**Town of Lisbon**

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TO: Glenn Michalowski; Town Manager

SUBJECT: December 2022 Report

DATE: January 12, 2023

December is usually a quieter time at the Recreation department, but 2022 had different plans for us.

We wanted to continue to celebrate our new park at Graziano Square and that downtown area, so Parks & Recreation staff developed a tree-lighting event for the community that took place on December 4. (It was originally scheduled for December 3 and postponed due to weather). Featuring the reading of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” by Dr. Seuss, this event snowballed into a wonderful holiday evening for roughly 500 members of our community. A gorgeous 30’ pine was donated by resident Jane Blue, and delighted all who attended the event and all who saw it lit up for the weeks following. Our thanks to the Open Door Bible Church choir who led off the evening with song, and our staff and volunteers who decorated the square to the hilt, made and passed out cocoa and cookies, and stoked a warming fire. This evening was capped by a surprise visit from the Grinch himself, who had a change of heart and decided to help light the tree rather than steal it.

At the MTM Community center, we were greatly helped by Public Works in grading a large area around the pavilion for flooding an ice rink. The weather was somewhat uncooperative in completing the rink this month but we are hopeful to have it in place as the ice deepens this winter.

The Beaver Park lodge enters a new era with the installation of a heat pump this month. Now the space will not rely entirely on woodstove heat and be more available and convenient to both the staff and community. Materials and equipment that require heated storage will now be much easier cared for in a facility that maintains temperature around the clock.

At the park this month there was extensive tree cleanup due to the winter windstorms of December, as well as reorganizing the sheds, which are at maximum capacity storing vehicles and equipment.

We finalized details for Winterfest this month, lining up dog sledding, snow shoeing with LL Bean, McDonald’s food, nature hikes and more, as well as recruiting a few sponsors.

Among our new programs, RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) class taught by Kate and Officer Brianna Kenney wrapped up this month. Class reviews were very positive and we hope to offer the class again later this year. We are working on offering an indoor Field Hockey clinic for K-5 players in January and February, and finalizing our new yoga class offerings for the new year. Meanwhile our basketball program officially kicked off in December at all levels, utilizing gym spaces at LCS, MTM, Sugg, and interleague play with multiple other towns.

Even as temperatures drop, Moxie planning heats up with the 2023 Festival committee having their first meeting on December 15th. The committee honed in on ways to improve the Festival for the next year and settled on some theme ideas. Our amazing volunteers and coordinators are already off to the races planning for their particular aspect of Moxie Festival 2023.

Our MTM community center hosted the Sunshine Hill Seniors Christmas party, with music, games, and delicious food for over sixty seniors in spite of the snowy weather! The seniors also traveled to Boston for a show and shopping this month, as well as the best breakfast in town cooked every other Friday by Aline and her crew. We also were happy to have the Town of Lisbon holiday employee party at the MTM, and thank Tiffany and Kayla for their extensive planning which led to an exceptional event enjoyed by many.