

 TOWN OF NEWTON, NH

 *Recreation Commission*

*2 Town Hall Road*

*Newton, NH 03858*

Date: March 7, 2022

Call to Order - 7:00 pm.

In attendance – Chairman Rick Faulconer, Selectman Matt Burrill, Vice Chairman Christine Kuzmitski, Peggy Connors, Sue Mears, William Harding, and Patricia Masterson (recording minutes).

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Harding made a Motion to approve the Minutes of February 7, 2022. Ms. Connors seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously****.**

Event Schedule

**Chairman Faulconer made a Motion to approve the tentative Event Schedule for 2022. Mr. Harding seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.**

* Student Essay Contest – April 16
* Earth Day – April 22
* Yard Sale – May 14
* Memorial Day – May 30
* Pickle Ball or Tennis Lessons survey
* Lifeguards – June
* Little Library – Town Beach – June
* Senior Trip – August
* Senior BBQ – September 16
* Olde Home Day – September 17
* Yard Sale – October 8
* Trunk or Treat – October 22
* Veterans Day – November 11
* Senior Holiday Lunch - December

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Student Essay Contest

Essay Contest –Winter Essay Contest.  There will be **three** contests:

 Grades 3-5 with 100 words - **What is your favorite thing about going to school?**

Grades 6 - 8 with 250 words - **Research something interesting about the history of the Town of Newton - and describe why you feel it is important to you or your neighbors today.**

 Grades 9-12 with 250 words - **Who do you think of when you remember those who have died in military service? Why is it important for us to celebrate Memorial Day?**

Please submit your essay to recreation@newtonnh.net.  Please include your name, school, grade and phone number. If you do not have internet access, please mail your essay to the ***Recreation Essay Contest***, Newton Town Hall, 2 Town Hall Rd, Newton, NH  03858.

All essays should be received by 4 PM on April 16, 2022 by email or mail.  Essays will be reviewed by the Recreation Commission Board, with winners announced at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting on April 19.  We are also exploring the possibility of reading the winning Memorial Day essay at Newton’s Memorial Day celebration this May.

First Place winners in each grade category will receive $50 Amazon Gift Cards, while Second Place in each grade category will receive $25 Amazon Gift Cards.  Winning essays and pictures of the winners may be published.

Ms. Connors will contact Carriage Towne News. Ms. Masterson will contact Facebook, the Recreation Commission website, the Schools and the Town Cable Station.

**Chairman Faulconer made a Motion to spend $225 for three $50 First Place Prizes and three $25 Second Place Prizes. Ms. Connors seconded the Motion.** **Faulconer – aye; Burrill – aye; Kuzmitski – aye; Connors – aye; Harding – aye; Mears – aye.**

Survey

A survey will be developed for Town residents to see if there is interest in pickle ball, tennis, tai chi, a photo contest or scarecrow creations. “Please indicate which items you are interested in. The Volunteers of the Recreation Commission need reinforcements to implement any of these programs. Please indicate which activity you can help with.” Ms. Connors and Ms. Masterson will work on the survey.

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Lifeguards

The Recreation Commission will begin to advertise for Lifeguards to manage the Town Beach from June to September. Mary Miller has expressed interest in returning this year. Nikki Finn is interested in attending the certification classes. To be competitive, the hourly rate for lifeguards may have to be increased.

**Selectman Burrill made a Motion to advertise the Lifeguard hourly rate of pay for $14.00 - $18.00 per hour. Chairman Faulconer seconded the Motion.** **Faulconer – aye; Burrill – aye; Kuzmitski – aye; Connors – aye; Harding – aye; Mears – aye.**

Ms. Masterson will contact Carriage Towne News, the Town website, Facebook and the Town Cable station to advertise Help Wanted for Lifeguards. She will also contact Mary Miller to see if she is willing to be featured in an article for Carriage Town News.

**Chairman Faulconer made a Motion to spend not more than $400 to place Help Wanted ads in the Carriage Towne News in March and April. Mr. Harding seconded the Motion. Faulconer – aye; Burrill – aye; Kuzmitski – aye; Connors – aye; Harding – aye; Mears – aye.**

Should there be an additional incentive (such as a gift) to interest lifeguards?

Recreation Commission Reorganization

Chairman Faulconer, Ms. Connors, Mr. Harding, and Ms. Burrill’s appointments are complete at the end of April 2022. All have indicated that they would like to continue as Members of the Commission. Each will need to go to the Town Clerk’s office to be sworn in for another term.

The Recreation Commission unanimously voted to continue Chairman Faulconer’s role as Chairman.

New sign at Greenie Park trailhead

The Recreation Commission will send a letter thanking Merissa Piper of Heathstreet Woodworking for creating a new wooden sign for the Greenie Park trailhead. The Commission will determine if a sign for trail directions can be added.

Adjournment

**Mr. Harding made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:45 p.m. Ms. Connors seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.**

 Next Meeting

April 4, 2022, at 7pm will be the next meeting of the Recreation Commission.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Masterson, Secretary, Recreation Commission

*Posted on 4/5/2022 Newton Town Hall and Official Town website www.newton-nh.gov.*