

RECREATION COMMISSION-2016

We finished the 2015-2016 basketball season in February. The 1st and 2nd grade group of 15 students worked on learning basic skills at the PES gym. Our 3rd and 4th grade boys group of 7 practiced and played several games with local towns during the season. 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 22 boys and girls. We had an additional 5 girls for our 3rd and 4th grade; this group combined and played with and at Cornish.

In the spring we started our 3rd and 4th grade baseball with a group of 16 boys and girls. 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 because of a low number of sign-ups but all who were interested played on the baseball team. We ran our T-ball during the spring this year, starting and ending earlier than previous years. This was done as requested by many to end before summer vacations. Participation was at 14 1st and 2nd graders and an additional 15 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 4th in Blood Brook behind the Meriden Deli. We had a lower turnout this year, greatly due to other activities that were going on in the area. 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 43 kids participate in the event and the big catch of the day was made by Hannah Henderson with a trout of 15 1/2". There were a total of 84 fish caught during the derby with all 43 participants catching at least one fish and 41 catching the derby 2 fish limit. It was a lot of fun watching the excitement as the fish were hooked. All kids had the opportunity to fish the brook at the completion of the derby, following NH law.

Our 5th annual Spirit Day scheduled for August 21st unfortunately had to be moved to August 22nd due to rain. This event is 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. It was a cool and breezy evening but it stayed dry. The event started at 5:00 pm with music provided by the band Loose Cannons. They played throughout the evening while we enjoyed a corn roast, cooking on the grill and a variety of ice cream, while relaxing and visiting with our friends and neighbors. The Plainfield Police, Plainfield and Meriden Fire departments as well as Cornish rescue squad were there for our safety and welcomed everyone to see the trucks and ask questions. The evening ended with the playing of our National Anthem and spectacular display of fireworks by Northstar Fireworks. It was a fun evening and I hope it was enjoyed by everyone who was able to attend. This is an event we plan to continue and I hope that if you were unable to attend this past year that you can make it in 2017.

The Soccer program in the fall included the ¾ boys' team made up of 14 boys and the ¾ 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 four teams made up of a total of 35 players. These teams practiced basic skill and played games with each other at the Cory Taber Field. We had an additional 23 kids that participated in the kindergarten group. This continues to be a huge program with 85 participants in our K through 4th grade soccer groups.

The 2016-2017 basketball season got started in December for our ¾ grade boys with a group of 10 individuals and our ¾ grade girls with a group of 10 individuals. It was great to see the participation so that we could have both teams. They are working on both individual and team skills and will play games with other area towns. The 1st and 2nd grade group, working on basic skills at the PES gym has 16 participants and also started in December.

I would like to thank the Meriden Deli, Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm, N.H. Fish and Game, Coca Cola Company, Vern's Worms, McNamara Dairy, Edgewater Farm, Taylor Farm, and Frank Currier for your donations to the Fishing Derby and Spirit Day events. Thank you to the Plainfield School and facilities group for a place to hold our games, practices, events, and the help provided. I would also like to thank both the Fishing Derby Crew and the Spirit Day Crew for all your help in the preparation and work that you do during these events. Thank you to our many volunteer coaches, officials, and helpers that provide an opportunity for our local youth to participate in the sports programs that we offer. It is a combination of many volunteers that make these programs and events available and successful.

In the coming year of 2017, I encourage everyone to take an active role where possible. Participating in your child's youth activities are both fun and rewarding. I look forward to continued participation in our youth programs. We will face challenges and 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. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel P. Cantlin,
Recreation Director