

RECREATION COMMISSION-2015

We finished the 2014-2015 basketball season in February. The 1st and 2nd grade group of 10 students worked on learning basic skills on Saturday mornings at the PES gym. Our 3rd and 4th grade boys group of 8 practiced and played several games with local towns during the season. Unfortunately we did not have enough 3rd and 4th grade girls to put a team together. The season was completed with a parents/kids game followed by great pizza from Ziggy's Pizza. Focus was put on individual skills, playing as a team, and sportsmanship. Practices and home games were held at PES. The combined groups had a total participation of 18 boys and girls.

In the spring, with the risk of low numbers for both the 3rd and 4th grade baseball and softball, there was a request to put together a spring soccer group. After reviewing the interest, we did a trial of the spring soccer with one group of 11 3rd through 6th grade boys and one group of 15 3rd through 6th grade girls. Feedback was good on this program and we will review again this year our baseball and softball program.

We ran our T-ball during late spring and early summer. Participation was at 15 1st and 2nd graders and an additional 18 participants to make up our farm team. 1st and 2nd graders practiced skills and played games. The Farm Team worked on basic skills of throwing, catching, batting, and rules of the game. These teams practiced and played on Hewes Field, Prescott Field, and Cory Taber Field.

Our annual fishing Derby was held on June 6th in Blood Brook behind the Meriden Deli. We had a good turnout and again the weather was great. Trophies for first, second, and third place in each of the four age groups were handed out. Hot dogs were cooked on the grill for the kids to enjoy with drinks including McNamara Dairy Chocolate Milk, Coca Cola soft drinks and water. Ice cream cones were handed out from the Meriden Deli to all participants. We had 62 kids participate in the event and the big catch of the day was made by Mason Thibodeau with a trout of 12 3/4". There were a total of 88 fish caught during the derby with 53 participants catching at least one fish. It was a lot of fun watching the excitement as the fish were hooked. I would like to give a huge thank you to our many volunteers. Thank you for the many donations from The Meriden Deli, Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm, N.H. Fish and Game, Coca Cola Company, Vern's Worms, and McNamara Dairy.

On August 23, our 4th Annual Spirit Day was held. This event has grown out of our 250th celebration which was held in 2011. It is a great way to get together as a community as the summer comes to an end. Please see the separate article on this event. The Soccer program in the fall included the 3rd and 4th grade boys' team made up of 21 boys and the 3rd and 4th grade girls' team was made up of 13 girls. These two teams played other area recreation teams and practiced and played home games on Hewes Field. This group worked on individual skills, working as a team, and sportsmanship. The 1st and 2nd grade had three teams made up of 29 players. These teams practiced basic skill and played games with each other at the Cory Taber Field. We had an additional 26 kids that participated in the kindergarten group. This continues to be a huge program with 89 participants in our K through 4th grade soccer groups.

The 2015-2016 basketball season got started for our 3rd and 4th grade boys with a group of 7 individuals. They are working on both individual and team skills and will play games with other area towns. With only 5 3rd and 4th grade girls signed up, we combined these girls into the Cornish team who also had a very small group. This

allowed both towns to play as one team. The 1st and 2nd grade group working on basic skills at the PES gym on Saturdays has 15 participants and started in January.

In the coming year of 2016, I look forward to continued participation in our youth programs. Again, we will face the challenges to keep these programs going in the event that participation is low. We will continue to look into the combination of other towns when needed. My goal is to have everyone who wants to participate, have the availability to do so. My hopes are to provide a program that is fun and educational and to improve as we continue. I am happy to hear any input to what we as a community are looking for to improve on what we have. Please feel free to contact me at any time with suggestions and comments. It is important that we hear from you so that we know both what we are doing right and also what we can improve on.

I would like to thank all our coaches for the time they put into this program. They are the individuals that make it work. Without you, we have no program. Thank you to the officials who helped throughout the year. Your help is very much appreciated. Thank you to anyone who has helped in any way. As we move forward I encourage everyone to take an active role where possible. Participating in your child's youth activities are both fun and rewarding.

I would like to thank the Plainfield School for the use of the facilities. Thank you to Meriden Deli, Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm, Ziggy's Pizza, and McNamara Dairy for your donations. A huge thank you to all our coaches, officials, and individuals who have donated their time for the youth in our community and made this program successful. I look forward to the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel P. Cantlin ,
Recreation Director