

## Peterborough Recreation Committee

### Annual Report 2022

Reading through the 2022 minutes of our PRC meetings, several themes emerge and I will highlight a few of them.

One is the sheer dynamism and growth of programming that we are enjoying. As PRD Director Lisa Koziell-Betz notes in her report, when the year began, we were still dealing with COVID restrictions, but as the months went on, those lifted and programming has just taken off. Old favorites and new ones are flourishing, bringing in revenue and –best of all—making kids, adults, seniors and families happy to have options they are enjoying—and supporting.

We mention supporting, since so much of what makes our programs robust and successful is the passion and expertise that we get from both paid staff and incredible volunteers: pickle-ball keyholders, parent coaches and coordinators, advocates for town bike racks, decorators of whimsical and gorgeous Holiday Trees, successful fund-raisers for upgrades to our Skate Park—the list goes on and on. Every month, Julia Chidester gives the PRC a program update, which is a highlight of our meetings. We have a lot going on, and more—always—in the works. It's an exciting time.

We have programs and we have facilities, and this brings me to the second theme, and probably the big story of the year. The year began with ongoing meetings of the Municipal Campus Task Force, upon which we were represented, primarily because the PRD is responsible for the Peterborough Community Center (PCC) on the Elm Street site. The building is an armory that was built in 1949 and one of three armories in the area that was shuttered in 2005. The Town of Peterborough acquired the armory in 2010, with the stipulation (Town Meeting vote in 2009) that it would not be supported by tax dollars. That is a clear condition of the PCC's status in the town.

It is, and has been, a solid but aging building and for several years we have pushed for a comprehensive building envelope assessment in light of building deterioration and issues of deferred maintenance. This year we were able to budget and put out to bid a comprehensive building envelope assessment to inform and guide any future repairs to the building. In June we received the *PCC Facility Assessment Executive Report* compiled by LLB Architects, a very thorough report that assesses what needs to be done, and proposes priority urgency based on whether the underlying condition is POOR, GOOD or FAIR. Peterborough Recreation has been charged by the Select Board to undertake fund-raising and seek grant support to take on the challenges of repairing, maintaining and even upgrading the PCC as an asset to this community.

We have initiated the process of forming a non-profit, 501(c)(3): Friends of Peterborough Recreation Projects. We are immensely grateful to members of the community who have agreed to serve on our board, and to many who have been so helpful in guiding us as we undertake this rather large project. We are actively pursuing a grant for which we believe we are well qualified from New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority's Community Center Investment Program. Friends of Peterborough Recreation Projects will also plan to initiate a Capital Campaign, and will seek your support in that endeavor.

In closing, we want to especially thank Lauren Martin for her decade behind the desk, and in front of the public, as the face of Peterborough Recreation. The face and the voice. It was so often

Lauren's cheerful and calm voice --"Peterborough Recreation" -- that greeted our phone calls, and her smile that welcomed any visitor to the office. Kind and professional, Lauren was also amazing behind the scenes—she *really* made "the trains run on time" and we cannot thank her enough. But we can wish her well in this next chapter of her life, and know that she will, one way or another, continue to be a valued and beloved part of Peterborough Recreation.

I would like to close by thanking the other members of the PRC: Vice Chair, Zoe Wroten-Heinzmann; Michelle Rourke; Roxanne Loudin; Andrew Osterman and Alternate Bob Beck. Last spring we bid adieu to Andrew Brescia, who is retiring from many years as an educator at Lawrence Academy and looking forward to more free time with his family. He remains a committed and involved advocate for recreation, natural resources and youth in this town. Thanks also to Bill Taylor, Select Board liaison to the PRC, who brings a valuable voice and good common sense to our meetings. It is a dedicated, creative and engaged group working together to support the work of the Peterborough Recreation Department and serve the Town of Peterborough.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and Our Town.

Respectfully, submitted,  
*Kate Coon*, Peterborough Recreation Committee Chair