



TOWN OF EAST LYME

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF EAST LYME, CT

JERRY LOKKEN
DIRECTOR
jlokken@eltownhall.com

2023 FEB -2 P 3: 43
41 SOCIETY RD, NIAHTIC, CT 06357
TELEPHONE: 860-739-5828
www.eltownhall.com
TOWN CLERK

Monthly Report

January, 2023

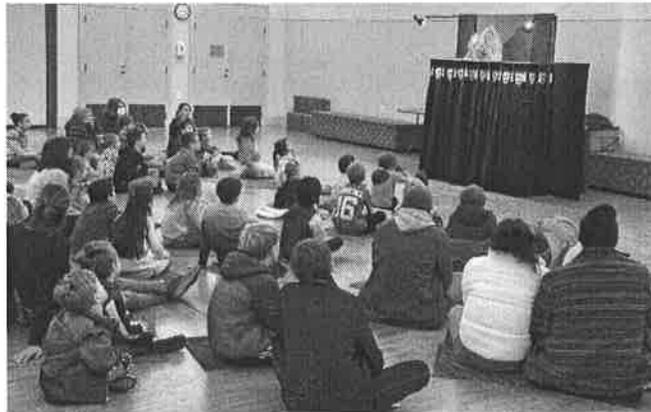
Community Collaborations

Representatives from youth sport organizations in town were invited to a meeting to discuss issues of mutual concern including, field scheduling, season dates, insurance, fees and other issues. Feedback from the meeting was good and one outcome is expected to be better coordination and communication among the leagues to help families navigate the different seasons, establishing priority for use of fields and clarification of responsibility. About 15 representatives attended the meeting and others were unable to attend but received information about the meeting.

Community Center Rental

Parks and Recreation staff members are working with Senior Center staff to clarify Community Center rental policies and procedures. We expect to come up with revisions to be presented to the Board of Selectman for approval.

One recent rental was the East Lyme Puppetry Project. While this was not an official parks and recreation event, the Recreation Supervisor covered the custodial shift and was able to see firsthand the benefit of this event for patrons in the community. The show had an estimated crowd of 120 people, with ages ranging from 6 months to 80+, and the crowd loved it! The puppetry Project had not held a show since prior to the pandemic and was very pleased with the turn out. More puppet shows are scheduled in February and March.



Connecting with Nature

We held the first Giving Garden Seminar "Start Your Vegetable Plants Now" with 15 interested patrons attending. Eunice Stephen, Director of the Eastern Connecticut Community Garden Association, gave a highly informative and inspiring presentation on starting seedlings and how to choose seeds to best meet our regions climate conditions. Four more seminars are scheduled on Sunday mornings, with a few more to be added before the garden moves them to their location on Church Lane when the weather allows.

Youth Services Programming

After three weeks of weather delays, ski club took its first trip to Mount Southington and we hope to get the 5 trips in without another postponement. We have two buses with 47 kids enrolled in the club, with many returning participants but also excited to meet the new participants. The warm winter and lack of snow has me worried for future years of if this club will be viable.

Looking Ahead

Staff is working with Human Resources to streamline seasonal hiring. The process of hiring dozens of staff members to serve as lifeguards, beach parking staff, summer camp staff, parks maintainers and others. This involves a lot of effort and organization to on-board such a large number of staff in a short time.

Parks maintenance staff is finalizing winter servicing of all parks equipment and vehicles to be ready for the upcoming season. Staff members also support storm and plowing operations in Public Works.

Updates

Department Staffing

- A candidate for Parks Foreman/Turf Specialist position has accepted our employment offer and starts February 6, 2023.