Present: Jerry Decker, Dave Dunleavy, John Grant, Mike Green, Lynn Harrington, Glen Nielsen, director Lesly Ferris

Public \& Invited Guests: None.
Chairman Jerry Decker called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
Alternates: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to elevate alternate John Grant. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dunleavy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Dunleavy made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2016 monthly meeting. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.
Public \& Invited Guests: None present.
Director's Report: Mrs. Ferris provided a written report prior to the meeting (attached). She shared annual report from the Kent Community Fund and extended invitation to commissioners to the fund's $10^{\text {th }}$ anniversary celebration Sept. 30, 5-7 p.m.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris said one family has unpaid balance from the 2015-16 program. The current program attendance is going well, averaging 10 students/day last week. Kent School has two student volunteers who are helping at the program four days of the week. Members of the Kent Quilters began working last week with the youngsters on individual quilting projects. These volunteers have filled out volunteer waivers. Mr. Decker said South Kent School may have some student volunteers who could help at the program, as well.

Parks: Mrs. Ferris said commissioners had looked at the benches at the tennis courts after the June meeting and suggested the purchase of benches for the courts. Mr. Dunleavy made a motion to purchased two new benches for the tennis courts at Kent Common Park, using funds in the Five-Year Capital Plan. Mr. Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Grant explained a program, working with donated resources from Bartlett Tree Service in the amount of $\$ 2,700$, to clean brush and trees from the top ridge of the parking lot to the back of the building and along the side roadway at Emery Park. Mr. Grant said volunteers would need to remove the brush after it is treated and has died. Wood chips would then need to be put down in this area. Mr. Grant said student volunteers and staff from South Kent School and Marvelwood are willing to help on Wednesday and Friday, respectively, and possibly the Boy Scouts. Mrs. Ferris said Mr. Grant secured the donated services from Bartlett. A contract was sent to the first selectman and forwarded to the director. Mrs. Ferris said she signed the contract after consulting with the first selectman, adding that this contract should have been approved first by the Park and Recreation Commission. The commission agreed someone should oversee the project and coordination of the volunteer work force. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the contract from Bartlett Tree Service as submitted and to appoint John Grant to coordinate the work. Mr. Dunleavy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Ferris will provide volunteer liability waivers. Mrs. Harrington suggested including the Girl Scouts if the Boy Scouts are going to help. Mrs. Ferris added that the first selectman offered to heln secure wond chins. Mr. Grant asked that the chins he Kent
dumped at the top of the parking lot. He will keep the director informed of the project's progress. Mrs. Harrington suggested purchasing more tables for the pavilion at Kent Common Park and recommended enhancing the playground there. Mr. Dunleavy suggested getting a new playground for that park. Mrs. Ferris will bring some playground ideas to the next meeting and recommended including funding in the Five-Year Capital Plan.

2015-16/2016-17 Budgets: Mrs. Ferris provided Fiscal Year 2015-16 Actual vs. Budget report, dated Aug. 16, 2016 (attached). Mrs. Ferris highlighted that After-School Program revenue exceeded the budgeted by nearly $\$ 7,000$ and unexpended funds primarily came from hourly employee line item. Mrs. Harrington questioned the cost of the director's health insurance.

Five-Year Capital Plan: The commission discussed also adding funding for a splash park to the plan.
Emery Park Swimming Area: public input: Mrs. Ferris said the first selectman offered to send out a survey via email. Mrs. Ferris shared some proposed questions to include on the survey:

- Would you use and financially support the town pursuing a river-front swimming area? Yes/No
- Would you use and financially support the town building a chlorinated swimming pool? Yes/No
- Would you use and financially support the town continuing a natural swimming area at Emery Park? Yes/No
- Do you swim at Emery Park? Yes/No
- Do you have access to a privately-owned swimming pool? Yes/No
- Do you use a swimming facility outside of Kent? Yes/No

The commission suggested adding splash park to the survey, as well as having the survey available through other avenues, including the website, Facebook and press release. Mrs. Ferris will look into sending home the survey through Kent Center School.

Summer Concert Series: Mr. Dunleavy recommended adding more signs, especially in town, for next year's concert series to help with promoting the series. The commission consensus is the series has a good mix of music, and four concerts is a good number.

Sports Programs follow-up: Mrs. Ferris said soccer programs are practicing, and games have begun. She reported kindergarten soccer started on a positive note, and there are several volunteer parent coaches helping with the program.

Basketball programs: Mrs. Ferris has created a registration notice that will go out next week for coed Adams League basketball program for grades 5-8; Northwest Rec Travel League for boys in grades 5-6 and girls in grades 5-6. Registration for grades 3-4 and lower will follow once the upper grade programs have been confirmed and practice nights determined. Mrs. Ferris will keep the commission informed about response to the new travel team program.

New Business: Soccer coaches: Mrs. Ferris shared recommendations for fall travel soccer coaches. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept Tim Sneller as U12 coed coach; Kristin Richards as U12 girls' coach; Valentin Dumitrascu and Heather Darby as U10 coed coaches and Garrison Smith as U8 coed coach. Mr. Dunleavy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Pumpkin Run Sponsorship: Mrs. Ferris said this would be to sponsor the Kids Fun Run. Mr. Dunleavy noted this year marks the $40^{\text {th }}$ anniversary of the race. Mr. Green made a motion to sponsor the Kids Fun Run at a donation of $\$ 500$ to the Kent Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Public Act 191-77: Mrs. Ferris shared that Kent Park and Recreation now is required by state statute to disclose that "our services and programs are not licensed by the State Office of Early Childhood." Mrs. Ferris said the language included in program handbooks and registration materials has been reviewed by town attorney. This began July 1, 2016.

Slamma-Jamma Basketball: Summer 2017: Mrs. Ferris shared that Kelvin Jefferson has moved out of state and, therefore, he no longer will be offering Hoop-it-Up Basketball camp locally. Art Leary of Slamma-Jamma Basketball has spoken with the director several times about his program returning to Kent next summer. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to offer Slamma-Jamma summer basketball camp programs starting in summer 2017. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

After-School Program counselor: Mrs. Ferris asked to table this item.
Irish Dance Class Proposal: Mrs. Ferris had shared a proposal (attached) from Sara Gutis to offer an Irish Dance class for ages 2 to 80 in Kent. Mrs. Ferris will get some additional information from Ms. Gutis regarding needs for space as well as type of shoes that would be worn by participants.

Director PTO: Mrs. Ferris requested PTO time. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to grant PTO days Sept. 28 (four hours) and Oct. 3 (eight hours) to Lesly Ferris. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The next Kent Park and Recreation Commission meeting is Monday, Oct. 17, 2016 at 7 p.m.
Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.
Lely Fens

## Lesly Ferris

Director

Minutes are not considered final until approved. Refer to the minutes from ensuing meeting for any changes and/or corrections.

## Park and Recreation Director's Report

August 2016
From the July 2016 meeting:

- The commission did not meet in July.

From the director:
After-School Program: Four families still have outstanding balances due the Town for the 2015-16 program, and I continue to bill these families. They have been notified repeatedly that their children cannot attend the program until these accounts are paid in full. I have put the 2016-17 handbook and registration forms on the website and have put copies of these items outside the Park and Recreation office. I will have copies also for the Kent Center School office and will email this information to families who used the program last year. The Kent Community Fund has approved $\$ 1,000$ in scholarship assistance for the program. I continue to advertise for a counselor to work at the program but have not yet received any applications. The program resumes Aug. 29, the first day of school.

Seniors: The cruise around the Thimble Islands took place on a beautiful summer day and was enjoyed by the group. Last week we visited the Energize CT Center in North Haven where we learned on the tour about energy, conservation, safety, solar power. The center recently opened in North Haven and is very educational and informational. We had a private tour, followed by lunch at Red Lobster. I am working on trip flyers for September through December. The Friday senior lunch program resumes in September. Leah Pullaro and I are working on the September-October senior newsletter, which now is being printed by Kent School.

Budget: The new fiscal year began July 1. Park and Recreation returned about $\$ 4,000$ (estimated) at the close of the 2015-16 fiscal year, most of this was in the hourly salary line.

Parks: The water tests at Emery Park continue to come in at 10 or less xxx. The water is very clear and has remained that way most of the summer despite the heat and the drought conditions. The new aerator continues to help make a difference in the water clarity. Sean McAvoy has done cleanup of the Emery Park trails as he continue to do a few times throughout the year.

Fee Programs: I have kept the proposal for Slamma-Jamma Basketball summer camp on the agenda. The new session of Tang Soo Do began and a new session of Beginning Dog Obedience is scheduled to begin this month, as well.

Regional Recreation Directors: We met in late July to discuss soccer program and teams for the fall. We also discussed alternate sports and program offerings as numbers of participants in the "traditional" sports continue to decline, especially in Cornwall and Sharon. We discussed the possibility of hosting regional programs in other activities like cross country, tennis, swimming. W/e will continue to explore these ideas. The rec directors also discussed offering a regional soccer program for $4-5$ year olds on Saturday morning. Some of the towns are going to partner on such a program this fall and we may all join next year when we would have had more time to organize such an endeavor.

Camp Kent: 'The program is going very well and the youngsters appear to be having a good time at Club Getaway, Science Camp and Emery Park. We have sent youngsters and a staff member to five of the six Science Camp programs at the high school. The transportation was funded by donations from the Kent Community Fund as well as several other regional funds. The weekly Club Getaway outings have been a nice complement to our program. The youngsters have enjoyed two hours at the waterfront, most of the weeks by themselves, and had opportunity to go out on the banana boat and the inflatable tube as well as swimming in the waterfront and using the kayaks. Pandora, our assigned Club Getaway person, has been with us five of the six weeks we will attend. Other activities have includes zip lines, climbing wall, archery, waterslide, adventure park, acrial swings. The campers and staff also have enjoyed weekly library story hour and Friday barbecues. The camp program concludes Aug. 19. I will be taking the summer staff to breakfast next week.

Soccer: Thank you to Jerry Decker and Owen Finberg for coordinating and planning the coach-thecoach education session which I offered to our fall soccer coaches. Unfortunately, most of our coaches were on vacation and another was unable to attend the planned program Aug. 6-7. The coaches did express appreciation for offering them this opportunity. Soccer practices will begin Aug. 30. I am still finalizing numbers for two teams with the possibility of combining the girls and boys to form a coed team if there aren't sufficient numbers for separate teams.

Summer Concert Series: I continue to receive positive feedback about this summer's series which concluded Aug. 4 with the largest crowd of the summer series in attendance. The perfect summer evening weather and a band with two locals helped to boost the attendance, I believe. Each of the bands did a great job and was well received. I enjoyed watching so many families attended the concerts, and it was fun to watch the youngsters (and even some adults) dancing to the music. Dave Dunleavy and I discussed the possibility of purchasing additional signs for next year's series to ask merchants along Main Street and the Kent Green to post outside their businesses. I also received a couple of inquiries from individuals and/or bands asking how they can get on the list to perform. This is something the commission may want to discuss. I know at least a few of this year's bands are very interested in returning next summer. I am writing a letter to the editor to thank the chamber, the bands and the community for its support of the concert series.

Looking ahead ...

- Emery Park will close for the swimming season Aug. 20.
- I plan to take PTO Days Aug. 22-26, 2016.


## Park and Recreation Director's Report

September 2016
From the August 2016 meeting:

- The commission did not meet in August.

From the director:
After-School Program: Two families still have outstanding balances due the Town for the 2015-16 program, and I continue to bill these families. They have been notified repeatedly that their children cannot attend the program until these accounts are paid in full. Also, the school and program director have been notified. The 2016-17 program started with a steady attendance, averaging 10 students a day the second week of the program. I continuc to advertise for a counselor to work at the program and, meanwhile, I have been fulfilling that role. Homework continues to be a priority at the program and the youngsters have been enjoying time outside after snack time. We have several families sending multiple siblings to the program. Director Susan "Tanta Sue" Vizzari does a wonderful job with the youngsters. She has arranged for a few volunteers from the quilting group in Kent to work once a week with the ASP youngsters to create quilt squares.

Seniors: The annual planting at the memory garden at Kent Common Park is Sept. 16. We plan to plant more daffodil bulbs and seniors can make name cards in memory of loved ones. The September senior outing marks the $10^{\text {th }}$ anniversary of senior trips. We will be visiting Fascia's Chocolates in Waterbury for a tour and opportunity to create our own chocolate bar. The Friday lunch program resumed Sept. 9. I am working on scheduling members of the Kent Center School student council to visit seniors at the Monday/Wednesday lunch program.

Budget: The new fiscal year began July 1. Park and Recreation returned some $\$ 3,500$ and collected more than $\$ 3000$ additional revenue than projected at the close of the 2015-16 fiscal year. I will bring the year-end summary to the meeting.

Parks: The new picnic table for Emery Park was delivered in early September (order was placed at the end of June). Thank you, John, for assembling most of the table. John also spoke with Bartlett Tree Service which has donated its services to do work at Emery Park, treating brush and cutting trees at no cost. John also has spoken with South Kent School about doing volunteer service project at the program, and I have asked him to bring this proposal to the commission meeting to discuss and take action on it. Sean McAvoy will be trimming the shrubs around the swimming area at Emery Park and addressing the prickly weeds at Kent Common Park.

Fee Programs: I have spoken with Art Leary and had a couple of emails from him regarding the proposal to bring Slamma-Jamma Basketball summer camp back to Kent next summer. He is very interested in returning to Kent. This is on the agenda. I also have a proposal for an Irish dance class and have placed this on the agenda.

Regional Recreation Directors: We met Sept. 6 in Sharon where we discussed fall travel soccer, regionalized sports programs and the regional basketball programs.

Camp Kent: The program ended Aug. 19 with the annual talent show, the camp director's camp poem, a slide show, a Thanksgiving-style BBQ luncheon and a few tears. This summer was a success after a slow start with registration. The visits to Club Getaway were well received and the youngsters enjoyed themselves. The summer science camp program also was a nice addition for those youngsters who chose to attend. The staff shared the responsibility for chaperoning the campers at science camp, and the bus pick-up at Emery Park worked well. I also was very pleased that we were able to accommodate a special needs youngster at camp and at Club Getaway. This was a positive experience for this young person as well as for our campers. Camp director Kevin Kalach and I worked together during the last week of camp to clean the cabin, organize left over supplies for next year and move most items to the Community House. The campers helped with washing of their bins on the last day. I took the summer staff to breakfast Aug. 17 to express my personal thanks to them for their work and dedication.

Soccer: I have provided the travel team coaches with team roster, copies of their players' registrations, accident forms, concussion protocol, mandated reporting of suspected child abuse information, coach manual, league rules and emergency contact information. Parents received an email copy of the parent fact sheet on concussion. The travel teams began games Sept. 10 for the U8 and U10 teams while both U12 teams have their first games Sept. 17. I received a lot of late registrations and our numbers are strong for the U 8 and U 10 teams. The U 12 has a girls' team and a coed team. These teams have 9 players and 10 players, respectively. The league has only three teams in each of the U12 divisions. Each town will play host to the other two towns on a given Saturday on a rotating basis; the fourth week all teams will have a bye and then the schedule rotates. We have opted not to have tournament play and jamborees this year. I have sent a second notice home through KCS to recruit at least one or two more players for the girls' team. Approval of the fall travel coaches is on the agenda. The kindergarten program began Sept. 8 where parents expressed their appreciation to Park and Recreation for the program. I have several parents who volunteered to work with the youngsters.

Basketball: I am putting together an informational registration flyer for basketball programs to send out by end of September. I will email this to you before the meeting. This will include the information on the Northwest Rec League basketball program that we are going to offer this year. We have basketballs that were donated by Kelvin Jefferson that we can use for the program.

Looking ahead ...

- 'Town Hall offices will be closed October 10, Columbus Day.
- I plan to take PTO Days September 28 (four hours), October 3, 2016.
- Halloween Safety Campaign is October 31, 5-7 p.m.

|  | Jul '15-Jun 16 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ordinary Income/Expense |  |  |  |
| Income |  |  |  |
| 132-800 - Park \& Recreation | 250.00 | 800.00 | -550.00 |
| 132-810 - Park \& Rec Pass | 2,695.00 | 3,500.00 | -805.00 |
| 132-820 - Park \& Rec Sports | 3,380.00 | 4,500.00 | -1,120.00 |
| 132-830 - Park \& Rec Classes | 783.40 | 800.00 | -16.60 |
| 132-840 - Park \& Rec Enrichment | 17,933.34 | 11,000.00 | 6,933.34 |
| 132-850 - Park \& Rec Enrichment Camp | 14,089.51 | 14,500.00 | -410.49 |
| 132-860 - Bus Trips \& Programs | 1,040.00 | 1,500.00 | -460.00 |
| Total Income | 40,171.25 | 36,600.00 | 3,571.25 |
| Gross Profit | 40,171.25 | 36,600.00 | 3,571.25 |
| Expense |  |  |  |
| $E \cdot$ Recreation |  |  |  |
| 023-000 - PARK \& REC |  |  |  |
| Compensation |  |  | -0.08 |
| 023-101 - Salary Director | $\begin{aligned} & 46,225.92 \\ & 38,788.04 \end{aligned}$ | 46,207.00 | -4,288.96 |
| 023-996 . Health | 30,525.04 | 30,808.00 | -282.96 |
| 023-997 - Pension | 2,378.33 | 2,311.00 | 67.33 |
| 023-998 - Social Security | 6,258.12 | 6,832.00 | -573.88 |
| Total Compensation | 124,175.45 | 129,254.00 | -5,078.55 |
| Department Operations |  |  |  |
| 023-201 - Supplies | 252.71 | 400.00 | -147.29 |
| 023-202 - Postage | 388.00 | 343.00 | 427.61 |
| 023-204 - Mileage | 827.61 18.78258 | 700.00 $12,000.00$ | 127.61 $6,782.58$ |
| 023-419 - Park Maintenance | 18,782.58 | $12,000.00$ 17000.00 | -5,129.36 |
| 023-422 - Fee Programs | 11,870.64 | $\begin{array}{r} 17,000.00 \\ 940.00 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -5,129.36 \\ -173.85 \end{array}$ |
| 023-501 - Telephone | 766.15 $1,248.31$ | 800.00 | 448.31 |
| 023-502 - Electric | $1,248.31$ $1,005.48$ | 1,350.00 | -344.52 |
| Total Department Operations | 35,141.48 | 33,533.00 | 1,608.48 |
| Professional Development 023-450 • Dues | 99.00 | 100.00 | -1.00 |
| 023-451 - Conferences | 544.84 | 500.00 | 44.84 |
| 023-452 - Training | 0.00 | 100.00 | -100.00 |
| Total Professional Development | 643.84 | 700.00 | -56.16 |
| Total 023-000 - PARK \& REC | 159,960.77 | 163,487.00 | -3,526.23 |
| Total E•Recreation | 159,960.77 | 163,487.00 | -3,526.23 |
| Total Expense | 159,960.77 | 163,487.00 | -3,526.23 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -119,789.52 | -126,887.00 | 7,097.48 |
| Net Income | -119,789.52 | -126,887.00 | 7,097.48 |

## Client:

Printed on: 8/23/2016
Created on: 8/23/2016

## Bartlett Tree Experts

Emery Park
C/O Town of Kent, Bruce Adams
PO Box 678
PO Box 920
Kent, CT 06757

Bus. Reg. ID: 0356/05852, NY 05852
CT Applicator Certification No.: S-3269
Fax Number: (860) 927-3883
E-Mail Address: mflanagan@bartlett.com
Business: 860-927-3899

## Property Address: Emery Park, 42 Segar Mtn. Rd, Kent, CT 06757

The following program is recommended for certain trees and shrubs on your property. In addition to a thorough plant health care program, Bartett Tree Experts recommends having a qualified arborist inspect your property periodically to assist you in identifying potential risks or hazardous conditions relating to your trees or shrubs. THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE.

ATTENTION: BRUCE ADAMS
On behalf of Bartlett Tree Experts, I would like to donate the following services for the improvement of the grounds at Emery Park in Kent. These services are valued at:
$\$ 420$ Round-Up treatment
\$560 Emerald Ash Borer treatment
$\$ 1600$ Tree work performed by 2-man crew with bucket truck \& chipper
Please let me know if it is OK to proceed with this work. Thank you.

## Pest Management

Apply herbicide treatment to the perimeter of the entrance to assist in the control of woody plants.

Product: Roundup Pro Max.
Provide 1 treatment at 0.00 per treatment.
Estimated Treatment Date: 8/31/2016.

- Starting at the east side of the entrance at the utility pole in the corner, follow the rail fence around to the west to the driveway that goes down the hill.


# Perform a systemic root flare injection treatment to the following plant to help suppress <br> Emerald Ash Borer. <br> - pair of ash trees (54" \& 36" diameters) located at the lawn area near the lower level park benches 

Product: Tree-age.
Provide 1 treatment at 0.00 per treatment.
Estimated Treatment Date: 9/1/2016.

Amount: $\$ 0.00$
Tax: $\$ 0.00$

## Tree and Shrub Work

Take down the designated trees and vegetation located at the areas described below.
Leave stump as close to grade as possible. Remove resulting debris.

- Work area: starting at the east side of the entrance, follow the rail fence all the way around to the west side driveway that goes down the hill then go down the hill to the large catalpa tree at the junction of the opening to the field. Includes tree removals, pruning and/or vines severing and removal as directed by Matt Flanagan.

Amount: $\$ 0.00$
Tax: $\$ 0.00$

PLEASE NOTE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE: There is an abundance of tree work to be done at the Park to bring it up to a level of attractiveness to the general public. The range of work goes from risk reduction pruning and removals to the beautification of the specimen trees and the immediate areas surrounding the specimen trees.

The rate for hiring Bartlett Tree Experts will be \$1440 per day for a 2-man crew with truck and chipper. This represents a $10 \%$ discount off of our regular rates.

Please let me know if you would like to hire us to proceed with more tree work improvements to the Park. Thank you.

Matt Flanagan

## Additional Information

For your convenience, we have placed the pesticide labels, precautionary statements, material safety data sheets, as well as any pertinent consumer information notices regarding protection of humans, animals, and the environment with respect to your proposed plant health care treatment, on our website at http://www.bartlett.com/productlabels/ for you to review. When accessing this website, simply go to the listed state in which the proposed treatment will take place, and review any of the information relating to your treatment options. If you have any questions, or if you wish to receive any of the treatment information separately, please contact your local Bartlett office. We will be happy to answer any questions, or provide you with this information on a CD Rom or paper if you prefer.

Please review the information and the terms and conditions attached, which become part of the agreement, and sign and return one copy authorizing the program.

(Bartlett Representative - Matt Flanagan)


* Sales tax added where applicable. Prices are guaranteed if accepted within thirty days. All accounts are net payable upon receipt of invoice. Work is done in accordance with ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards.

To access a certificate of liability insurance for Bartlett Tree Experts, please navigate to http://www.bartlett.com/BartlettCOI.pdf

A Job Site Safety Analysis was completed for your property, please contact your arborist for further details.

## Proposal for Irish Dance Class

## Program:

Irish dance classes offered for ages 2 years* to 80 years old for beginners taking their first dance steps to advanced dancers looking for a change. Anyone can Irish Dance. Classes would be structured based on enrollment. Ideally, there would be a "Little Feet" class which would be 2-4 year olds, Beginner class which would be 5-7/8 and so on.

Typically, in the very beginning, I can teach a great variance of ages in one room, separating them into different classes at a later time. I also love to encourage children with special needs and adults to try this out. It is a great opportunity for socialization and exercise.
*Younger can be accepted per a conversation with me

## Cost:

I typically charge $\$ 10 / l e s s o n /$ person. Lessons are held weekly (with exceptions for holidays/weather/illness etc.) through the school year. When a cancellation occurs, I do try to schedule makeup classes, somehow.

## Information about me:

My name is Sara Gutis (soon to be FitzGerald). I have been dancing for close to 20 years and was part of a nationally ranked team. I also competed in solo dances and did well for myself winning dozens of trophies and medals. Through my dancing career I performed in many different arenas from a local pub to the Eastern Seaboard Governor's Convention. Early in my dancing career, I knew I wanted to teach. Right now, I am building my school Scoil Rince FitzGerald in an effort to pass on the dance and culture that I am a part of. More than that though, it is a part of me.

I am not just an Irish Dancer though. During the day, I am a high school special education teacher. I also have a family to care for including my fiancé, step-daughter Alexa, small dog and two piglets.


