From: <u>Vic Dunbar</u>
To: <u>Anthony Ward</u>

Cc: Eugene Connolly; Grant Plummer; Robert MacDonald; Mary Fernandes; Scott Avery

Subject: Closure of CCC gym on holidays

Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025 12:19:28 PM

Mr Ward:

I am writing to ask that the Casco gym not be closed on holidays.

The current system that Beth has in place has worked pretty flawlessly. I would guess that the majority of recreational activities, parties, committee meetings etc occur outside of normal business hours. That is when the greatest need is there for use of this space. That is when a lot of people are not working!

During off hour events or activities, there is always a responsible person in charge. In addition, there are video recordings of all activities in and around the facility.

The CCC is used by many people on a daily basis and more so on Mondays. The Senior Meals program not only provides a good meal but also much needed social activity for those that can't get out much. Walkers that need to get inside to a dry, safe space use the gym as well. As many as 50 seniors and others use the gym for pickleball from 9am to 1pm on Mondays and Fridays. For many, this is the only exercise and social activity they get, especially in the winter. There may also be volleyball and basketball games. Casco youth use the facility constantly especially when they are off due to a holiday.

Many of the activities require payment of a fee which helps cover building and other expenses. I assume that would be lost revenue to the town or at least indicate that there isn't any additional cost to keeping the Community Center open for the community.

The Community Center is much like our parks. It should remain open whenever possible especially since it has been effectively demonstrated that it can be open during nights, weekends and even holidays up to this point.

In addition, we have a Parks and Recreation committee that could monitor, evaluate and give advice on issues such as this should it be needed. Beth has been very diligent in managing the Community Center off hour usage. I don't feel that a blanket holiday closure policy serves the community in this particular case.

I am requesting that the Community Center remain open as much as possible as it is a very valuable asset to Casco and should not be shuttered when it is most needed.

Thank you for your consideration, Vic Dunbar

Sent from my iPad