run well.

The Commission will schedule its next meeting after the budget presentation scheduled for June 6, 2021. Janet noted that the next step will be to work on the advertisement for the Recreation Director. Justin noted that he will be meeting with Building & Facilities Committee to discuss space needs of the Recreation Department.

Justin noted that Peter Hamel has resigned so there is a need to get some recommendations to the Selectmen for appointment. There was a discussion of New London residents who have expressed interest in recreation activities in the past, contact will be made to see if there is interest in joining the Recreation Commission.

Lyndsay Harkins moved to adjourn the meeting and Janet Kidder seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator