

Recreation Commission meeting minutes

August 28, 2023 Recreation meeting minutes.

Present for this meeting were members: Judy Brotman, Curtis Sheppard, Chris Pratt, Dina Cutting and Luke Prince. Recreation Director Stephen Small

Lyme Foundation members: Deb Kilham, Sarah Eck and Joan Barthold.

Sarah reviewed the Post Pond recreation area site visit with landscape architect, Paul Simon. Instead of a full survey, the Lyme Foundation has offered to hire a surveyor to map out the elevations of the beach area for further information. The cost is \$1,500. The Lyme Foundation will pay for this expense.

Following a brief discussion, the sense of the Recreation Commission was to welcome this topographical survey with the understanding that Curtis Shapard will be meeting with Rob Tabor, the surveyor, during the survey work at the pond site. Sarah will communicate the necessary information to Curtis.

The Foundation members were asked if they had a response to the Commission's letter and list of prioritized projects the Recreation Commission sent on May 22, 2023. It was noted the Foundation did not discuss the individual projects.

The Recreation Commission was disappointed that the prioritized list was not considered. The tennis court is of great concern to the Recreation Commission. This is the # 1 project that needs research. We can not continue to put funds into the courts if they are going to continue to crack and heave. It has been reported to the Recreation Commission that the courts need total replacement - the sub surface is the problem. Chris Pratt and Dina have each requested Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing, Inc. come and take a look at the courts and give us a report on the conditions. Chris will follow up on this. The Lyme Foundation members left the meeting at this time.

Director's report:

Soccer projections were reviewed and discussed. We are still waiting for sign-ups to finish for firmer numbers. Scheduling has taken place with only a few games left to confirm. Coaching looks covered. The Commission reviewed various topics with Recreation Director Small concerning baseball. The Recreation Commission will work hard to improve communications with the public to better understand the job responsibilities of the Recreation Director.

Curtis reported on the following:

The Shack- it is almost completed. Some final electrical work is needed and then it will be ready for the tractor and equipment, batting cage, supplies etc..... Thank you, Curtis, for all the volunteer hours put into this project.

The Changing Room-Curtis reported someone went into the changing room and proceeded to scratch all kinds of XXXX's into the beautiful wood. Sad that we can't keep things from being damaged! Given this report the Commission discussed placing a camera at the Chase Beach location. We will ask the police department for the best location and of course the police will be the only department that will review and take care of the recorded information.

Other items discussed:

Batting Cage-was discussed again. Hopefully it will be completed on the beach closing and cleanup day. The Commission approved the use of any posts from the Lifeguard stand removal that can be used for the batting cage set up.

The New Float Ladder- this never got put on the float this year. It will be stored for the winter and put on first thing next swimming season.

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2024 Baseball: The 2024 baseball season was briefly discussed. Concerns from previous years about traveling to far were noted. Director Small will do some research to see what other options are available and viable for the Lyme baseball youth for the 2024 season. In order to have enough time to review and make a decision, Mr. Small will report back to the Commission at the January 2024 meeting.

Closing of the Recreation Facility: This will take place on Saturday September 17, 2023. Luke Prince will head this up and find volunteers to help him take the float, docks and ropes out for the winter season.

Lemonade stand: *The top to the Lifeguard stand will be put on the corner of the driveway located at 100 Orford Road so they can sell lemonade. He he he!*

The Commission is trying to organize a thank you cook out for the many recreation volunteers. The following dates are possibilities: September 22nd or October 4th. The commission members will double check calendars and commit to one of those dates. The cookout will be either at the recreation facility or possibly on the Common. This could be a nice opportunity to recognize Mr. Small's 25 years as Recreation Director as well as provide some information about the Recreation Director's job responsibilities.

At 7:08PM there being no further discussions the Commission adjourned.

Next meeting: September 25th, 2023 at 6:00PM

To the best of my recollection,

Dina

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Letter to Lyme Foundation on May 22, 2023-

At its meeting of May 22, 2023, the Recreation Commission discussed the ideas and additions put forth concerning the Recreation Facility. The following is the sense of this meeting:

- The Recreation Commission feels strongly that it is important to keep as much open space as possible.
- This area should keep its country charm.
- We are a small rural Recreation Facility and we need to update and take care of the facilities we already have.
- Keep this Recreation Facility as low maintenance as possible.

With those goals in mind and the strong sense that we should make sure that what we already have at this facility is in tip top shape, the Commission came up with 4 items that we feel are important to address at this time.

1. Tennis-pickleball/basketball courts. From 2010 to 2022 \$37,000 has been put into the courts to address the surface cracking and the shifting of dirt under the courts. We believe it would be beneficial and cost effective to have a structural review of these courts and the ground beneath and to have a professional opinion concerning the anticipated longevity of the current surface. It does not make sense to keep putting funds into these courts if it is time to rebuild the courts. This is a wonderful Town asset that is enjoyed by many residents.
We are asking the Lyme Foundation to support the funding of a professional opinion and if necessary, consider replacing the Tennis-pickleball/basketball courts if necessary.
2. Fencing. In order to protect this recreation area, the fencing needs to be in good shape. The Commission would like to see the current fencing replaced - from the Route 10 side, along the courts, and along the berm (removal of the berm would be favorable). This fencing is important to maintaining a separation from the recreation areas and the vehicle traffic.
3. Boat racks. The Commission continues to support the idea of additional (up to 4 more) boat racks.
4. Leveling and bringing up the grade of the parking lot is a project the Town Highway department will be able to do. However, we would like to have the beach access pathway brought up to meet the parking lot (at its new height) and run to the beach area in a gradual, tapered manner. This will get rid of the "walking through the muck" problem.

The above items are what the Recreation Commission felt would be appropriate for the Lyme Foundation's assistance.

Recreation Commission also voted to address the following items over the next few years as funding allows.

- New swing set (in a different location)
- Purchase a new tether ball set up.
- Purchase a new volleyball set up.
- Remove the lifeguard stand
- Address the Mens softball shack. Make it smaller, add a ramp for the storage of the field tractor and equipment.
- 3 new drinking fountains (2 to replace the present old ones and 1 additional one over at the field dugout.
- A bike rack

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- We plan to move the 2 grills and additional picnic tables to the swing set area as a family picnic area.

The Board reviewed Director, Steve Smalls report. (See attachment)

In the coming months the Commission will be reviewing the hours assigned to the Recreation Director. The demands of new sporting activities and the administrative work that goes along with them have increased this position. The budgeting for 2024 has not begun yet but this commission should be ready by September and October to present funding requests to the budget committee.

The new raft needs a ladder. Luke will investigate this and get one ordered for this year. Chris moved to have Luke order a new ladder for the dock. Seconded by Curtis. Voted unanimously.

Thursday June 15, 2023 will be the cleanup, put the docks in work day. Starting time is 5:30PM. A notice will be sent out in the coming weeks. It is the hope of the commission that many more people will come and help this year with the set up and clean up. It is tough to have only 4 people come to clean and set up.

The commission adjourned at 7:15PM

Respectfully Submitted, Dina