

TOWN OF LYME  
Recreation Commission  
January 26, 2026

**Members Present:** Curtis Shepard (acting as a voting member in Lukes's absence), Dina Cutting, Ashley Luurtsema (zoom), Kim Essensa  
**Public:** Nadia Gorman & Virginia Beahan  
**Public zoom:** Micheal Beahan Meg McLain

**1. Pond Program**

- Reviewed the first season of the Pond Program, which was considered very successful.
- The program is planned to run for the first three weeks after school ends, with registration opening as soon as possible (anticipated next week).
- Registration will be capped at 60 campers.
- The program operated at approximately break-even financially.
- A paid junior counselor position was added this year to provide additional support, particularly for younger campers.
- Kim moved to approve the pond program proceed for 2026. Seconded by Curtis. Voted unanimously in favor.
- Susan Wasp and Allison Mancuso inquired about adding an additional shed. Members noted that a DES permit would be required if the shed is within 250 feet of the water, which could be difficult to obtain. A grant request has been submitted to the Lyme Foundation; however, town policy requires such requests to go through the Recreation Commission first. The Commission needs more information to address this.

**2. Beach Attendance and Adult Long-Distance Swimmers**

- Nadia Gorman and Virginia Beahan came to discuss changing lifeguard hours to accommodate the adult swimmer going outside of the roped swim area. Lifeguard attendance data was reviewed. Nadia mentioned that Lifeguards have noted that the 9:00–11:00 a.m. period is very quiet, though attendance is tracked from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Members discussed public feedback that adult swimming opportunities are limited due to lifeguard scheduling.
- While residents are enthusiastic about having lifeguards, adult swimmers feel the hours could be adjusted to better accommodate both groups. Some adult swimmers only use the pond and no other recreational resources.
- Adults prefer swimming from the beach rather than the boat launch, which can be busy and sometimes contain broken glass and other sharp objects.
- The Commission acknowledged that previous attempts to adjust hours or allow adult swim periods have been challenging and that changing lifeguard hours may not fully resolve the issue.
- A possible option discussed was having lifeguards start at 9:00 a.m. while the pond program is running and potentially shift to 11:00 a.m. for the remaining weeks of summer.

- **Action:** The Commission will discuss options with the head lifeguard.

### 3. Mirrors for Performance Arts Program

- Toby Summerfield received a grant from the Lyme Foundation for mirrors for the new performance arts program.
- Storage will be a challenge; however, Toby proposed a potential storage solution.
- Curtis moved to move forward with the purchase. Seconded by Kim. Voted unanimously in favor.

### 4. Court Replacement Project

- There was no update on Luke's discussions regarding the project.
- Letters were sent to the community, resulting in approximately \$3,000 in donations from about 10 donors.
- The letter and call for donors will also be posted on the listserv.
- Members were asked to suggest potential individual donors for targeted outreach.

### 5. Baseball

- The Commission had not yet formally voted to proceed with a second year of Cal Ripken baseball; after a brief discussion Kim moved to continue with a second year of Cal Ripkin. Seconded by Ashley. Voted unanimously in favor.
- The summer and all-star league will be discussed at a later date.
- Equipment requests from the Baseball Commissioners, Andrew and Kerri Gandin, were reviewed:
  - **Temporary fence:** Approved for purchase, with the condition that it is only used during spring baseball season and removed prior to soccer season.
  - **Pitching machine:** To be discussed further; members preferred trying the existing machine this season, noting cost, maintenance, and safety concerns with new machines.
  - **Scoreboard:** Members discussed preferences, quality, and maintenance. A scoreboard could be used for multiple sports. The Gandin's should be asked to provide three options for review and remove "School" from the "Lyme School Lions" label. Funding would need to be identified outside of the Recreation Commission at this time.

### 6. Field Treatment

- The Commission revisited the plan to perform full field treatment every few years.
- Given the dry summer last year, members agreed it would be beneficial to proceed.
- Kim moved to go forward with full field treatment. Seconded by Curtis. Voted unanimously in favor.

### 7. Budget

- The revolving fund and capital reserve funds were reviewed. No action or concerns.

### 8. Coaches Questionnaire

- The draft questionnaire was reviewed.

- Dina requested adding a question about whether new coaches would participate in supplied training.
- Additional changes:
  - Add a question identifying which sport is coached
  - Allow a second survey submission if needed
  - Make name optional
- **Action:** Ashley will build the survey and circulate it to the Recreation Commission for feedback. It will be sent out from the Select Board office.

#### 9. Crossroads Tennis Use

- The Crossroads gym teacher requested use of the courts for a summer camp for 2–3 hours per day during the last week of June.
- Use would need to occur in the afternoon, as the pond program is scheduled at the courts in the morning that week.
- Members agreed it is important to maintain a positive relationship with Crossroads, particularly for potential baseball or soccer field use.
- Will allow them to use courts, noting that next year it may be down for replacement. Share donation letter when informing them of restrictions.

#### 10. Gym Use Request

- Fiona Kling submitted a request to hold open gym sessions from 4:30–6:00 p.m. from January 29 through March 19.
- The request did not specify the age range of participants; the Commission is assuming approximately 10–12 children.
- Dina to discuss plan with Fiona and Zoe

#### 11. Rec Director Report

- Briefly reviewed report; ski and basketball still mid-season and going well

12. At 7:20PM Dina moved to enter non public session in accordance with RSA 91A :3 II (c) reputation. Seconded by Ashley. Voted unanimously by a roll call vote. Present for this session: Ashley Luurtsema, Dina Cutting, Curtis Shepard and Kim Essensa  
A brief discussion took place which if discussed in public may affect a reputation.  
At 7:42PM the commission returned to public session taking no actions.

The meeting was closed at 7:45PM

Next Meeting March 2, 2026

Minutes submitted by Ashley Luurtsema