

TOWN OF NEWTON  
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 17, 2021  
VIA AUDIO CONFERENCE CALL  
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 17, 2021 by Recreation Commission Secretary, Sherri Kaylani.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Alan Abramson, Rachel Bucci, Karen Crossley, Maureen Duggan-Cuff, Rufus Coward, Danielle Zito

**Also Present:** Recreation Supervisor, Sherri Kaylani

Chairwomen Crossley, read the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

**MINUTES – February 17, 2021 -**

Upon motion of Mrs. Crossley, seconded by Mr. Coward and unanimously carried, the minutes for the February 17, 2021 meeting were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

Sherri informed all that there remains a Recreation Commission vacancy and provided an update on the Easter Events. The NFD has agreed to host an Easter Bunny Run and an Operation Easter Bunny; both run as they do their Santa events during the Holidays. At this time they do not need any volunteers and Sherri will reach out if that should change. Sherri shared that she had spoken with Mr. Russo regarding their concerns from the last meeting with regards to covid-19 vaccinations and communications. She shared that Mr. Russo has referred several senior citizens from Liberty Towers and the Newton Town Centre building to the S.C.D.H. and Atlantic Health. We bridge the gap by hearing their concerns, being open to communication and referring them as needed to the appropriate organizations. Mr. Abramson stated that he was disappointed with the response from Mr. Russo further stating that he does not understand why there is resistance to offering more help during these unusual times. Sherri stated that while she understands their concerns, she agreed with Mr. Russo as we are not a social services department nor does our recreation dept. have a senior citizen's division further stating that the requests are simply not within the scope of work or jurisdiction of this Recreation Dept. Mr. Abramson and Mrs. Crossley both agreed that these are not normal times and therefore we should not be treating them as such. Mrs. Cuff suggested that perhaps the better way to approach it would be to ask the question how can we help (by facilitating or being a liaison) to bring them the information needed suggesting that we invite a rep from the S.C.H.D. to speak upon these concerns and health. Mr. Abramson and Mrs. Crossley were in agreement with

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Mrs. Cuff. Sherri stated that she will look further into the logistics of this and get back to them with the outcome.

**NEW BUSINESS**

All were in agreement that we should host a spring time Senior Citizen's lunch. Sherri informed all that we liked the idea of bringing the lunch to them as presented by Mrs. Cuff at the last meeting. Mr. Abramson, Mrs. Cuff and Mrs. Crossley stated that the idea of bringing in a rep from S.C.H.D or similar at these types of events would certainly help to bridge the gap of communication that they are aiming for. All members stated they would be willing to help with the senior citizen's lunches and were in agreement that sometime in May would be best. Sherri stated that she will work on communications with the Activities Executive Directors at the Senior Citizen buildings and begin to plan the events. The Commissioners also spoke about creating a survey to hand out at the events with questions that can help us to better understand how to communicate with them aside from social media which Mr. Abramson and Mrs. Crossley feel that many don't have access to.

Sherri shared that the Town of Newton Pool is now hiring Lifeguards, an Assistant Pool Manager and Pool Assistants asking if they could help to spread the information to all. Sherri informed all that we now have access to PeggyPakZumba.com for residents to join and work out as they please with a suggested donation of \$5 per class.

**OPEN FORUM** –

There were no open discussions. Also, there were no members from the public on the call.

Mrs. Bucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Abramson. With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM Via audio call.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sherri Kaylani