

RECREATION COMMISSION-2014

We finished the 2013-2014 basketball season in February. The 1st and 2nd grade group of 12 students worked on learning basic skills on Saturday mornings at the PES gym. Our 3rd and 4th grade girls group of 12 and 3rd and 4th grade boys group of 10 practiced and played several games with local towns during the season. The boys played in the Claremont tournament and the girls entered in the Hanover tournament winning a very exciting championship. 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 34 boys and girls.

In the spring we started our 3rd and 4th grade boy's baseball with a small group of 10. They practiced and played teams from other area towns. Home games were played on Prescott Field. Skills and sportsmanship were worked on through the season. We unfortunately were not able to field a 3/4 softball team again this year. We have had low sign-ups and efforts to combine with other towns were not successful. We will continue to try to address this issue so we can bring back softball to our town.

We ran our T-ball during late spring and early summer. Participation was at 22 1st and 2nd graders making up 2 teams and an additional 10 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 7th in Blood Brook behind the Meriden Deli. We had another great 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 94 kids participate in the event and the big catch of the day was made by Lexy Miller with a trout of 13 ½". The fish were a little more challenging this year with a total of 89 fish caught during the derby. 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 and Vern's Worms, and McNamara Dairy,

On August 24, our 3rd Annual Spirit Day was held. This event was an extension 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 & 4th graders boy's team made up of 15 boys and the 3rd & 4th grade girl's team was made up of 10 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 24 kids that participated in the kindergarten group. We had a total of 78 participants in our K through 4th grade soccer program.

The 2014-2015 basketball season got started for our 3rd & 4th grade boys with a group of 8 individuals. They are working on both individual and team skills and will play

games with other area towns. We were unfortunately not able to get enough 3rd & 4th girls to put a team together. This too will be looked at to determine ways to keep this going when we have low sign-ups. The 1st and 2nd grade group working on basic skills at the PES gym on Saturdays has 11 participants and started in January.

In the coming year of 2015, I look forward to continued participation in our youth programs. I will face the challenges to keep these programs going in the event that participation is low. 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 as 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.

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