



Monthly Department Report – October, 2016

Program Updates

Discount Tickets: Within the next few weeks, we will receive information about Discount tickets for area ski resorts, and we will sell those as a service to the community and as a way to support the Maine Recreation and Park Association. The department will also receive up to \$2.00 for each ticket sold.

Senior Trips/ Programs: Our senior programs are becoming extremely popular, and we have had a number of new participants taking part in the varied offerings. We now have 86 seniors who have requested to be on the mailing list for our quarterly senior newsletter, and that list continues to grow. In October, we partnered with the Lakes Region Senior Center in offering a trip to Castle in the Clouds, and had two full vans of people attend that trip, and the waiting list had 4 people on it that we were unable to accommodate. We also took 18 people to Senior Day at the Fryeburg Fair, and took 11 people to Country Sunday in Litchfield. We now have 10 people who regularly attend the weekly shopping trips in North Windham on Wednesdays.

Youth Programs: The After School Mad Science Program continues to be a popular activity for many children in the Primary School, so that is offered throughout the schoolyear. The program at Manchester School will begin in March and will be held through the spring.

Adult Programs: The Men's Basketball League is mid-way through its Fall Season, and will start an hour later beginning in late November in order to provide gym space to the Windham Youth Basketball Program. The Men's Tuesday and Thursday Open Gym program, which had been happening in the past but without a sponsor, now has 14 men participating in that through Windham Parks and Recreation. We are also currently selling season passes for the Sunday morning Open Gym Basketball and Volleyball programs which will begin in November.

Special Events Update

The Parks and Recreation Department staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee held its annual Halloween Adventure on Saturday, October 29th at the

Windham Middle School. In addition to offering this event at a bigger space so as to be able to open it up to kids in grades 8 and under, there were other new activities offered as well. Trunk-or-Treating took place on the basketball court behind the middle school, and we had 7 residents, 2 community organizations and one local business “open their trunks” to the participants. Prizes were awarded to the top 3 trunks, and this activity was met with much enthusiasm. Games and refreshments were available in the cafeteria, and the WHS Key Club turned the Aux Gym and the Locker Room into a haunted house. Flamin’ Raymond and Sizzlin’ Suzan provided the entertainment and helped announce the winners of the Costume Contest, with prizes being awarded in 6 age categories. There was an estimated 375 people in attendance that night, and we received a lot of positive feedback and appreciation for offering the event.

Facility Updates

Donnabeth Lippman Park: We received the plans from the engineer in order for us to get a cost estimate for the improvements needed to the storage building. This will provide a winter workshop area for Kevin Bailey, and will accomplish another goal in the over-all concept plan for Lippman Park.

Skatepark: We were able to secure volunteer assistance from Tim Blackie and some fellow employees of Windham Millwork to finish the remaining work needed at the park, and Tim met with the engineer to confirm what was needed to meet the requirements of the plan. Tim and his crew are scheduled to work on the park the first week in November.

Department Projects

The department is assisting in the process of gathering all information that is required for the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant that the town is applying for on behalf of the Community Park project. Much work has gone into this process, including the creation of an on-line survey to solicit input from the community.

Staffing Levels

Year-Round Staff – 3

Part-time Recreation Programmer Sarah Davenport began her employment on Monday, October 3, and has already initiated a number of new program opportunities in her short time here. Her focus will be on establishing new programs for the underserved population (i.e. teens and pre-schoolers), while at the same time seeking other recreation opportunities for families as well.

Trail/Maintenance Staff – 1 Full-time; 1 seasonal part-time (Fred Kelley will complete his seasonal employment in early November.)

Student Intern from SJC (Casidee Couture) working 10-12 hours/week

Organization/Town Meetings

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: The committee continues to work on its two major goals. The first is the skatepark rebuild project, along with the development of a multi-purpose park at that location so as to serve more types of users. The second major goal is to continue research regarding the community's interest in future development of a community center. The on-line survey is still available for people to complete throughout the fall, and the committee plans to have a presence on Election Day to encourage the public to complete the survey. The committee will be working on its plans for the Community Tree Lighting on Sunday, November 27th, and Winterfest on Saturday, February 25, 2017.

Be the Influence: I continue to participate with this committee and seek ways to provide quality programs that can help our youth feel valued.

Monthly department staff meetings on Wednesday mornings

Lynn, Sarah and myself all attended the MRPA Fall Workshop on Friday, October 21st in Brewer

Future Event Dates

Community Tree Lighting – Sunday, November 27th

Winterfest – Saturday, February 25, 2017