

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
August 2, 2016

PRESENT: Lori Lavolpicelo, Justin Garzia, Lyndsay Lund, Laura Lorio, Casey Biuso, Janet Kidder and Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Vernon, Conservation Commission and Catherine Bardier, New London Hospital Representative

Mark reviewed the handout of the “Power Line Trail Plan” from the New London Conservation Commission. This proposal would establish a walking trail underneath the power lines that run behind New London Hospital from Newport Road to Parkside Road. This project has been considered for quite some time. New London Hospital owns the land on both sides of the power line, and, has agreed to donate access. Eversource (the power company that owns the lines) has also agreed to allow the trail. There are a number of conditions attached to this project by the Hospital and Eversource.

The New London Public Works Department would create the trail and mow it once it was complete. The New London Conservation Commission would maintain the trail, as it does all other Town trails (for example, there will be bridge over the four water crossings).

The estimated cost to establish the trail is \$102,000.00. The money for this project will be requested from the Mary Haddad Trust (there is approximately \$450,000.00 left in this Trust - \$300,000.00 was used in the 2016 fiscal year to purchase land surrounding Clark Lookout). In order to spend the money from the Trust, two of the three voting bodies (Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission and Selectmen) must agree.

There were quite a number of questions regarding this proposal – would the surface be suitable for bicycles; x-country skiing; snowshoeing; etc. It was noted that no motorized vehicles would be allowed except for grooming the trail. The group asked Mark to give a more detailed explanation of the cost and a more detailed map of the area.

The Minutes of July 5th were accepted.

Scott noted that he had to remove a rusted grill from Bucklin, and there was considerable discussion regarding grills at both beaches (location, safety, etc.). Scott noted that he will have the ladder attached to the float at Elkins and replace the grill at Bucklin (the grills cost approximately \$300.00 each). It was felt there should be a designated grilling area, and, that residents should be allowed to bring their own grills (the signs will have to be changed).

Scott will also have a local landscaper create a beautification plan for Bucklin beach.

The parking lot at Elkins has been paved and will be striped.

Scott reviewed the 2016 budget. The waterfront budget was overspent by \$11,000.00 due to the increased need for staff with the warm weather. A Motion was made and seconded to use \$11,000.00 from the Revolving Fund to balance the 2016 waterfront budget. Approved.

Scott noted that there is a need for a storage shed for paddle boards and other waterfront equipment. Currently the paddle boards are put in the bathrooms each night.

Additional help is needed for Hospital Days activities on Friday night. The Comedy Show at 6:00 is a free family event, and, there will be face painting on the Midway.

The Halloween Haunted Walk will take place on Halloween, Monday, October 31st. Scott will give extra candy to the Police Department, and they will distribute it to households that have a lot of visitors on Halloween.

Justin is getting estimates on the cost of netting and poles for the ice skating rink. It was agreed these expenses should be taken from the Revolving Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30. The next meeting is September 6 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet R. Kidder