



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**Town of New London  
Recreation Commission Meeting  
5/5/2009**

**Present:**

Keith Pomkoski, Chair  
Allison McLean  
Jason Stadler  
Chad Denning, Director

**Absent:**

Gerald Coogan, Vice Chair  
Laura James

The meeting was called to order by Chad Denning at 7:08A.M.

The minutes of the April 14th meeting were approved as presented. Chair Denning noted that the minutes from the meetings are now posted on the web site, along with the Commission's master plan and the by-laws.

The following agenda items were presented by Chair Denning:

**Beach Hours: Special Town Meeting Petition-** He said that the Lake Sunapee Rowing Club has withdrawn their request to the Town to use Little Lake Sunapee for their rowing program. He reported that Michael Doheny will present a petition to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting later today requesting that the 1986 article that restricts the use of the beach to certain hours and stipulates the beach to be used "for New London residents and their guests" be abolished until next Town Meeting when a new beach regulation policy can be presented to the Town. Chair Denning noted that the outcome of this petition will impact the recreation department programs this summer.

**Bucklin Beach and Vandalism:** He reported that there have been a number of incidents involving vandalism at both Bucklin and Elkins Beaches. To address this, a video camera has been installed at Bucklin Beach, police patrols have been stepped up, and the locks on the bathroom doors have been changed to prohibit them being open with the use of a credit card. Installation of the new fencing at Bucklin Beach will be completed in two weeks. The police are conducting investigations based on the video tapes obtained from the surveillance cameras at Bucklin Beach. Chair Denning thanked Chief Siestrand and his staff for their efforts and continued support.

**Shuttle Bus from New London Hospital:** Chair Denning reported that he has not heard back from New London Hospital regarding the rental of the shuttle bus. Therefore, the leasing arrangements have not yet been finalized. He said he is proceeding with plans for summer programs as if this agreement were approved, adding that these can be amended if the lease agreement does not go through. He said that Jessie Levine has been working with the hospital to move this agreement forward.

**Summer Brochure Distribution:** There are about 100 brochures left to be distributed, which Chair Denning said he will put in the local restaurants. He said that the summer program enrollment numbers are right where they were last year.

**Bouncy House:** Chair Denning reported that Colby-Sawyer College is purchasing a Bouncy House for Hogan Center. This House is quite large and will also have a climbing wall and a slide. The recreation department will be able to use this for little or no cost to the department during the Tot Time and other programs.

**Farmers Market:** Chair Denning announced that plans the farmers market are not moving forward. This market, which was initiated by an Andover resident, was to be independent of the recreation department, as directed by the Selectmen. He noted that he does not anticipate this happening this summer.

**New Adult Sport League:** There is now a new web site, [www.summerswingsports.com](http://www.summerswingsports.com), which is designed to attract adults who would be interested in participating in wiffleball, flag football, softball, video gaming, and mini golf. This site offers a link to the New London Recreation Department site. Chair Denning announced there will be a full page announcement appearing in the Kearsarge Shopper on Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> designed to kick off enrollment for this summer swing sports program. Patrick Dias, who has organized and will oversee this program, will start as a fulltime employee on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Trail Running Series Starts in June:** Chair Denning referred the Commissioners to the web site [www.wnhtrs.com](http://www.wnhtrs.com) to see how the details of this series were being marketed and presented to the public. This series starts on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Newport and culminates October 10<sup>th</sup> in New London. He said that 50 participants have signed up to participate so far.

**Summer Programming Sign-ups:** Chair Denning announced that one of the assistant directors of this program has resigned. She has accepted a position as a full time teacher at Marion Cross School in Norwich, VT. He said that there were many applicants for this position so he does not anticipate any difficulty in filling this position. Chair Denning reviewed that the program will be accepting daily participants this year, but they will need to be pre-registered. In response to a question by Mr. Pomkoski, Chair Denning said that the ratio of child to adult counselor is 8 to 1.

**Thursday's Child at Rockwell's:** This event was not well attended and no money was raised for the recreation department. Chair Denning said that although he had agreed to this

opportunity in January, he was not called by Rockwell's until the Monday preceding the event. This left no time for marketing or publicity. He further stated that he thought this type of fund raiser did not really fit in with the recreation department fund raising traditions and although he appreciated the effort of Rockwell's to include them, he requested that the recreation department be taken off Rockwell's list for future similar events.

**New Facility Use Agreement with School District that Will Make us Pay to Play:** Chair Denning reported that the Kearsarge Union School District has announced that they are considering a "Pay as you Play" fee as a way of generating additional revenue. The recreation department was not notified of this potential fee until last week. This would impact the entire summer program of the recreation department which uses classrooms, the multi-purpose room and the athletic fields at the Middle School and the athletic fields at the high school. If a fee for the use of these facilities were to be levied at this point in time, the recreation department budget would be negatively impacted, since this fee was not anticipated at the time the budget was set. He said that the School Board meeting to finalize this proposal will be held on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the high school and encouraged the Commission members to attend. He said that Jessie Levine has requested a draft of the proposal before the Thursday meeting. He will e-mail this draft to the Commission members as soon as he receives it.

**Patrick Dias Begins Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>:** Chair Denning announced that Patrick Dias will start on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>. Chair Denning will be on vacation the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Commission members will be available to assist Mr. Dias, if needed.

**New Beachfront Directors Hired:** Chair Denning announced that Nate Eberly and Eian Prohl have stepped aside, noting that Nate Eberly will still work on weekends. Jake Grossman, who had been at Elkins Beach for several years, will be the new Beach Front Director at Bucklin Beach during the week and Nate Eberly will be the Director on the weekends. At Elkins, Rene Forcier will be Beach Front Director. All other positions are filled. He said that he thought the beach program was over-staffed last year so he is cutting back on some hours this year and increasing the starting salary from \$8.00 to \$8.50 per hour. Mr. Pomkoski asked about beach coverage during rain. He was told that the guards are expected to be in place for one hour after it starts to rain. If the rain continues, they are to leave the beach, posting the No Life Guard on Duty sign. If the rain stops, they are free to come back, as long as two guards return. If two guards are there then the No Life Guard on Duty sign will be taken down.

**Bucklin Beach Buildings:** Chair Denning said that the interiors of the buildings are in need of repainting and the 1962 signs at Bucklin Beach needs to be repaired or replaced. He will recommend that money be placed in the budget for next year to cover these cost. He said he is going to hire a few college students to do the painting of the rest rooms in the next two weeks both at Elkins and Bucklin beaches to get them ready for the summer season. Mr. Pomkoski suggested that Judge Di Clerico be approached to see if he would be willing to come to a meeting to express support for these expenses. Mr. Stadler suggested that there be a volunteer beach clean-up day to get the town involved in caring for the beaches. The commission members thought this was a good idea and Chair Denning will pursue.

**Halloween:** Chair Denning said that he had been approached by the individuals at Colby-Sawyer who held the Halloween Party last year. They wanted to know how much the recreation department will contribute in 2010 for this event. It was decided that the recreation department will contribute \$600.

**Up-Coming Programs:** Chair Denning said that he is excited about the summer and sees it as being busy, but without the shuttle bus issue being resolved, it is difficult to finalize programs. Mr. Stadler wondered if there was some sort of hiking program being planned for the middle school age youth that could feed into the Project Climb program at the high school. A discussion followed regarding ways to attract more middle school youth to this new outdoor opportunity. Mr. Pomkoski suggested that he work with Chair Denning to organize an introductory program this fall aimed at the middle school youth, perhaps in a general assembly format. It could be presented as a pre-Project Climb program. Mr. Stadler suggested that it be called Project Approach, since you first approach a trail, then you climb. If this initiative could be developed, Chair Denning noted that Project Climb has all the necessary gear, which belongs to the school district, decreasing the expense for this new program. He added that if the leasing of the shuttle bus occurred, this would increase the programming potential. Chair Denning said he will get in touch with Peter Keene and Peter Angus of the Middle School to discuss this initiative.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby  
Recording Secretary