

**RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December, 1, 2025**

**Whipple Hall Conference Room**

**5:30 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jackie Christensen (Chair)

Julie Corey (Co-Chair)

Tara Stone

Dana Pyle

Caitlin Taylor

Kim Ilg

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Putnam Kidder- Recreation Director

Abby Peel- Strategic Social Media, presentation

John Ellis, Resident

**Meeting Start:**

5:38 PM

Meeting minutes were not approved because note taker was sick and not present at meeting. 11-3-25  
Minutes will be reviewed and approved at January meeting.

Abby Peel of Strategic Social Marketing, gave a presentation on her services and how they might benefit Rec. Department. She does website design and social media support. It was acknowledged that the Rec. Department website and social media are improving, but they could benefit from support to improve effectiveness and outreach, which are both critical to promoting and marketing programs/events and the Department as a whole. The Rec. Commission agreed that this would be a good thing to look into. Abby will provide a proposal that outlines costs and services for the Commission to discuss in the future.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

FY 2027 Budget Update, the Rec. Department presented to the Budget Committee on Wednesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. At this time the draft budget and explanations were presented by the Recreation Director.

Ongoing discussion about exploring the option of speaking with NLPD about increasing parking fines at beaches as a way to bring in revenue and more importantly manage illegal parking at the beaches.

Elkins Swing Set Update, the installation took place on 11/19 and we have 2 new toddler swings and a tot swing in the newly updated safety zone with engineered wood fiber. There will be additional ADA/accessibility work done to put in the access ramp. November 20<sup>th</sup> we presented to Selectmen next phase of project, and a \$2,000 request from Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Account for Landscape architect planning. In addition to fundraising for next phases of project through the Ultiplay website.

Santa on the Green Event planned for Sunday, 12/14.

Festival of Trees in Whipple is coming up starting 12/21 and running to 12/30.

New Year's New London, sponsored by the Center for the Arts coming Wed. 12/31. Recreation Department will host Kid's NYE countdown at Whipple Hall and Kid's Skating competition and 3 v 3 Hockey Tournament at the Bob Andrews Memorial Skating Rink.

Resident, John Ellis, commented about ongoing efforts to work with Selectmen on clarifying their expectations of the Rec. Department in regards to keeping it full time. Rec. Commission agrees that ongoing communication with Selectmen is key to highlighting the work the Rec. Department is doing and its value moving forward.

**Next Meeting Scheduled For:**

Monday, 1-5-26, 5:30 PM, Whipple Hall

**Adjourn:**

7:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Putnam Kidder

Recreation Director

Town of New London

