

TOWN OF LYME
Recreation Commission
November 24, 2025

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

1. Recreation Directors Report

- *Basketball:* The program operated at a small loss (under \$1,000). Only outstanding expense is the cost of running the table.
- *Ski Program:* Susan Wasp will take over leadership, with support and handoff from Bridgette. A makeup week will be included, if needed, due to changes in school vacation timing. Registration will open December 1st.
- *Soccer:* The season closed out with a small loss, as expected.
- The Recreation Director role has become more demanding than originally anticipated. Although designed as a 40-week position, there are no longer 12 true “off” weeks. More approximately one month of downtime is more accurate. 48 weeks requested now. Hours were increased from 15 to 20 per week. Dina will compile the job description and Recreation Commission financials for review prior to the December meeting.

2. Dance Program

- Nicole Gaines proposed offering a winter theater arts program on select Saturdays, including both dance and musical theater options.
- The program will be free to participants and Nicole is well-qualified to run it.
- The Commission unanimously approved the request.

3. Baseball

- Follow up from October action items:
 - Curtis has reached out to Graham and is awaiting a response
 - Awaiting pricing updates from Gandin’s on additional items.
- The new pitching mound needs to be stored properly—it can be placed in the dugout. All other equipment is currently stored in the shed behind the dugouts. Dina will move the mound to the Pike House to prevent mouse damage.
- The group discussed fall ball and whether to allow it next year. With more appropriate planning time and attention to field conditions, the Commission hopes to reconsider the program.
- Further baseball decisions will be paused until Gandin’s can attend the January meeting so the Commission is prepared ahead of March registration.

4. Background checks

- The Commission agreed that all coaches (including ski coaches) should complete background checks every two years.

5. Tennis Court Update

- The Lyme Foundation recently met and discussed the tennis court project. They are supportive but need more information.
- The existing quote is now 18 months old; it should be refreshed, and a second quote obtained. The Commission cannot fully respond to the Foundation's questions until updated information is collected. Curtis will reach out to the three companies for which Dina has contact details.
- The group discussed whether to proceed with fundraising. Dina will circulate the draft fundraising letter for feedback.
- Luke will follow up with the Lyme Foundation with an update.

6. Questionnaire to Commission and Coaches

- Commission could distribute a free survey which would allow people to respond anonymously.
- If anyone has questions to include, share them with Dina and Steve to compile

7. Committee Members

- Curtis proposed swapping membership roles with Kim effective immediately. He will continue to support the program and serve as an alternate.
- The Commission unanimously approved the change.

Next Meeting December 15, 2025

Minutes submitted by Ashley Luurtsema