

BRISTOL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES JULY 7, 2009

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Gordon Benner, Jane Tedrow, and Cerina Leeman

ALSO PRESENT: Charlie Hanley, Paul Cushing, Diane Perry, and Laurie Chandler

Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

LIGHTHOUSE ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB: Charlie and Paul requested the use of the Lighthouse Park facilities for their organization's annual picnic on Sunday, Sept. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event would be held at the lower end of the parking lot. The group discussed the various civic and charitable organizations that the club supports, as well as the current liability insurance requirements. The commissioners approved the use of the park for this event, at no charge to the auto club members. However, the club plans to discuss the insurance needs at their next meeting and will let the commissioners know if they still plan to hold their picnic at Lighthouse Park.

MINUTES: On a motion by Jane, seconded by Cerina, the minutes from the June 16 meeting were accepted as written.

BEACHCOMBER'S REST NATURE CENTER: Diane distributed copies of the nature center schedule for the summer and explained that the posters will include the Pemaquid Watershed Association and Bristol Parks logos. The posters also mention the beach admission charge. The Wednesday workshops will begin on July 8; the community room will be available for use on Wednesdays, except for August 12. Diane also requested confirmation that beach staff would be available on Tuesdays, starting July 21, to help fill and empty the touch tank. After consulting prior minutes and reviewing the logistics of what was needed, it was agreed that an employee would help fill the tank and put it away after the program.

FINANCIAL REPORT: For the month of June, income was about \$27,200 and expenses about \$23,900. As of June 30, year-to-date income was about \$38,300 and expenses about \$94,000.

MARKETING/PR REPORT: Cerina has written press releases covering the beach yoga classes, the Big Beach Bazaar, and the Learning Center Grand Opening. After learning that Cerina would be unable to attend the Grand Opening on July 19, the commissioners changed the date for the event to Aug. 2 from 12 to 4 p.m. Cerina will reorder the invitations with the new date and mail them out. Eight tables are currently reserved for the bazaar. A suggestion was made to call the event a "yard sale" next year, which all agreed was a good idea. The Chamber of Commerce guide has the wrong time and location for the Bath Municipal Band concert; Jane has submitted a correction. Jane would like to have a photograph taken of all three commissioners with the raffle quilt at the Learning Center on July 21, to use in a future press release. Cerina will send Jane handouts for the Bath Municipal Band concert, for her to copy and distribute.

GROUND REPORT: A sign has been posted at the Bristol Dam swimming hole prohibiting swimming, after a recent incident in which two boys were swept over the dam. The park will remain closed to swimming until water levels return to normal and the dam spillway returns to normal. Cerina suggested that the commissioners immediately notify each other if they hear of an emergency situation like this occurring. CMP has approved changes to the electrical service to the beach, at no cost to the town. However, the location of the two poles will be different than previously discussed and there will only be two lights in the lower parking lot, rather than poles and lights down the middle of the parking lot.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Jane shared a letter from the Lighthouse Committee, asking to reserve the entire park (exclusive of the space needed for a wedding) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Maine Open Lighthouse Day on Sept. 12. The request was approved. Jane will check to be sure that no additional liability insurance is required. Laurie requested the use of the Learning Center for a church service and picnic for Second Congregational Church in Newcastle, on Sept. 13 at 10:30 a.m. On a motion by Cerina, seconded by Jane, the commissioners approved this request for a charge of \$150. The church will provide an insurance rider, as well as passes for church members to admit them to the park free of charge. The group would also like the use of the large grill and tent.

LEARNING CENTER CLASSES: Gordon has had two requests from individuals who would like to teach classes in the Learning Center, on digital photography and painting. The commissioners like the idea of classes and want more details on the whether these individuals would be charging a fee for the class and when they would like to hold classes. Cerina will prepare a draft policy covering classes held at the Learning Center, as a starting point for a general discussion at the next meeting.

OTHER ISSUES: Shirley Geyer has requested permission to someday hold his funeral/memorial service at the beach recreational park. This request was approved. Jane suggested that the commission offer a package of flex tickets to local inns and B & B's, that would offer admission to the lighthouse for their guests. The commissioners decided to offer a package of 50 flex tickets for \$75. Cerina will send an email out to the owners and Jane will deliver the tickets to those that are interested. Jane suggested that next season the commissioners consider charging a fee for volunteer passes for the Friends of Pemaquid Light and the Pemaquid Group of Artists. Each individual would be charged \$8 for an initial pass and \$5 to renew the pass.

The next meeting will be held on Tues., July 21, 2009 at 8 a.m. at the Learning Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Chandler, Secretary