

Recreation Commission Minutes
Monday, August 4, 2025
5:30 pm
Whipple Memorial Hall Conference Room

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

Also present: Recreation Director Putnam Kidder

The meeting opened at 5:36pm

Review of Minutes, Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

It was moved (Tara Stone) and seconded (Caitlin Taylor) to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Meetings, 5:30pm at Whipple Hall:

- September 8th
- October 6th
- November 3rd
- December 1st

Chair Christinsen shared that at the July 14th Selectboard meeting, Selectboard Chair Bebe Casey made a positive mention of the Recreation Commission, highlighting their motivation and engagement.

Elkins Swingset & Future Plans

Chair Christinsen summarized a July 15th meeting with Chris Martin from Ulti Play, discussing measurements and options for the play area. Mr. Martin provided two designs: one with a cost of \$11,160, including shipping, surface, and installation and the second with a cost of \$13,700. The cost of the second design would not be all inclusive and would require more coordination with the Public Works Department for installation. It would also not include any traditional belt swings or toddler swings and would only include basket swings. The request to the Board of Selectmen for money from the Capital Reserve Fund was approved for up to \$14,400. The commission discussed options including:

- The number of swings to include, considering ADA compliance, accessibility, and safe usage space.
- Adjusting the swing set layout to meet current safety requirements and maximize space without removing any trees.
- Future changes to the remaining playground equipment
- The need for a landscape plan to outline the full project requirements and possibly using the remaining funds from the original request to create a landscape plan for an accessible pathway connecting the parking lot, playground, bathhouse and picnic seating area closest to the bathhouse.

- Community involvement in the project with Chair Christinsen highlighting the importance of fundraising, with some tools provided for free by Ulti Play.

It was moved (Cara Leone) and seconded (Tara Stone) to approve the design priced at \$11,160 to include two belt swings and one toddler swing. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved (Caitlin Taylor) and seconded (Julie Corey) to use up to \$2,000 on a landscape plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Christinsen asked Mr. Kidder to coordinate with Mr. Martin ASAP so the equipment order could be placed with the hope of installing the new swings this fall. There was a discussion of updating the Board of Selectmen on the chosen design, cost and the Commission's desire to use up to an additional \$2,000 on a landscape plan.

Julie Corey shared her experience with Sunset Hill Education Institute in Sutton, NH. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to accessible education and wellness with an emphasis on nature and the outdoor environment. Ms. Corey offered to connect with the founder to see who had provided their landscape plan as that could be a great local resource.

Bucklin Beach Maintenance

On July 15th, Mr. Martin also reviewed the play structure at Bucklin Beach. That structure is in much better condition and could have as many as ten more years left with some maintenance. He made some suggestions for the paint and the surfacing. The surfacing can be addressed as regular maintenance in the spring and will be funding will be reviewed separately from the Elkins project, at a later date.

Beach Updates

Mr. Kidder gave an update on summer programs, including swim lessons and lifeguard staffing. He discussed the success of the events during Hospital Days which included hot dogs at the beach and participating in the annual parade.

Future Events

Mr. Kidder provided an update on future programming that has already been scheduled, or is in the works to be scheduled, over the next few months:

- Kid's Day at the Beach
- Wildlife Encounter program
- Paper airplane contest, in partnership with the Kearsarge Shopper, and a drum circle at the bandstand with Kathy Lowe and Julie Corey on August 22nd.
- Zumbathon to fundraise for the playground
- Flag Football on the green
- Halloween (Haunted Happenings) October 26th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Sub-committee phone calls will be scheduled to begin planning the Zumbathon and Halloween.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Leone