

The Salem Recreation Commission continues to provide quality services to our residents of Salem. Thanks to our dedicated Public Works crew our fields are a great source of pride for us as a commission and for the town. We consistently hear from visitors to our fields how well groomed and maintained they are.

The nature of recreational sports and youth sports in general are constantly evolving. Many sports are going all year long and “elite” teams are appealing to our young athletes for their time and talents. Town recreation departments and recreational sports have needed to adjust to this new reality. Five years ago the Commission put in place a fee schedule for outside use of our fields in response to these changes. This year the Commission received approximately \$7000 for rentals of our facilities. The rental of our fields helps offset the cost of maintenance. It also has the added benefit of bringing visitors into our town that eat at our restaurants, buy gas, and get to see what our quaint rural town has to offer.

The Salem Recreation Commission is the recipient of the generosity of the Salem Lions Club and the Salem Youth Baseball League. Both organizations contributed \$5000 each for the purchase of a scoreboard for the Babe Ruth field. The electrical work has been completed which also includes security lighting for the parking lot. The Commission thanks both organizations for their donation.

Special thanks to Nate Morrow for all his work on the press box at the softball field. Nate replaced the old structure which had seen better days. Congratulations to Nate on his completion of his Eagle Scout project. The Commission has benefited from many Eagle Scout projects in the past and always enjoy working with the young men.

We are very excited about our new park. The commission has been clearing the area at the corner of Hartford Road and Music Vale Road. This area abuts the multipurpose trail and is an enhancement to the trail. Many years ago the field was used to grow corn and hay when it was privately owned. Over the years the invasive species have taken over prohibiting access. We now have a beautiful open area that will provide opportunities for a variety of activities. We look forward to seeing people walking, picnicking, kite flying, cross country skiing sledding and other outdoor activities.

Last but not least we are very proud of the many Salem students who have been exceling on East Lyme High School’s sports teams. Not a season goes by without Salem kids who went through our rec programs being mentioned in the paper as leaders and standouts in their respective sports. Congratulations to all.

Salem Recreation Commission’s Annual Tree Lighting is Dec. 7th, 4:00 at the Center School on the green. Music, sing along, refreshments and Santa

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Spang

Salem Recreation Commission Chairman