

**Bristol Parks & Recreation  
Ellingwood Information Center  
July 6, 2021**

*Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan*

*Also present: Lara Decker, Pat Porter, Dave Kolodin, Jane Barry, Chuck Hanson, Mary Gauntt*

*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 June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

**Meditation Classes Proposal:**

Jane attended the meeting to propose teaching meditation classes in the parks. Jane is a certified meditation teacher who does morning meditation on the beach in Florida for part of the year. She also works remotely with a college helping staff and students with meditation. Jane would like to offer a 30-minute morning meditation program possibly on the beach. She feels there is a need for this type of class. She currently does this program on a donation basis and then she donates part of the proceeds to a non-profit. She would like to do a similar format here and would donate proceeds to the Parks Department or a local non-profit. The group discussed the beach or lighthouse as possible locations. Laurie thought this was a good idea. Jane will get her insurance to Lara with a flyer to be posted on the Facebook page and at the parks. Lara can also post the class on the digital sign.

**Fishermen Memorial:**

Dave attended to discuss creating a Fishermen Memorial at Lighthouse Park for fishermen lost off Pemaquid Point. He recently read a book that inspired him to want to do this. This book talked about a statue called The Fishermen's Wife and he thought Bristol should have a memorial that honored fishermen lost at sea. Dave talked with Craig Elliott about the idea, and Craig had discussed the idea previously with Park Staff and Commissioners. John Allan had suggested Dave bring it to the Parks Commission. Lara asked if the memorial would be a statue or a plaque with names. The group discussed having a statue which could encompass everyone lost at sea without the possibility of someone's name being left off or someone's name being left off based on circumstances. Dave wanted permission from the Parks Commission to look into prices of such a memorial. Clyde thought this would be a great idea. Chuck said that Dave could get an endorsement from the Parks Department and then go to the Selectmen for further guidance.

**Poetry and Music Presentation Proposal:**

George Drew contacted Lara about the Parks Department hosting a poetry and music presentation at the Learning Center at Lighthouse Park in September. Lara read his proposal to the Commissioners which described a 1.5-hour session in the evening with poetry and music dedicated to Steve Lord who passed away a few years ago. Laurie was concerned about Parks sponsoring an event that is dedicated to an individual. Clyde didn't like the idea of setting a precedent of Parks sponsoring memorial type events. The Commissioners approved donating the use of the Learning Center for this, but they would need to provide insurance and publicize it themselves. Parks involvement would be limited to the donation of the facility and providing a staff person to open and close the Learning Center and bathrooms. George Drew and Rick Kunz would need to get event insurance for this since it would not be sponsored by the town. Clyde made a motion to not sponsor this event but donate the facility and a staff member to attend the event, Laurie seconded, and motion carried.

**Bath Municipal Jazz Band at Beach:**

The Bath Municipal Jazz Band would like to play at the beach on August 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8. Mimi's on the Beach (the Snack Shack) could remain open for this, and a staff member could be available to keep the bathrooms open. A question came up about cost and Lara said that Tammy thought she could get a sponsor. Chuck asked if there would be an admission fee and Clyde said no but donations would be accepted. Clyde made a motion to have the jazz band play at the beach, Sandra seconded and motion carried.

**Gator:**

A visitor to the beach has inquired why the Gator is no longer being used to bring people to the beach. Lara explained that the boardwalk now allows people to get to the beach 24 hours a day, all year round with the use of wheelchairs or walkers. The Gator was only available when the park was open. The visitor explained that they did not want to use a

wheelchair or walker and preferred the Gator. Lara also explained that there was a dangerous incident on the beach when a child ran in front of the Gator and the risk involved with it being driven on the beach was high, especially with the big crowds that the beach has been drawing. Lara checked with MMA insurance about the liability and coverage for the service of transporting people to the beach and was told “The decision to use the Gator for the purposes of transporting people to the beach, is ultimately up to the Town to make that determination. The John Deere Gator Buggy is scheduled, so physical damage coverage applies. With regards to liability coverage, it would be determined by the facts of the claim when reported.” The group felt like the liability is not worth it. Lara will ask MMA about the beach wheelchair that was donated – it was homemade so she will check that it is ok to use. Lara also knows of a grant to apply for to help fund a new beach wheelchair.

### **Park Admissions – June Update:**

June admissions for the Parks were the best they have ever been. Lighthouse Park brought in \$43,413 in revenue and prior to that the most June brought in was \$31,413 in 2019. The Beach brought in \$31,121 and prior to that the most June ever brought in was \$16,170 in 2020. These figures do not include the Discount Park Passes but those will be included in the admission totals at the end of the year.

### **Other Business:**

Clyde asked if the remaining \$15,000 was ever received for the LWCF grant for the pavilion. Lara said it has not been received so will send an email asking for an update.

The maintenance crew had to buy a new push lawn mower today for \$300.

Clyde made a motion to purchase an enclosed, outdoor bulletin board for \$243, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Laurie posted that the Parks Department might be looking for a piano to be donated to the beach pavilion and two phone calls came in during the meeting with offers of a piano to be delivered.

Clyde reported that the lines are finished being painted in the parking lot at the beach. He discussed how the lines at the lighthouse should be painted – diagonal or straight and how to fit a middle row.

Mary Gauntt attended to discuss some concerns about the lighthouse tower opening. She had spoken to someone from Friends of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse who indicated there was some disagreement about whether the tower should open at all. There were also some concerns about COVID procedures being implemented.

### **Public Comments:**

Chuck asked about the floats at the landings. Clyde provided an update on floats remaining at the landings. There is one broken one left at Moxie and three floats left at Hanna Landing. Parks is working with the haulers to get the rest out of there and to determine who to bill for the late fees since it is not the float owners’ fault that the haulers are not removing them.

Chuck said the weather station at the Lighthouse went out for a few days, but it came back. He thinks it will need to be replaced eventually and wondered how to get up there safely. He wondered if Parks would have to contract with someone to take care of this. The group discussed various options for people that could help with this.

Clyde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41, Laurie seconded, and motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:41 p.m.