

Windham Parks and Recreation Department – Monthly Report – November 2015

Program Updates

Discount Tickets: We will be selling discount tickets to a number of area ski mountains, as well as to the Portland Pirates and the Portland Dine-Around Card. This program is sponsored by the Maine Recreation and Park Association, and a portion of each ticket sold stays with the department.

Senior Trips/ Programs: The mailing list for the Senior newsletter continues to grow, and we will be sending out this newsletter on a quarterly basis. In November, there were two senior outings: a vanload went on an Antiquing trip along Route 26, and a second trip was to Country Sunday at the Litchfield Sportsman's Club.

Youth Programs: The group of middle school youth that is coming to the gym each day continues to grow, and we are tracking their participation. They have been very compliant with the rules of only playing half court, and they are respectful and appreciative of this opportunity. Kiddie Gym continues to be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; Lynn supervises this very popular activity, and parents can pay as they come, or purchase a multi-visit pass at a reduced rate. We currently have 21 children who have registered to take part in this program, but we continue to take newcomers each week. The ever-popular Babysitting Course was offered on Saturday, November 7 with a full roster of participants. Another class will be held in the spring to accommodate those who were left on a waiting list. The registration process for the Shawnee Peak Multi-Week Ski programs began in November, and we continue to offer two options: the Family Program is on Wednesday nights, which we do not provide transportation for, and Teen Program is on Friday nights, which transportation and chaperones are provided for.

Adult Programs: Pickleball takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, with participants signing in at the Parks and Recreation Department office each morning and then setting out the net that is being stored in the gym. We currently have 12 people playing on a regular basis. Open Gym programs began in November, and we have Basketball for ages 21+ or 40+ as well as Adult Volleyball. Fee is \$3.00/day or a season's pass is available as well. The Mens' Basketball League continues to run on Thursday evenings with 8 teams involved.

Facility Updates

Donnabeth Lippman Park: Kevin has been painting the trim on the building at Lippman Park and also spread another layer of woodchips under the playground area. We are looking forward to the winter activities that can take place at Lippman, and Kevin is getting the snowmobile ready for trailgrooming activities.

Town Hall Playground: New wood chips were spread under this playground area, which continues to be utilized on a daily basis.

Skate Park: The Skate Park was closed on Sunday, November 1. With the warm weather that continued throughout that month, I am sure many users would have preferred to have access to it, but the department did feel that we should adhere to the open and closing dates that have long been publicized. A summary of the activity level has been completed for the fall months that the park was supervised, and this will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for future discussion.

Lowell Preserve: New wood chips were spread under this playground area after the slide was installed; A new roof structure will be installed at the far end of this playground to replace one that was damaged.

Otterbrook Preserve: Kevin and Lynn walked that trail this past month with a GPS in order to provide Elisa Trepanier (Assessing) with the information she needed for mapping purposes. Trail is in need of additional markers, which Kevin will be working on before the snow flies.

Department Projects

Department Publicity/Marketing plans – A general brochure describing the department and town's recreational opportunities has been created, and this will be used in the "Welcome to Windham" packets that are given out in the Clerk's office to new residents in town. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee worked with the department staff in creating a new mission statement for the department: *The mission of the Windham Parks and Recreation Department is to create a sense of community through people, parks and programs.*

Staffing Levels

Year-Round Staff – 4

Trail/Maintenance Staff – 1

Van Driver (per diem) - 2

Organization/Town Meetings and Events

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: Committee now has 6 active members, and has already accomplished much in just 3 meetings. On Veteran's Day, the committee took a tour of all of the town-owned facilities that we currently maintain or have programs in. There is interest in pursuing opportunities with the Florence Manchester property, and there was much discussion about possible locations for ballfield development and a site for a future community center.

Windham Drifters Meeting: I attended the monthly board meeting with Tom Bartell; this was an opportunity for me to introduce myself and let the group know that the Parks and Recreation Department will be open to supporting their efforts and partnering with them in ways that can be mutually beneficial to both groups.

“Be the Influence” Business and Community Organization Committee: Attended committee meeting to discuss possible fundraising opportunities as well as business/community connections; Met new coalition director

1st Annual Community Tree Lighting: Working together with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to secure entertainment refreshments and the “special guests” who arrived that night, the 1st annual tree lighting was extremely well attended and well received by the members of the community. The Building and Grounds Crew was most helpful in decorating the tree, and all of the other decorations around town that were coordinated by Linda Morrell added to the festivities. The Fire Department was very helpful in providing many of the logistics. The music provided by Nancy Cash-Cobb’s 3rd grade chorus and Doug Elder was much appreciated, and the Cross Church served many cups of hot cocoa throughout the evening. It was nice to have our town manager on hand to assist with the set-up and to MC the event, and there will be a videotape of the event that will be helpful in promoting next year’s 2nd annual tree lighting.

The Amazing Chase: I have been asked to serve on a committee that will be coordinating a Sebago Lakes Region Adventure Race on Saturday, September 24, 2016. The kick-off meeting was held on November 12, and I will serve on the Logistics/Volunteer sub-committee. This will be a great opportunity to showcase the recreational and business opportunities in the Sebago Lake area.

Monthly department staff meetings on Wednesday mornings

Future Event Dates

North Pole Calling Program – Will be held December 14- 18th; Many thanks to volunteer Dave Nadeau for making the calls!

January 6th and January 8th – Shawnee Peak Ski Program begins