

September 2007 Winterport Recreation Department Report

August 25th through October 5th

Board News –

Since our last report, the Recreation Board held its September meeting and a special meeting on October 2nd to discuss youth basketball offerings. Our September meeting focused on updates for the current youth soccer season, a discussion of park improvement projects, hearing from parents concerning the youth basketball offerings, and also discussing our focus areas for the current fiscal year. The special meeting on October 2nd was to discuss our youth basketball offerings. Policies and procedures are nearing completion. We have just a couple small pieces left to do. We also welcomed Scott Mislter as our alternate board member. This position has been open for quite some time and we are excited to see it filled. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 17th at 6:00pm in the VGCC. We have moved our monthly meetings from the 3rd Thursday of each month to the 3rd Wednesday of each month. This was done to better accommodate the professional and personal schedules of our board members.

Sponsored Programs –

Youth Soccer Youth soccer is in full swing. We again see record numbers of kids participating this year. The K/PreK division has 40 players, the 1st/2nd grade division has 34 players, and the 3rd-5th grade division has almost 40 players. We are pleased to see these numbers and feel this is a direct result of the quality of the program and volunteer coaches.

Recreation Coordinator's Report –

The month of September has been a busy month for the Recreation Department. I would first like to mention the park improvements that have been accomplished. After discussion amongst the Recreation Board members and a little inquiry in how to go about it, we purchased 200 yards of debarked hard wood chips for the park's playground. I would like to thank Mr. Pitula for talking with Steve Clisham and getting a fair price on the chips. Between Mr. Pitula and myself, we worked out the logistics with Mr. Clisham and had them delivered and spread in one weekend. I would like to extend a big thank you to Dave Nason. If it was not for Mr. Nason the few board members and myself would most likely still be spreading chips now. Dave used the town's tractor to spread the chips. He even went back the following Monday and leveled them even more so that the playground really looks great. Also helping on that initial day of spreading was Mike Knupp, Chris Beaulier, Ken Miller and his family. These few people deserve thanks as they helped in getting the under layment down and evening off the chips around the equipment.

Mr. Pitula again deserves thanks in following through with the request from the board in getting the parks walking path completed. He hired Bud Jordan and his crew to complete this task. Once Mr. Jordan started the job it didn't take long for him to complete. The path looks great and I have already seen numerous people utilizing it.

Soccer has been fast and furious. We have great numbers again this year. Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten have enough kids for two teams; same with the 1st and 2nd graders. The 3rd thru 5th graders have three teams and are again part of the Frankfort, Stockton Springs and Winterport Youth Soccer League. I have not as of yet been able to update our website. Hopefully this will happen within the next few days.

The Recreation Board has had an inquiry from a past coach in entering a 5th and 6th grade girls basketball team within the Eastern Maine Basketball League. This has caused the board to hold a early meeting to decide how we will proceed in our basketball program this year. The final decision was to wait until we received registration forms back and decide at that point if numbers and skill levels were high enough to warrant the request. The board made the decision to make sure we did everything to make it so that all kids wanting to play basketball have equal opportunities.

Recreation Coordinator - Dave Lester

Upcoming Events –

In the next month, the Recreation Board will be meeting to discuss closedown activities for soccer, finalize any last details on youth basketball, discuss our next park improvement projects, and review the next section of the policies and procedures document.