

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
April 2, 2024**

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Laurie Mahan, Heidi Wotton

Also present: Shelley Gallagher, Sarah Plummer, Jennifer Bryce, Sandra Lane

Meeting called to order at 6:02 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 19 meeting, approval, Heidi seconded, and motion carried.

New Business

- A. Clyde turned the meeting over to Laurie to hold a vote on officers for the Parks Commission. Laurie nominated Clyde to be the Chair, Heidi seconded, and it passed unanimously. Heidi nominated Laurie to be the Vice Chair, Clyde seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- B. Sarah Plummer came to discuss summer yoga and possibly doing a fundraiser for our department. In previous years she has charged an extra \$5 for non-residents for her classes for day beach passes that she then paid to the department at the end of the season. On average she has paid \$300- \$700 per year depending on the weather and other factors. It has become challenging to track who has paid and who hasn't, and people have tried to pay at the gate then had to be refunded so she was trying to think of an easier way to pay. She suggested she pay a flat rate of \$500 for the season and not do the day passes as she has done in the past. The Parks Commissioners discussed the issue and agreed that seems like it is fair for both of us. Sarah then said she would like to do a Paddle for the Beach fundraiser for help rebuilding the beach damage. She would like to do it in July and do kayak, canoe, and SUP launching from the kayak launch at Ellingwood with the registrations all going to the beach repairs. She will speak to Warren about having a food truck come down as well for the event. The Commissioners said it sounds like a good idea and keep Shelley informed of the plans and any questions. She will also be doing the triathlon training on Saturdays after yoga again this summer for anyone that is interested in attending. They work on the swim section as well as bike the route to get comfortable with the course and length.
- C. Jennifer Bryce came to discuss starting a nautical themed beginner painting program at the Lighthouse. She is available to do it Sun- Tues and those days tend to be available in the Learning Center where the class would be held. She proposed doing a 2 hour class where they would register ahead of time, and possibly doing a walk-in class on a weekend day. She would charge \$40 for the class, and \$5 of each registration would go to our department. Shelley has been looking for someone to teach painting classes at the Lighthouse since last year, and the Commissioners had discussed doing a program before but neither could find an instructor. Jennifer was told she can do the program, but she is not allowed to sell any art as that would interfere with the Pemaquid Artist Group at

the Art Gallery. She understood, and said she would send a copy of her insurance information. She would like to hold her first class on Mother's Day May 12.

- D. Shelley was watching the news a couple of weeks ago and there was a story about a little girl that was killed in Florida when a hole she and her brother were digging on the beach collapsed on them. Shelley did some research and learned it is not uncommon, and the New England Journal of Medicine has even written about it with recommendations. She said she feels like we need to have a policy that follows their suggestions which is no holes dug deeper than knee height of the shortest person in the hole. Clyde had heard the same story and all of the Commissioners agreed we need to have this article posted at the entrance to the beach as well as the staff giving them to families if their child is digging too deep. The staff will also be making them fill in their holes if they are getting too deep.
- E. Triathlon registration is now open and there are 19 people registered so far. For the triathlon this year, the transition area will tentatively be in the grassy area in front of Mimi's so everything is all together. Last year the transition area and scores were up in the field while lunch was being offered down at Mimi's, but very few came to eat because it was so spread out and everyone stayed up by the transitions and scores.

Old Business

- A. DND Construction is planning to start work on the museum siding Monday April 8. They will be removing the siding up to the bottom of the porch, removing the wood backing, adding insulation, then residing with cedar siding. Larry Luce is planning to come some time in the next week or so to crib the bell house to increase the stabilization. Shelley asked if we should remove the bell before he starts as it will probably be easier to move it through the side with no wall then it would be to try to get it through the door again. To do that we need to get the tractor over there and fill will need to be added to level the area round the building so the tractor can drive up to it. Details will be worked out so the bell is removed before Larry begins work. Wed and Thursday the 10 and 11 will be beach clean up days. We will see if Sean can bring his tractor down so we have 2, and also his 1 ton for debris removal. The large spruce tree will be repurposed as dune restoration, and the downed trees will be as well. We are hoping the weather holds out so we can get a lot done.

Public Comments

Clyde moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.