

RECREATION COMMISSION

Our baseball and softball program started the spring out. The weather cooperated for much of the season. Grades 3 and 4 baseball had a team of 12 boys and the softball had 16 girls. Both these teams played other area teams and home games were played on the renovated Prescott Field. A great job was done on this infield and our thanks to all that helped make these improvements. Also this past year the grade 5 and 6 baseball and softball teams were moved under the school program to line it up with the other programs in town.

The annual fishing derby was held on June 7th this past year and we had a great day. Participation was down some but we hope to see it increase again this year. This is always a well participated event and is always a good time. It is always fun to see our young friends and neighbors pulling in a fish with much excitement. After, they can enjoy a hot dog from the grill, a cold drink and ice cream donated by the Meriden Deli. Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm always generously helps us with this event, donating some of the fish delivered. I hope to see a big crowd this summer.

T-ball had 23 participants for grades 1 and 2 and an additional 22 for a kindergarten group. They worked on basic skills and grades 1 and 2 had three teams, which had a schedule of practices as well as games played against each other.

We had 18 kids sign up for our tennis program with several skill levels. Ally and Amanda Hawkins instructed each of these groups through the summer. We also had 52 sign-up for our swimming program ranging from beginner to experienced levels. We were very fortunate to have Lindsey Martin back with us as our head instructor also had the help of Sheldon Stansfield and Ainsley MacDonald.

We had very good participation in soccer with 20 3rd and 4th grade boys making up two teams and 20 3rd and 4th grade girls making up two teams. They played in town as well as some other area recreation teams. We had an additional 40 1st and 2nd graders that made up four teams that worked on basic skills and played each other. We had 22 kindergartners that worked on basic skills. That was a total of 102 soccer players. All received a ball to use at practice and to keep so they could practice at home. We have purchased some much needed goals for grades 3 and 4 and currently are looking to replace the smaller ones for grades 1 and 2.

Basketball is currently running with 12 1st and 2nd graders working on basic skills. We have an additional 27 3rd and 4th graders working on skills and will play games through the season with some area teams. They will finish the season, participating in a local tournament.

I look forward to the upcoming year and hope to hear from you with any ideas or suggestions that could improve our program. We are always in need of coaches and officials and would love to have any help that you can give. From my experience, it is a very fun and rewarding commitment. There are local clinics through the year run by the Upper Valley Recreation for anyone interested in additional help and training in either coaching and officiating.

We would like to thank Plainfield School and Kimball Union Academy for the use of their facilities. Also thank you to the Meriden Deli, Meriden Garage, Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm, and Keene Medical for their donations. We would also like to thank the town of Plainfield and the selectboard for all of your support through the year. A huge thank you to all of the coaches, officials, and various individuals who have donated their time and helped make this program successful. Without all of your help and support we would not be able to run this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel P. Cantlin
Recreation Director