



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT

Town of New London Recreation Commission Meeting 6/9/2009

Present:

Laura James
Jason Stadler
Chad Denning, Director

Absent:

Keith Pomkoski
Gerald Coogan
Allison McLean

The meeting was called to order by Chad Denning at 7:00A.M.

The minutes of the 5/5/09 meeting were accepted as presented.

The following agenda items were discussed by Chair Denning:

Beach Hours: Special Town Meeting Petition- The special Town Meeting held last night to discuss the Bucklin Beach hours was brief, lasting only about six minutes, with approximately one hundred people in attendance. The 1986 Ordinance was repealed and any future decisions regarding the oversight or governance of the beach is now in the hands of the Board of Selectmen. This means that all of the summer programming put in place by the Recreation Department can move forward as planned. With regard to the status of the Lake Sunapee Rowing Club, Chair Denning said that they have been given access to Lake Sunapee by The Fells and have obtained permission to keep a boat there. They have also been loaned a trailer from Hanover High School for the summer which will enable them to row on both Little Lake Sunapee and Pleasant Lake this summer.

Trail Projects Around the Town- Jessie Smerald, a local Boy Scout, will initiate and complete his project in the month of June. All the wood he is using has been pre-cut. Jessie has been working with Bob Brown of the New London Conservation Commission who has helped him move his wood with the use of Mr. Brown's trailer. The Recreation Department has also been assisting Mr. Brown with his Conservation Commission projects. The Department has helped him move thirty sections of pre-assembled 12 foot boardwalk. He said that right now, if you go on to any portion of the trail behind the Middle School there are about 3000 board feet of boardwalk, including bridges, that have been installed in various segments of the trail. Chair Denning said that this means that the Halloween Haunted Walk will be able to utilize a portion of this trail for their event in October. Regarding this event, he said that thirty-five Colby-

Sawyer students signed up to help with this even before they left for the summer. He reviewed that the Recreation Department has already approved \$600 in support of this fall event.

Shuttle Bus from New London Hospital- This agreement is finalized and the van will be picked up tomorrow. He said that he has about six different events already schedule to use this vehicle this summer for middle school age youth. He is working with Dom Di Dominic, guidance counselor from the middle school, to attract more students in that age group. The scheduled events include going to Bromley Adventure Park, hiking at Pack Monadnock, Canobie Lake, Whales Tale, and Kayaking with Lake Sunapee Outfitters. These are all low cost events, nothing will be over \$30, including transportation. He said that they have partnered with the towns of Newport for 2 outings and Newbury for 3, so far. In response to a question by Mr. Stadler, Chair Denning said that these opportunities are posted on the recreation department web site, but recognized that there still needed to be more publicity. He said he is planning on placing another add in the shopper this week. He said that Mr. Di Dominic already has six youth signed up.

Bucklin Fence- The installation of the fencing is complete. Chair Denning noted that this fence is very easy to remove and put back by sections and said this will be great for future track events.

Ice Skating Rink- Chair Denning reported that this has been power washed, dried and stored for the summer, ready for use this winter.

Farmers Market Status- Alexa Carlin has moved ahead with this. She has Kate Crozer and Heidi Toma to help. The market will be small this year, with perhaps five vendors but they are hoping to have about twenty next year.

Adult Sport League- An e-mail was sent out to all the surrounding towns two weeks ago suggesting that all the recreation departments get together to have this type of programming. There was only one response which was from Paul Coates from Lebanon who contacted Chair Denning by phone.

Along the lines of intertown colloboration, Chair Denning said that he has contacted Jolene Archambeault, marketing director of Lake Sunapee Bank, with the suggestion that the bank sponsor one big event a year which would benefit all the surrounding towns, rather than continue to have each Town approach the bank for support of a specific fund raiser each year. Ms. Archibald thought this was a good direction to consider, since she shared that the after this year the bank probably will not be able to continue its existing pattern of support. Chair Denning outlined that all the recreation departments of the surrounding Towns (Lebanon, Newport, Sunapee, Hanover, and Claremont) would probably be involved in this event and that all the proceeds would get divided up among the recreation departments of the participating Towns. He thought this could become an annual event, providing revenue that the Towns could count on each year. As an example, he said that the Covered Bridges Marathon in Vermont made \$125,000 last year, which was then divided among the participating recreation departments in Vermont. He suggested an event like Ducky Derby, using a portion of the rail trail along the Mascoma River in Lebanon. The ducks, with the logo of the Lake Sunapee Bank on the side,

could be dumped off one of the bridges along the river and retrieved at another bridge further down. Traffic would not be an issue since the event is on the rail trail. Sponsors could be placed along the river, so that if a duck were caught at that location, a prize, provided by the sponsor, would be won. He said that the sponsors could place signs along the banks, gaining some advertising for their participation. He suggested each duck would cost \$5.00 or five ducks for \$25. If the five recreation departments are involved, he would anticipate a gain of \$25,000 the first year, which would mean \$5000 for each of the five towns, more than any one town currently get from Lake Sunapee Bank for the sponsorship of one event per season. He noted that he is not considering this event for the 2009 season but rather pre-planning for next summer.

Ms. James suggested that Chair Denning communicate again with the five recreation departments to let them know what he is think about and to tell them that he has already explored this idea with Lake Sunapee Bank. He said there would be an initial cost to Lake Sunapee Bank of about \$7500 to purchase the ducks. Then there would be marketing and printing costs. He anticipated that in the following years, the cost would be reduced to the titled sponsor to about \$2500-\$3000, since the ducks would be reused each year. He noted that this is a sustainable fund raiser with many possibilities for smaller sponsorships. He opined that he thought at some point in the future the recreation departments will need to recognize that they may need to be self supporting and thought this was a good first step. Ms. James suggested that Chair Denning set up a meeting, attended by Ms. Archibald and the other recreation departments, to explore this idea further. Chair Denning thought this was a good idea and would proceed with this.

Trail Running Series Starts in June- Last year there were 22 participants, and so far this year there are 65 participants who have signed up. This means there are 65 guaranteed entrants who have paid their entrance fee for each race.

Summer Programming Sign-ups- The number of registered participants is about the same as last year. He said there are some families that are asking for scholarships. Since this program is an accredited day camp through the State of New Hampshire, he is referring these inquiries to the Child and Family Services Program in the State. He said there are already four families who have obtained funding through this source.

New Facility Use Agreement with the School District- Starting next year the recreation department will have to pay \$30 a day for the use of the school. This will be a substantial cost to the program which will have to be incurred by the users.

New Beach Front Directors- Jake Grossman and Nate Eberly will be in charge of Bucklin Beach and Craig McCalister and Rene Forcier at Elkins Beach. They have been working on the beaches, getting them ready for the summer season. Bucklin Beach was finished yesterday, with the ropes up, rafts in the water, sailboats getting rigged, the kayaks being moved out, and the beach cleaned. Chair Denning also reported the department has purchased a new one year old 6 HP Mercury outboard engine for the Town boat. He noted that Elkins Beach will be the focus this week.

Chair Denning expressed a huge “hats off” to Patrick Dias who has been doing a great job in launching the adult sports program. He said that this is a hard program to lunch in this area. Mr.

Dias will be coming to the July meeting to meet with the Commissioners. Ms. James suggested that his picture be posted on the web site. She also suggested that pictures of the summer activities at the beaches be placed on the web site throughout the season. Mr. Stadler suggested using Ning.com as a way to communicate the activities of the recreation department. He said this is a free community or social networking site which would allow the department to download pictures and video and also includes a blog site.

A discussion then followed about the need to have a stronger marketing approach. Chair Denning agreed and thought that this might be a good project for Patrick Dias later this summer, as his programs are winding down.

Mr. Stadler asked about tickets for the Red Sox games this summer. Chair Denning said that games are July 9 and August 11. Chair Denning will send another e-mail out announcing these opportunities.

There being no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording Secretary