

July 2007 Winterport Recreation Department Report

June 30th through July 27th

Board News –

Since our last report, the Recreation Board held its July meeting. Our meeting focused on a review of the summer program being offered by Mr. Whitney, a review of last year's activities, goal setting for the current fiscal year, setting a schedule for the fall youth soccer program, and a walk of Abott Park to brainstorm ideas for a park improvement plan. Policies and procedures are making steady, but slow progress. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 16th at 6:00pm in the VGCC.

Sponsored Programs –

Summer Day Camps Dennis Whitney has concluded the summer program. Initial numbers were low, but picked up as the program went along. A assessment of the program will occur and appropriate modifications will be made to make the program even more of a success next year.

3x3 Basketball Tournament The Winterport Recreation Department worked jointly with Hampden Recreation Department to host a 3x3 basketball tournament at the Hampden VFW park. Their were 11 total teams and was a good success for the first time out.

Recreation Coordinator's Report –

We tried two new things this month. One was a program that has been organized and implemented by Mr. Dennis Whitney. The other was a event that Hampden and Winterport Recreation Departments worked on together; the 3 on 3 Outdoor Basketball Tournament.

Mr. Whitney and myself talked long and hard trying to figure out why numbers at his program were almost non existent the first and second weeks. This week the numbers have risen and kids have been participating and enjoying the basketball portion of the program. Most of the kids that have participated did not know about the program. Their parents learned of the program from myself and word of mouth from those that I have told. I will be talking to the two schools principals in making sure that all kids take home all of our fliers when they are handed to the front offices to distribute to the individual class rooms. I feel this has been an ongoing problem throughout the years. Other reasons that the numbers may have been down are maybe the separate hours throughout the day for age levels makes it hard for working parents to get their kids to the program. Another is that there are other programs going on throughout eastern Maine during these weeks and some kids are going to those. Maybe a restructuring of times and weeks may help in these reasons for low participation. Both Mr. Whitney and myself have thought of many ways in getting better participation for future programs and events. I would like to say that Mr. Whitney has done a great job and keeps the interest of those that do participate.

Our joint venture with Hampden Recreation was a great success in all aspects. We broke even as far as monies coming in for possible scholarships. We will be looking for sponsors next year, this will help enormously in gaining scholarship money. We had twelve teams register and eleven showed up on the day of the tourney. I have turned in pictures of the event and they will be on our web page soon. I would like to thank all the volunteers from Winterport in their help in making this event run smoothly. They did a great job and I am sure they all had fun doing it. Our volunteers were Sharon Baker, Mandy Olver, Heather Roberts, Helga Meo., Frank Jones, NormPoirier and Dennis Whitney.

One last thing that I would like to mention is the need to repair our soccer fields for this coming fall season. The recreation board is aware of the problem and have started working with Mr. Pitula on making this happen. At this point the chance of sprained ankles is high with the number of ruts that riddle the fields. Mr. Pitula has also asked different contractors for bids on making the walk path around the complex, so this should also come into fruition soon.

Recreation Coordinator - Dave Lester

Upcoming Events –

In the next month, the Recreation Board will be meeting to discuss the Abbot Park Improvement Plan and to plan the details of the fall soccer season. Policies and Procedures finalization is also a main focus for the end of the summer.