



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT

**Town of New London
Recreation Commission Meeting
7/14/2009**

Present:

Allison McLean
Gerald Coogan
Keith Pomkoski
Jason Stadler
Chad Denning, Director

Absent:

Laura James

The meeting was called to order by Chad Denning at 7:15A.M.

Approval of the minutes of the 6/9/09 meeting will be deferred until the next meeting.

The following agenda items were discussed by Chair Denning:

Collaboration Meeting- Chair Denning shared a copy of the power point presentation presented at this meeting and reported that the meeting was attended by about 13 people. The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, United Way, and local recreation departments were represented. All saw tremendous value in the concept of recreation department collaboration for a few big events during the year which would be sponsored by local businesses. The revenue generated would then be split among the participating recreation departments which would provide the man-power. Mr. Denning said this would be especially good for the Summer Swing Sports program which now has five teams, but with a collaborative approach would envision 30 teams participating. He also used the example of the Covered Bridge half marathon of Vermont in which ten recreation departments participate and divide the revenue. He said the Western Trail Running series is an event that would benefit from a collaborative approach. He clarified that this would not be a regionalization of all the recreation departments, but rather a regionalization of a few programs which would add greater exposure for the sponsors and increase the number of participants. In response to a question by Mr. Pomkoski, Chair Denning said that he and Patrick Dias put the presentation together. He is now putting together a proposal to send to the recreation departments to get them to agree to participate. The next meeting will be sometime in August.

Trail Projects Around the Town- Chair Denning reported that Jessie Smerald has completed his Eagle Scout trail project. He said it is now possible to walk from the old Middle School to Morgan Hill without getting your feet wet, and that there is now about 4000-5000 feet of

boardwalks that have been constructed, mostly by the Conservation Commission, on the conservation trails. Chair Denning said he has tried to get the Intertown Record to do some sort of feature on this accomplishment but they did not appear to be interested. Mr. Coogan suggested perhaps holding an open house for the community to introduce the improvements. Chair Denning thought this could be held in the fall. He said that the Halloween Haunted Walk and the Trail Run, both held in October, will show case the trails behind the middle school where the Recreation Department participated in the boardwalk construction.

Shuttle Bus from New London Hospital- Chair Denning said that this has been working out really well and is used everyday by the Summer Day Camp. He reported that it required about \$300 worth of repairs in the first week which came out of recreation department funds. He will pick up the new magnetic sign for the side of the bus this afternoon. He also reported that so far the Day Camp has taken trips to Water Country at Canobie Lake, Space Center in Hooksett, and will be going to Billings Farm in Woodstock, Vermont, using a school bus rather than the shuttle bus due to the numbers of children involved. Chair Denning said that the lease for the shuttle bus is up on September 1st.

Bucklin Fence, Septic Pumping and Potential Issues- Chair Denning reported that the Bucklin Beach front fence now is locked every night at 9:00PM by the New London Police Department. He was concerned that if there were an emergency, the lock could delay a quick response while the key was obtained. Ms. McLean suggested that a combination or key pad code lock might be more efficient. Chair Denning said he would look into this alternative. He also reported that the new septic system needed to be pumped after the first two weeks of usage. This was a \$560 expense. He reviewed that the new system has doubled the size of the holding tank to 2000 gallons and he is concerned that this might be a pattern for the summer. This expense is not in the 2009 budget and could be up to a \$2000-\$3000 expense just for this year. He will be monitoring this closely in the coming weeks. He said that Sterns Septic is on-call for coverage of this system when pumping is needed.

Farmers Market Status- This appears to be going well, with 12 vendors signed up. It is hoped that there may be up to 40 vendors in a few years. Each vendor pays \$10 a week to participate, with \$70 for the whole season. The market is from 4:30-6:30PM on Friday evenings before the band concert on the green.

Adult Sport League- Chair Denning reported that the soft ball tournament was a huge success with 8 teams participating, 4 from the Nashua/Manchester area. Chair Denning reported that Patrick Dias, who has organized this program, is marketing it for the fall in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont and has received positive feedback for this approach. He is anticipating that there may be as many as 10-15 teams participating in the fall tournament which will be held at the new Middle School fields.

Trail Running Series- Chair Denning reported that the number of increased participants is terrific. The Newport race increased its participation numbers by 30% over last year. He reported that the number of participants in the Claremont race was also up and that the Frenzy in the Forest in Sunapee, a first time race, had 125 participants. Saturday October 10th is the date

for the Pleasant Climb race in New London. He said that this is a featured race on the Eastern Massachusetts Trail Running Series web site which will give it greater exposure.

Summer Programming Sign-ups- Chair Denning reported that the number of registered participants has dipped. He said there are families that are asking for scholarships assistance from the State (this program is an accredited day camp through the State of New Hampshire Child and Family Services Program), which adds an additional level of paper work, on a per diem basis, for the staff to complete once the participants are granted the scholarships. He reported that so far the Day Camp program is down about \$1000. With the scholarship funding, the program is not getting the revenue up front which is also adding to the revenue dip. Chair Denning said he has heard that this State aid program will probably not be available next year.

New Facility Use Agreement with the School District that will make us pay to play- Starting next year the recreation department will have to pay \$30 a day for the use of the school multi-purpose room. This will be about a \$1000 expense for next year and will have to be built into the 2010 budget and passed on to the users.

Chair Denning mentioned that he the first session of Kayaking lessons will be held this afternoon and that the first and second sessions of sailing lessons were all filled up. He thought that perhaps there needed to be more sailing lesson sessions scheduled next year. Ms. McLean asked about scheduling sailing lessons for different skill levels. Chair Denning said that he has been approached by a number of adults who would like to see adult classes scheduled. Chair Denning said a big issue in expanding this program is staffing and thought that someone like Heidi Thoma needed to be on the staff full time for the summer. Mr. Coogan suggested that the Lake Sunapee Yacht Club be contacted to see if there are any members who would be interested. Chair Denning said that a problem is that the sail boats are getting older, requiring more frequent repairs, and will soon need to be replaced. This will need to be considered for the 2010 budget.

A Pleasant Climb Trail Race and Planning- Chair Denning said he is starting to plan for this race now and that he wants to have a big chin dig when this race and trail running series is completed. He asked that all commission members participate in this event in some capacity.

CIP Meeting- Mr. Coogan asked if there was a Budget Committee meeting scheduled at which the Recreation Department will need to make a presentation and asked if Commission members should be there in attendance. Chair Denning would like their support and said that this will be coming up in the next few weeks and he will let them know of the date. Chair Denning said that for that meeting he was planning on using the recreation shuttle bus to take Budget Committee members around to the different sites to show them what the recreation department is doing, and where these programs are being held. Mr. Coogan thought that this was going to be a tough budget season and wanted to make sure the recreation presentation was prepared and organized.

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be August 11th at 7:00AM.

There being no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording Secretary