



**New London
Recreation Commission Meeting
at the Town Offices
November 9th
4:30pm @ Town Offices**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chad Denning, Keith Pomkoski, Laura James, Jerry Coogan
OTHERS PRESENT: Heidi Thoma

The meeting came to order at 4:45pm.

Heidi Thoma – Kearsarge Health Coalition & NLREC

Ms. Thoma said that the Kearsarge Health Coalition is a community group that works to address youth substance abuse in the area. One faction of the coalition does evidence-based curriculum and the other part works to partner with the various groups around the area that provides activities and recreation for youth. They have a forum coming up for 2011 to gather planners from recreation, theatre and arts to find out what the kids want to do. Instead of parties they can try to plan other activities. A lot of it would be shifting programs that already exist and move them into the evening hours and on weekends when kids are doing alternative activities that could be harmful or dangerous.

Mr. Denning said that in the last week he met with Mr. Spadaro, the new Principal at the Middle School. He had a positive conversation with him and said he would talk with Nate Heath (PE Teacher) and Dom Didominic (Guidance) about possible programming. Mr. Denning explained that he has access to a van and wanted to take kids outside to do some programming. He was hoping that Mr. Heath or Mr. Didominic would be able to target activities that kids would like to do. Mr. Denning said he has gone two times to the middle school and there hasn't been any movement towards cooperation. He believes that he needs to get to the guidance counselors as they have a better idea of what the kids need.

Mrs. James said that Mr. Denning should email Mr. Spidaro again and ask if it was OK to meet directly with Mr. Didominic about this programming.

Mr. Denning said he wants to team up with Ms. Thoma to get this kind of programming going. Ms. Thoma said they have monthly meetings held on the second Wednesday of

the month. The next meeting would be in Wilmot at the Community Center and would be a potluck.

Ms. Thoma noted that they just got a grant for \$75,000 and they will continue to do forums as they are doing right now. Grants last 5-10 years and so they hope to get the evidence-based grants and others that will continue and serve a broader need.

Mr. Coogan asked about the marijuana use fact that was on the chart from a flyer Ms. Thoma distributed. She said that it showed the frequency of marijuana use in the past 30 days. She noted that there was more information on their website. Ms. Thoma added that she was there to keep communications open for when they have their forum. Their fiscal agent is the United Way. Ms. Thoma is the interim co-chair with Erin Foley who works at Head Rest in Lebanon, NH.

Mrs. James noted that there is a bullying program being offered during their professional development on Friday.

Mr. Coogan asked Ms. Thoma about the sailing program. He wanted to know how many weeks she taught sailing last year. Ms. Thoma said they had two intermediate and intermediate sessions with 8 kids in each program. They introduced an adult program with the Flying Scott boat and she opined that the adult interest was huge. She said they don't have the bandwidth to offer the adult classes, however. She noted that Jessie Smerald helped. She estimated that about 75% were from the Kearsarge area and about 25% were from out of town. Mr. Pomkoski was wondering if the bulk of the users were from New London. Ms. Thoma said that it gave her pleasure to know that they are offering this program for people who may not have the opportunity in their own towns.

Ms. Thoma said there was an instructor training program every spring from the Sailing Association of New England and they are trying to get Jessie Smerald to take the class so that he can direct a program full-time. Mr. Coogan said that Larry Taylor, a Professor from NE College wanted to volunteer to coach sailing. He would be a good person to contact. He asked if they needed some more boats. Mr. Denning said that they have tried to put \$8,000 in the budget for boats. Ms. Thoma said that this amount could get 4 like-new boats. The boats they have now are boarder-line un-safe. Some of the boats people donate are not in good condition. Ms. Thoma said that a lot of the damage is fiberglass issues that are not reachable. If a boat flips over and lands on its mast and someone is standing on it trying to ride it, after the banging over 30 years, the mast jams and makes cracks. She found a good boat for \$1,800 in Holderness this summer, but couldn't buy it because the money wasn't appropriated.

Halloween Haunted Woods and Kiddo Festival (Sun. Oct 31) RECAP

Mr. Denning said that it was very cold on Halloween this year. There were probably 150-200 people who showed up during the story telling or right after, which they moved inside due to the cold. Gen from Ellie's Cafe was making food outside and he charged

two or three dollars for food. He wanted to break even but made about twice that much and was happy. There were some old fashioned games and a costume parade and gave out some ribbons to all the kids that had nlrec.com. He took six bus-loads to the corn maze. The use of the bus was donated from KRSD. All he had to do was put gas in the bus upon return. On Main Street, some houses had between 400-500 trick or treaters this year.

Mr. Denning said that there were over 200 people waiting in line for the Colby-Sawyer haunted woods. Mr. Pomkoski said that the New London Police Department recommended that trick or treating end at 7pm and the Recreation Department's events started at 7:30pm. Mr. Denning said that they could start at 7pm instead next year. Mr. Denning said that the Police Department thanked them for keeping the crowds around the school. No one was on the outskirts of town.

Mrs. James thanked Mr. Denning for giving up time with his family to work this event.

Mr. Pomkoski asked how the outing club dance went. Mr. Denning said he hadn't talked to Chelsea yet. He also wanted to ask her how the run in the morning went.

Skate park Opportunity...what's the latest

The location has been moved back to the land by the elementary school. The SAU site posed too many hurdles. It would cost \$30,000 to tear down the building due to asbestos. There also seemed to be a lot of tension from the surrounding abutters. They will be having a meeting with the designer and the students on Tuesday. He said that he was not spear-heading this project but only acting as a consultant.

www.winterwild.com Uphill series with ESS Majors from CSC

Mr. Denning said that Ragged Mountain is now on board and there were 19 people fully signed up for the series right now. None of the people are from around here. It is \$60 for the whole series.

New London Winter Carnival and Snowball Weekend (January 28th weekend)

www.campfiredining.com

Mr. Denning said that he is losing some steam with this because a lot of restaurants are backing out due to economy. Mr. Pomkoski asked how much they charge for tickets. Mr. Denning said it was \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids. Mr. Pomkoski asked if they raised the price a bit and offset the price to restaurants by giving back some money. Mrs. James thought that was a good idea. Mr. Pomkoski thought like \$12 per person would be appropriate. Mrs. James said that the event has become a tradition and was something they could hang their hat on. Mr. Denning said that as of now, those participating are Ellies, Arctic Dreams, Pizza Chef, Pleasant Lake Inn, Mount Sunapee, and maybe New

London Inn and Ragged Mountain. Millstone and Flying Goose, Peter Christians and Colby-Sawyer College were out.

Mr. Denning said that he has changed the venue to have the tents to keep people warm with restaurants around the perimeter so hoped more people would come. They are not going to Colby-Sawyer this year, so perhaps that is why the college is not participating. Keith suggested meeting with Sharon ____ for coffee or lunch to talk about the event. Mrs. James said that he should talk to Sharon and say that even if isn't food related, would they still like to participate. They could provide a band or an open mike. It was suggested to see if they want to have something on the common to make it part of the event.

Mr. Denning said that it is free to Colby-Sawyer students and his hope was that it would draw them out of their dorm rooms. Mr. Pomkoski said that if they have only 4-5 restaurants, the burden is greater on each restaurant.

Bullying conference on Tuesday, Nov. 16th @ NL Old Middle School

Mr. Denning said that the Recreation Department is sponsoring this event.

Kearsarge Outdoor Adventures (Middle School Program)

Mr. Denning said that they had already talked about this with Ms. Thoma. He felt a bit overwhelmed with the ski program from the elementary school. The PTO asked Ms. Levine if Mr. Denning would do it. Ms. Levine thought it would be a good thing for him to do. He said it was a lot of work and it will be very hard to coordinate. Mr. Coogan asked if perhaps Chelsea would be willing to help organize it. Mr. Denning said it was possible.

Mr. Pomkoski said he would have no problem helping out getting people moving with the middle school program.

Fall and winter programming

Mr. Denning said that they are having cooking classes for kids, which takes place St. Andrew's church. Frannie McColgan is the teacher. They get all the ingredients from King Arthur Flour, Springledge Farm and Musterfield Farm. There are also watercolor classes starting up next week for both adults and kids. A new drama class will begin for kids in the first grade and up. The teacher is Jessica Goodwin from Plymouth State College.

Collaboration with NLOC

Chad said that he has not had an opportunity to talk to Chelsea about Halloween yet. He doesn't see her continuing these activities if their numbers were low. Mr. Pomkoski asked if they should invite Craig Howe or some board members to come to one of their meetings. Mr. Denning said that would be good. Mr. Pomkoski said he could invite Mr. Howe.

Old business:

Mr. Denning said he had an idea for this spring. That upcoming Saturday night, beginning at 6pm, he would be running the entire Kearsarge Greenway, which is 75 miles. He is helping the Greenway by taking photos of questionable intersections that are not marked well. Next year, he would like to have an event called "Move with Me" to encourage kids and families to get outside. The 75 mile loop would be sectioned off and people would have to sign up for different parts of the loop. He will have a GPS spotting device on him and can't move unless someone is with him. His journey will be monitored on the internet.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London