

TOWN OF NEWTON, NH

*Recreation Commission*

*2 Town Hall Road*

*Newton, NH 03858*

Date: February 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, Vanessa Burrill (on phone) and Patricia Masterson (recording minutes).

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Harding made a Motion to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2021. Ms. Connors seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously****.**

68 Hours of Hunger

The Bookkeeper reported that the check donated to 68 Hours of Hunger from Olde Home Day raffles has not been cashed. Ms. Burrill and Ms. Masterson will follow up with the organizers of 68 Hours of Hunger. The Commission suggested that 68 Hours of Hunger be contacted before the 2022 Olde Home Day to see if it is feasible for them to accept a donation and cash a check in a timely manner.

Newton Campers

Ms. Masterson has contacted the Kingston Recreation Department to see if Newton can arrange assistance for Newton campers. A request from a Newton resident is being addressed because Newton campers pay an additional cost to attend the Kingston camp. To move forward, the Commission needs to know the amount to subsidize Newton campers.

The Commission may not be able to act until the next budget round. At that time, a determination will be made as to whether the funds can come from the Recreation Commission budget or a Warrant Article Has to be proposed.

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2022 Events

The Commission presented event ideas for 2022.

*Winter*

* Essay Contest – March/April

We received eight essays for the 2021 Contest. The highlight was that we were able to present a student essay from Sanborn High School during Memorial Day tributes. A discussion was held on how to recruit more students. What should the topics be? Should the prizes be larger? Suggested topics were: Newton’s history – how does it relate to you living here today; and What does Memorial Day mean to you.

Selectman Burrill will contact the school to determine the best way to reach and engage students. Would teachers be willing to make the contest part of the curriculum? Ms. Connors will send Selectman Burrill a draft of last year’s announcement calling for essays.

*Spring*

* Earth Day – April 22

Should we try to recruit volunteers to clean up the Town Beach and the Greenie Park trails? We could provide an incentive (tee shirts?). Chairman Faulconer will contact Alicia Geilen of the Conservation Commission and Lisa Gonyer to see if Scouts could participate.

* Yard Sale – May 14

We will need signs, maps and publicity again.

* Memorial Day – May 30

*Summer*

* Lending Library

Could we arrange for a Lending Library at the Town Beach? (Take a book, leave a book). Perhaps a community group like the Scouts could be involved. Andrew Kolinsky, a professional carpenter from Newton, recently built a flag box for the American Legion.

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* 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.

* Senior Trip

August 5 or August 11 are tentative dates for the Senior Trip.

*Fall*

* Olde Home Day – September 17

We need to begin mailings and publicity in June, as well as recruit vendors and volunteers. Ms. Connors suggested holding a Doll Carriage/Bicycle /Wagon Parade. She also suggested activities.

1. Baechtold & Abel – Arial Artists
2. Laura Hanley – Hoola Hoop Artist
3. Kids Games
   1. 3-legged race
   2. Egg on a spoon
   3. Sack race
   4. Limbo
   5. Bucket Toss
   6. Tug of War
   7. Water Balloon Fight
   8. Noodle Baseball
   9. Hula Hoop Toss onto Road Cones
   10. Hula Hoop Pass
   11. Pizza Box Relay

Ms. Masterson suggested Chris Polous bicycle stunt performer. UpTurn Food Truck has already asked to be included this year.

* Yard Sale – October 15

We will need signs, maps and publicity.

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* Trunk or Treat – October 22

There were not enough volunteers to handle the crowd and activities last year.

* Veterans Day – November 11

One Veteran asked that we continue the Veterans Day breakfast, but there were not as many people in attendance as in previous years. The sound system needs to be improved as it was hard to hear the speakers around the flag pole, and we need to provide music.

Do we want to display photo signs of Veterans on people’s lawns? We would need to order signs and collect checks. The process would need to begin in September.

*Winter*

* Senior Holiday Lunch – December 15

Fall Deliberative Session

In the Fall, the Recreation Commission will discuss whether to incorporate the ongoing Warrant Articles, such as Lifeguard and Town Beach expenses and Senior activities, into the next Recreation Commission budget.

Adjournment

**Ms. Connors made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Vice Chair Kuzmitski seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.**

Next Meeting

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Masterson, Secretary, Recreation Commission

*Posted on 3/8/2022 Newton Town Hall and Official Town website www.newton-nh.gov.*