

Recreation Commission Minutes  
Monday, January 5, 2025  
5:30 pm  
Whipple Memorial Hall

Members present: Jackie Christensen (Chair), Julie Corey (Vice-Chair), Tara Stone, Caitlin Taylor, Cara Leone

Also present: Recreation Director Putnam Kidder

The meeting opened at 5:35 pm

### **Review of Minutes, Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items**

It was moved (Caitlin Taylor) and seconded (Jackie Christensen) to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Meetings, 5:30pm at Whipple Hall:

- February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Strategic Social Media proposal from Abby Peel**

Abby Peel, of Strategic Social Media attended the December Recreation Commission meeting to discuss marketing services she could provide for the Recreation Department. It was moved (Jackie Christensen) and seconded (Caitlin Taylor) to approve spending up to \$1500 from the recreation revolving fund to update the recreation website using the proposal from Abby Peel of Strategic Social Media. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Skating Rink Review**

The skating rink opened on December 13<sup>th</sup> this season. Opening date is always weather dependent. The current rink is older style PVC tubing, liner and plastic. There are newer styles that are easier to set up and take down, as well as more durable. It would be a bit of an investment but would last much longer. Volunteer Jim Buchan is helpful at maintaining the rink. Kearsarge Elementary and Middle School will be using the rink for winter activities. There was a conversation regarding rink placement and the work of regular maintenance while the rink is open.

### **Winter Event Reviews**

- **Santa on the Green:** Visit from Santa was well received. Weather was chilly and potential for moving the visit indoors was discussed. Chair Christensen will create a survey to get public feedback.
- **New Year's Eve New London:** Center for the Arts averaged 50 people at each of their events. Twenty or thirty people stayed until midnight. There was a mid-day event geared towards kids, with a magician, that was popular. The drum circle was moved inside and was well attended.
- **Festival of Trees:** One night was closed due to weather. Total number of visitors over all nights was around 120. The Garden Club won and they donated the money raised to the food pantry. There was a discussion of how best to coordinate volunteer hours and the event will be reviewed further before next year.

### **Elkins Swingset Update & Future Plans**

Early ice and snow delayed ramp installation so that will need to be done in the spring. Feedback has been positive on the installed swings. Up to two thousand dollars was approved by the Board of Selectmen to be used from the capital reserve fund for a landscape plan. Mr. Kidder will be working with Chris Martin from Utiliplay to provide the DES shoreland permit by notification submission to help facilitate the work of landscape planning. The landscape plan will not include a full survey, which would likely be cost prohibitive with current budget constraints.

### **Rec Operations and Budget FY 2027 Update**

Recreation Commission budget will be on the agenda for review by the Budget Committee on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Kidder will be attending the Northern New England Recreation and Parks Conference as professional development.

### **Future Events**

Karate classes - 6 week session, each Monday

Conradance - February 17<sup>th</sup>

Winter Carnival and Spelling Bee - February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

February Break - potential events in planning

New this year: Community Day at Colby-Sawyer Basketball game

Easter Eggstravaganza - April 5<sup>th</sup>

Earth Day - April 20<sup>th</sup>

Strawberry Festival – June 20<sup>th</sup>

Halloween – discussion of 2026 timing

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Leone