



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**Town of New London  
Recreation Commission Meeting  
4/14/2009**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Allison McClean

Mr. Denning called the meeting to order at 7:07A.M. The following topics were discussed:

**Bucklin Beach:**

Mr. Denning reported that John Ohler had completed the septic system renovation and the alarm system has been installed. He said that the project has been completed within budget. He also reported that with regard to the fencing, he had obtained another bid from Andover Fence which quoted a price of \$12,000 to replaced the current fence exactly as it is, \$17,000 for a more heavy duty, plastic coated fencing product, and \$25,000 for a removable fence. Mr. Denning said that Superior Fence of Concord had presented a bid for construction of a removal, hand welded fence for \$18,000. He has decided to recommend to the Selectman that Superior Fence be awarded this contract. Once this contract has been signed, Superior Fence will move forward with the project. He noted that \$20,000 had been budgeted for this fencing. The fence will be removed in the fall and stored on-site next to the vending machines, behind the building.

**Lake Sunapee Rowing Club:**

Mr. Denning reported that there has been a healthy debate among members of the New London community regarding the Club's request to use Bucklin Beach and Little Lake Sunapee. The issue for many seems to center around the Town's policy of should non-profit organizations be permitted to use the Town beaches and on what basis should that decision be made. Additionally, there are concerns regarding noise, parking, crowding of the beach, as well as the addition of boat racks taking up useable beach space. He said that he and Mr. Coogan met with members of the LSRC last week and reviewed a draft proposal which the club will submit to the Selectmen at the public hearing scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at Whipple Hall. He said that as part

of this proposal, the Club is suggesting that this agreement be implemented until August 1<sup>st</sup> at which time the arrangement will be re-evaluated. Further, the Club would expect to have their request reviewed each year. The Recreation Commission members renewed their previous position in support of the Club's request. It was suggested that the members attend the public hearing to lend their support.

**Easter Egg Hunt:**

Mr. Denning reported that this event was a huge success and thanked the Commission members for their help and support. He mentioned that he was disappointed that this had to be held inside due to the weather. Ms. James reported that the Middle School custodial staff commented that the school was left in great condition after the event. One parent had expressed some concern regarding separating older children from the younger ones, especially if only one parent accompanied both children, but this was not seem as a huge issue. Having the Easter Bunny there was well received by the participants.

**Shuttle Bus:**

Mr. Denning reported that he is waiting to hear back from the hospital before this can move forward. He mentioned that, assuming this moves forward and is approved, there are already plans being formulated for its use. He said that John Kiernan of Village Sports has suggested its use for canoeing and kayaking trips; Travis Dezotel, Newbury Recreation Director and Mr. Denning are working together to design a Wednesday program for middle school age children which will include canoeing, backpacking, and hiking to name a few activities. There was also brief discussion of how this recreation vehicle should be used, who would be able to use it, and issues of insurance coverage. These will be addressed once the vehicle is obtained.

**Summer Brochure:**

Mr. Denning reported that he will pick this up from the printer tomorrow and he will then deliver them to schools.

**Farmer's Market:**

Mr. Denning reported that he met with Danielle Dow last week to further develop this initiative. She has researched the NH Department of Agriculture web-site and has obtained all the necessary information needed to prepare a proposal which can then be brought to the Selectmen for their consideration. It is planned that this market will be held on the horseshoe and not on the green, with ample additional parking being available behind the Pizza Chef.

**New Adult Sport League:**

Mr. Denning reported that this league will be created under the leadership of Patrick Dias the new Assistant Director of the Recreation Department. The league will be marketed not as a recreation department activity, since this frequently connotes activities geared toward mostly children, but rather as an independent adult activity that is brought to adults by the New London Recreation Department. The program will be called "Summer Swing" Adult League. Mr. Dias expects to include flag-football, softball, and wiffleball all of which will be happening at the new

Middle School in Sutton, NH. He noted that this location will give this program a more regional feel which may bring in participants from outside of New London.

**Mini Golf:**

It was noted that the closest mini golf course is in Laconia, NH, but Mr. Denning said it is possible to rent a traveling mini golf course which could be set upon the green. He is checking into this possibility.

**Trail Running Series:**

Mr. Denning reported that currently there are 30 people signed up for this so far. The part of the event that occurs in New London is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> and New London will host the grand finale. He expects that there will be over 100 people participating in the New London segment.

**North Country Aquatic Club:**

Mr. Denning said that this program is going very well, and noted that it is a revenue generating program for the Recreation Department. He said that Jamie Messer, who has two assistant coaches, is satisfied with the participation and that this is keeping Hogan Center open during a time when they would normally not have a program at that facility. Mr. Denning said that this program would continue in the fall and that the Recreation Department would be facilitating it. Mr. Stadler commented that he hoped Mr. Messer would find a more efficient way to strengthen the communication link between he and the program participants, stating that Mr. Messer does not generally respond to e-mail or phone messages in a timely manner. Mr. Denning said he would speak to Mr. Messer regarding this.

**Wii Fun Night at the Library:**

Mr. Denning reported that this has been suspended since the library space is no longer available. He mentioned that he will be offering the Wii Fun Night specifically for seniors at the Council On Adult tomorrow evening.

**Old School PE:**

Mr. Denning reported that this program will be offered for the second time at 7:00 P.M. tonight and features PE class type games like volleyball, dodge ball, and floor hockey. It is held in Mercer Hall on the Colby-Sawyer Campus. He said the average age is mid-30 to mid-40 year olds, and babysitting is available. The program is available to a maximum of 20 people.

**Summer Job Applicants:**

Mr. Denning reported that 22-25 life guard applications have been received. He said that the applicants will first be screened on the telephone by Nate Eberly and Eian Prohl, and asked four specific questions. As an aside, Mr. Denning noted that Eian Prohl will not be participating in the program this summer. He was accepted by a University of Alaska program and will be in Greenland for the summer, but is expected to return next year. With regard to who will be in charge at Elkin's Beach, Mr. Denning said that Jake Grossman and Craig McAlister are being

considered. If neither one of these individuals comes back full time, then Rene Forester, who ran the program at Storr's Pond in Hanover, NH would be a good applicant for the head job. Mr. Denning noted that seven new life guards are needed this year out of a total of the twenty needed to support the program.

**Waterfront Safety Training Classes:**

Mr. Denning reported that this class is currently going on at Hogan Center. He said that five of the new life guard applicants are currently enrolled in this program.

**Assistant Director:**

Patrick Dias has been hired and is starting May 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Denning noted that he is leaving on vacation May 12<sup>th</sup> and said that the Recreation Department will be covered by Mr. Dias while he is away. Mr. Dias will be invited to attend the next Recreation Commission meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**New London Triathlon:**

Mr. Denning reported that Police Chief David Seastrand had told him that he will not sign-off on the kid mad-dash which precedes the Hospital Day parade due to safety concerns. Mr. Denning noted that this is not a Recreation Department sponsored event, but rather organized by the hospital, which the Recreation Department supports. Mr. Denning noted that there is a fun run for the kids the next day as part of the Triathlon which is sponsored by the Recreation Department and wondered why there needed to be two runs in the same weekend. Members of the Commission thought that Chief Seastrand's concerns should be respected and thought that if they were to continue to be involved, that there needed to be an additional effort which addressed organization and safety. Mr. Denning said that he will be meeting with Donna Gatnarek, of the hospital, Jessie Levine, and Chief Seastrand to discuss this further. It was decided that the level of involvement in the run by the Recreation Department will be determined pending the outcome of that meeting.

**Other Business:**

Ms. James asked Mr. Denning if there was anything that he would like the Commissioners to be thinking about with regard to new programming. Mr. Denning responded that he favored non-traditional programs that would attract the non-jock youth who tends to be left out of athletic programs. Ms. James noted that there was now a nice network of trails and nature walks behind the Middle School which was initiated by the PTO there. It was thought that perhaps these could be utilized in collaboration with the school in the fall for hiking and nature oriented programs and in the winter for possible snow shoeing activities. Mr. Denning mentioned that the Upper Valley Outdoor Adventures, a program which he started, worked in conjunction with the guidance counselor at the middle school in Hanover and together they identified youth who otherwise might not have participated in outdoor programs. He noted that they started with six youth and that the program had now grown to about 45 participants. He said that with the addition of the new vehicle to the Recreation Department, the possibilities for these types of activities are wide open.

Mr. Pomkoski asked about the ice skating rink. Mr. Denning reported that the rink will be drained and the membrane liner was being removed today. He also asked if there was anything

going on with the old Middle School building. Mr. Denning said that there was not, except for the Outing Club, which was doing exactly what they had said they would do with that facility.

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be on Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00A.M.

There being no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby