

To: Lyme Foundation

From: Recreation Commission with Ice management team, John Gartner and Will Mudge

Contact: Town of Lyme Recreation Commission-dina@lymenh.gov

January 5, 2022

re: Post Pond Skating Rink

This year several local families have come together to bring back the Recreation Facility skating rink. Now with the persistent cold air, people of all ages have been enjoying this spot to learn to skate and get some winter exercise. And it has quickly become, once again, a safe place to socialize and build community bonds.

We are asking the Lyme Foundation to help fund this outdoor community space with the purchase of materials to clear snow and maintain the ice surface. This proposal is intended to meet the current needs for this winter.

Overall, we feel our volunteer effort to build a healthy outdoor space serves a need for people of all ages to gather and to build community during the cold winter months

Background: Over a decade ago, with the support of the Recreation Commission the flooding of the Recreation Facility parking lot started, making a skating area safer than the pond, and with lights installed (donated by a local business) night skating was available. The berms were permanently installed for 2 sides and each fall the Lyme Highway Department would create the other two. Then the Fire Department would flood the area in the winter. It was a community effort, led mostly by Pete Mulvihill (Recreation Commission member), Ben Hudson and Rob Meyer. The rink was used almost nightly. Eventually the rink was not installed. A few years later Tony Pippin and David Celone came to the Recreation Commission to begin a skating rink on the Common. With COVID and the lack of socialization in 2020-2021 the rink on the Common has not been assembled.

John and Will were inspired by seeing teenagers, young adults, and children on chilly nights and weekend mornings a decade ago at the Recreation Facility. We also understand that maintaining a rink is a lot of work, often undertaken by parents who want a healthy, safe place for their children in the winter. As you know the Recreation Commission relies solely on volunteers and is fortunate enough to have many who are will to spearhead various projects.

Will, John and this group of parent's goal is to have a safe place for anyone in the community to come skate outdoors. They aim to carry on the tradition of the Recreation Facility rink for the next decade plus, and hope to inspire the next generation of parents to maintain this rink.

Last fall, after approval and support from the Recreation Commission, they dusted off the rink kit and twelve families assembled the rink on December 5. Even the work party was a community event, a great time to meet some new families. The Fire Department flooded the rink and returned to add more water to help resurface the ice. Since late December, as soon as the ice was solid, there were shatters. Just last week, elementary kids were skating till 8 pm, followed immediately by a group of teenagers. Right after the last big snowstorm, 8 families joined up to clear the ice with kids and parents working together armed with shovels from home.

Funding: At present, we seek \$1,198 in funding for some immediate needs: shovels and bumper caps. Storing shovels near the rink makes it easy for people to volunteer to clear and maintain the ice. The bumper caps make the rink safer. Here are details on the current proposal:

Snow Pusher, \$240. We seek three 40-inch wide snow pushers (\$80 each) to clear snow after storms and scrape the ice after skating. It is good practice to give a quick scrape on the whole rink after skating to maintain the ice.

Shovels, \$138. We seek three Poly Snow Scoop shovels (\$46 each) to remove scraped snow off of the rink.

Bumper caps, \$820. We seek 90 bumper caps (\$5.50 each + \$325 shipping) from NiceRink, the company that makes the rink kit. The bumper caps are a safety item, helping to cushion the hard top of the side boards. They also help hold the liner in place.

Total Request: \$1,198

The shovels and snow pushers will be stored in the Recreation Commission shed. All rink materials will be stored at the Meyers building on Britton Lane.

Thank you for considering the Recreation Commission and ice management teams proposal, and we hope to see you on a crisp mornings and chilly evenings, staying warm on the ice.



The considerations for next year could be the need of a new liner (~\$1,000), kick plates (~\$700), replacement brackets (~\$120), and perhaps an ice resurfacer and snow blower. John and Will are still learning and experimenting with the best way to keep the ice surface in good (even great) condition.