

TOWN OF LYME
Recreation Commission
October 27, 2025

Members Present: Curtis Shepard, Judy Brotman, Dina Cutting, Luke Prince, Ashley Luurtsema, Steve Small, Kim Essensa

Public: Kerri and Andrew Gandin

1. Baseball Program Update

Presented by: Kerri and Andrew Gandin

- The program is in a rebuilding phase. Only 5 players will be eligible for the Majors division in 2026, making it unlikely to field a full team. The Gandins plan to communicate with those families early and explore other options within the Upper Valley.
- Approximately 21 players are expected for the Minors division; two teams will be formed. 14 players have prior experience, with varying years of eligibility. The Minors program is expected to remain strong.
- Around 15 players are anticipated for the coach-pitch (also called “C-Minor” but would like to move away from using this term) division, with two teams expected. The Gandins propose this division be limited to 1st graders only.
- T-ball numbers are still to be determined, pending incoming Kindergarten registrations.
- The group discussed moving away from labeling divisions by grade level, instead following Cal Ripken birth-year guidelines.
- Questions were raised about whether the regular season and All-Star programs should remain under the Recreation Commission. The Gandins expressed that they do not have the bandwidth to manage them independently and prefer they remain with the Commission.
- There may not be enough All-Star-eligible players each year to consistently field teams, though keeping the program local is preferred. Partnering with Lebanon could be an alternative. A cost estimate was requested. The All-Star baseball team aspect will be discussed more at a later date.
- The baseball program currently operates at a ~\$2,500 annual loss. A separate budget breakdown for baseball within the overall recreation budget was requested.
- There is no middle-school-eligible field (requires 90’ base paths). Extending the current infield would impact the soccer field but is not considered a major issue. Alternatives include using Crossroads Field or partnering with nearby towns (e.g., Hanover or Thetford) for middle school play.
 - **Action Items:**
 - Curtis will contact Graham Webster to assess field modifications.
 - Dina will contact Crossroads regarding field availability.

Wish List / Facility Updates:

1. Temporary Fence: One may be available from the men’s softball league. Dina will explore this option; if not, all agreed to pursue fundraising for purchase.
2. Drinking Fountain: Fully functional and installed this past summer.
3. Pitching Machine: The program has not had an automatic machine; Kerri and Andrew will research pricing.
4. Batting Cage: Luke will assist Andrew in taking it down and storing it indoors (to prevent damage from mice).

5. Scoreboard: The existing scoreboard was refreshed two years ago; the program is interested in a new electronic version that could serve both baseball and soccer. Kerri and Andrew will look into pricing.
6. Snack Shack: The existing structure in right field is ready for use. Families could volunteer to staff it during games. Curtis will modify the shed to include a sliding window and other necessary updates. The funding could go towards sports funding. This can be discussed at a later date.

2. Other Sports Updates

Presented by: Steve Small

a. Tennis

- Steve noted that additional advance notice would be helpful in the future.
- The first sessions went well, with strong participation for the program's first year.
- The program operated at no cost to the Recreation Department.

b. Soccer

- This season saw record-high participation (143 players).
- The season has officially concluded.

c. Basketball

- Scheduling is nearly complete and will be finalized this week.
- Dina recommended splitting the K-2 group due to challenges managing the larger age span. Additional ideas included recruiting more volunteer coaches and involving parents for support when needed.
- Booster Club offered to donate uniforms; Steve advised them to present the offer formally to the Recreation Commission. He also suggested that the Booster Club coordinate with Stateline. The Booster Club has very recently confirmed it will not supply uniforms this year; therefore, uniforms will again be provided by the Recreation Department.
- To offset rising expenses, the program fee for grades 3-8 will increase by \$15 (from \$60 to \$75). Curtis will contact Chris Pratt to see if the Booster Club could help offset this cost.
- A 3rd/4th grade girls coach is still needed.

Next meeting date: November 24, 2025

Minutes by Ashley Luurtsema