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NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**Town of New London
Recreation Commission Meeting
10/27/2009**

Present:

Gerald Coogan
Laura James
Allison MacLean
Keith Pomkoski, Chair
Jason Stadler
Chad Denning, Director

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pomkoski at 4:20P.M. The following topics were discussed:

Chair Pomkoski opened the meeting with congratulations to Chad Denning for his successful participation in the National Championship of Adventure Racing this past weekend in Pilot Point, Texas. He and his 6 member team, all of whom were from New Hampshire, came in first place. There were 62 teams from all across the US who participated. The race, over 21 hours, included 103 miles of mountain biking, 22 miles of paddling, and 20 hours of trekking.

Congratulations were also given to Alison MacLean whose daughter's team won third place in the recent cheerleading competition held in Bedford, New Hampshire.

A Pleasant Climb Trail Race (Saturday, October 10 @ 10:00AM) Recap- Mr. Denning reported that the participation this year was double over last year, and the event went very well. There was also a good response from merchants who donated many of the prizes. Mr. Denning said that there was some concern by the Conservation Commission regarding the use of the trails without their being apprised of the event before hand. Mr. Denning said he will be sure to contact them in the future if any of the Conservation trails are to be used.

Halloween Haunted Woods (Saturday October 31 @ 4:00PM)- Mr. Denning reported that this event is on schedule. He had a debriefing meeting this morning with a member of the Colby-Sawyer College Player's Club who are organizing this event. The first event is at 5:00PM and the second one is at 7:30PM. He said that there will be two wagons, complete with hay bales and tractors driven by Peter Stanley and Richard Lee, which will bring the participants back to Main Street after they have concluded the course. He asked for one more assistant to help load the kids on and off the wagons between the hours of five and nine o'clock. He said also that the candy drive is going very well. Colonial Pharmacy has been a terrific partner with this event and Mr. Denning expressed his appreciation to them and to the community.

He said that the New London Outing Club has their Halloween Dance right after the Recreation Halloween event. It was commented by several members of the Commission that perhaps an opportunity had been missed for these two organizations to work together to coordinate the Halloween celebrations for the Town's youth. Mr. Denning will mention this to Chelsea Gill, Program Coordinator of the Outing Club when he next meets with her.

Skate Park Opportunity- Mr. Denning reported that there appears to be a grass roots effort on the part of families in New London to pursue the idea of having a skate park in the Town. The participants of this initiative, lead by Sophie Tyler, have approached Jessie Levine who has expressed support for the families moving forward with exploring this possibility. There will be a meeting on November 2 at 7:00PM in Whipple Hall for those who are interested. Mr. Denning thought, if this plan came to fruition, it would be good for the recreation department and saw perhaps a potential partnering with Newbury and Sunapee in the future, since neither of those towns had skate board facilities.

Dog Park- Mr. Denning reported Jessie Levine is receptive to this idea which has been raised by New London residents. There would be very little cost to the Town, just the cost of the fencing and mutt mitt stations. In towns that already have dog parks, these have provided an opportunity for socialization of not only the dogs but their owners as well. The two sites which are possible locations are the old land fill and the sewer lagoon property. Mr. Denning will speak to Jessie Levine about how to proceed with this idea. Mrs. James asked about the rules for a dog park. It was thought that, at minimum the dogs would need to be licensed, and there would need to be appropriate signage to inform individuals that the dogs will be unleashed within the fenced park. Mr. Denning said this idea is in the early planning stages on the part of a few New London residents.

Collaboration with the New London Arts Council- Mr. Denning said that the Arts Council has had a number of fund raising events recently, which might impact any on the future fund raising events by other organizations. It was suggested the Annie Ballin, Executive Director, be invited to an up-coming Recreation Commission meeting to see how the two organizations may begin to work together on events of mutual interest.

2009 Fall Programming- Mr. Denning said that these programs are going well. His four climbing classes are fully enrolled with two classes for pre-schoolers and two other classes for children in first through third grades. The next climbing classes start next week. Chair Pomkoski asked about the possibility of expanding this program to middle school youth and possibly adults. Mr. Denning said for this expansion to take place he will need more help. Right now two Colby-Sawyer students are helping him. The Recreation Department pays Colby-Sawyer College \$10 per class/per child. The College then pays the student for their assistance.

With regard to the other programs, he said that the water color painting classes were going well and the instructor will be offering this to adults in November. The Inter-mural program is well attended, however, all the participants this year are in fifth grade and will not be eligible to participate next year. Ms. MacLean thought that there were not many programs that are available to sixth graders once they move to the Middle School and perhaps there might be an

opportunity there to include this age group in future programming. Mrs. James suggested that Mr. Denning do a flyer which can be distributed in the schools making sure that all youth are aware of the Inter-mural programs. This announcement can also go out on a group e-mail in the schools letting the teachers know of the program. Mrs. James and Ms. MacLean will work on a flyer and circulate this to members of the Commission. Mr. Denning will come up with a name for the program and Mrs. James will post the flyers in the schools. The games included in the program are basketball, floor hockey, and kick ball, with the emphasis on fun rather than competition. Mr. Denning said that no child is ever turned away due to inability to pay the participation fee.

www.winterwild.com Uphill Series- Mr. Denning reported that this event will have four venues and will be located at Whaleback, Mt. Sunapee, and Ragged Mountain. He asked the Commissioners to check out the web site.

Shuttle Bus from New London Hospital- Mr. Denning reported that due to budget constraints the Town will not support the purchase of this shuttle bus and the only way it could come to the Recreation Department would be through a donation from the hospital. Jessie Levine will speak to Ms. Underwood at the hospital to let her know that a decision will need to be reached regarding a donation prior to Town Meeting to allow this to be placed on the Town Warrant. In the meantime, Mr. Denning said he was certain that, if needed, the bus could be used by the recreation department.

New London Outing Club- Chair Pomkoski said that a recent e-mail sent out by Chelsea Gill of the New London Outing Club raised concerns about the dual use of the road in front of the Old Middle School during the Pleasant Climb Trail Race and the COA Rummage Sale. This e-mail highlighted to the Recreation Commission members the need for the coordination of events between the Recreation Department and the Outing Club and raised the question as to who actually controls this road and what the protocol is for its use. It was decided that it would be helpful to ask the school district what the protocol is for future use. Ms. MacLean suggested that in addition to contacting Mr. Noyes, facilities manager for the school district, it would also be helpful to call Kevin Johnson, Principal of the Middle School to get his sense of the use of the Old Middle School property and cc Mr. Frew, Superintendent of Schools, on all communication regarding the use of any school property for any recreation programs.

Mr. Denning added that the use of property fees which the school district has recently implemented will probably preclude any summer camp programming in the school district's building for next summer. It was suggested by Mr. Pomkoski that Mr. Denning apply for use of Whipple Hall soon to secure that space should it be needed for the summer camp program, while still trying to work something out, with Jessie Levine involvement, with the school district regarding the use of their space.

Mr. Coogan asked that a schedule be set for future meetings. It was agreed that the Recreation Commission will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:15PM. The next meeting will be November 10th.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording Secretary