

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2016

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

The Minutes of January 5, 2016 were approved.

A review of Winter Carnival was the first item on the agenda. Dinner with Jack Frost was a huge success thanks to Lori Lavolpicelo who coordinated the event. Scott noted that a considerable amount of money was saved (approximately \$420.00 over last year's event – DJ, smaller tent, lights, etc.). There were 325 tickets sold for the event, including 40 children at \$5.00/each. Scott would like to sell 350 tickets for next year, which Lori thought would not be a problem with the number of restaurants involved. It was suggested that the vendors might try to come up with more kid-friendly food choices.

The four fire pits were donated from the Newport Fire Association. Ten Colby-Sawyer students volunteered to assist with helping children cook s'mores. At least 100 people tried the marshmallow treat.

The New London Fire Department was present for the fireworks on Saturday night. The cost of the display was \$2000.00, and was wonderful.

The magic show was enjoyed by 120 children.

The "undie run" had 35 participants who raised \$350.00 for the Recreation Department.

There was a light turnout for the Improv night, but Karaoke was a big hit with the children, although it needs to be promoted more.

There will be a final debriefing of the Winter Carnival Committee on Monday, February 9th.

The date for the Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 26 at 9:30 am. Lyndsay will check with the New London Historical Society about hosting the event there. The Wilmot Learning Place will provide coffee, cocoa (money will go to the Recreation Department) and have a bake sale, with proceeds from the bake sale going to the Wilmot Learning Place.

The Father/Daughter Dance, which is open to all families (mother and sons) will be March 5, 2016 at Whipple Town Hall. Scott will get a DJ.

It was noted there have been two meetings with parents concerning hockey at the skating rink, and how to improve safety. Volunteers have put up fencing and will get lower nets. They may also try to raise some money for better fencing, etc. (the ground is frozen, so more stable posts for fencing cannot be installed now, but will be added before next year's skating season begins). Scott is having signs made which will note times for hockey, skating, etc.

It was noted that if approved at town meeting, a van will be ordered and the conditions will be lease/purchase.

The money was restored for the bathrooms at Elkins and Bucklin beaches to be professionally cleaned weekly. Scott will emphasize the importance of cleaning the beach areas and bathrooms to the staff. Lyndsay will also instruct the staff on proper guidelines for cleaning.

Hannah Wolcott (Colby-Sawyer student) will be the Waterfront Director for both beaches this summer (last year there were two directors, one for each beach).

It was also suggested that the beach attendants have different shirts from the life guards, since they are in charge of cleaning the beaches and bathhouses.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next meeting is March 1, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet R. Kidder