

## Park and Recreation Director's Report

March 2021

*From the February 2021 meeting:*

- I sent Susan Vizzari a letter from the commission acknowledging her letter of resignation from the After-School Program and included your regret and thanks for many years of service.
- Mr. Perkins and I spoke about potential tennis summer camp (attached).
- The Easter activity sub-committee met following the commission's February meeting and agreed to advertise the event as a spring rock decorating contest.
- The commission needs to meet to come up with questions about swimming for a survey unless we take time to do this at the meeting.

*From the director:*

**After-School Program:** I am attaching the monthly report. You can see the program monthly attendance continues to be at least half of last school years. The children have been getting outside for some fresh air while walking around the school. I believe we will be able to expand our outdoor play area once this week's forecasted temperatures help to melt and dry the fields. Arts and crafts' time continues to be very popular, and many of the youngsters are quite creative and imaginative. Parents are staying current with their bills except for one family whose balance just exceeded the \$300 maximum.

**Budgets:** Park and Rec has not received a monthly budget report. The selectmen have begun working on the 2021-22 budget draft. The proposed wage increase is at 2%.

**Five-Year Capital Plan:** Reminder the commission would need to propose new request(s) for the \$150,000+ in capital funds that are earmarked for the Emery Park pool floor. These projects should be capital in nature (costing \$10,000 or more) and need to be approved by the Board of Finance and a town vote.

**Parks:** I spoke with Town Hall co-worker regarding a possible memorial for John Lindsay. The Town does not have any plans for anything formal at this time. I like John Grant's idea for the plaque on the bench at Kent Common. The commission can discuss at the meeting.

**Playing Field Subcommittee:** I spoke with the KCS principal about the playing fields. Our collective understanding is that the school takes responsibility for the playground and the outdoor basketball court. Park and Rec and its Playing Field Subcommittee are responsible for the fields. The subcommittee is discussing meeting at the fields. Park and Rec's storage shed at the parks suffered damage in the last big snowstorm and will need repairs or replacement.

**Fee Programs:** Tang Soo Do plans to restart classes outside this spring at Warren Woods in Warren and would be open again to students from Kent, Warren and Washington. I will be sharing details of the program once they are established.

**Rock Decorating Event:** I have sent out the event flyer. Ms. Symonds' donation of jump ropes was delivered to Town Hall, and I ordered items to go in the goody bags that anyone who submits a picture to be consider in the online voting would receive.

**Regional Recreation Directors:** We met again this week through a Zoom meeting to talk about baseball and timeline for starting. We plan to meet via Zoom again March 17. We are talking about when to start the baseball season. Options are early June and play together with the other region one towns through the summer or would each town make its own decision about a spring start.

**Summer Camps:** I am waiting for the governor to release updates on mandates or recommendations for summer camps. I did put this on the agenda so the commission can begin to discuss summer programs. Slamma Jamma Basketball camp is ready to resume this summer. KCS is not able to house the program this year due to school renovation project. I am working with Kent School on possibly using (renting) its facility.

I was a "guest" reader for KCS' Real Aloud Day, which was a virtual event this year. I read to first graders.

**Looking ahead ...**

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> is a holiday, and Town Hall offices will be closed.