

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
September 1, 2020**

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Sargent, Pat Porter, Beth Sears

Meeting called to order at 6:00 (and 20 seconds) P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18th meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Poison Ivy at LHP:

Beth Sears attended the meeting to discuss ways to eradicate the poison ivy at Lighthouse Park. Beth explained that it probably originated from birds and has become very established. Digging it up or pouring boiling water on it could help keep it down but it would probably come back. Another option is a combination of vinegar, salt, and liquid detergent. Beth talked about chemicals being used and the group informed her of the chemical use policy on town property. Beth talked about pulling the plants as an option as well. The poison ivy is a good deterrent to keep people off the rocks, but Beth made the point that it would be good to have a safe path for First Responders to get to the rocks for rescues. Laurie likes the idea of getting rid of it near the pathways. Beth suggested trying the boiling water to start in a small area to see if that works. She also suggested having a test plot with various techniques tested. Then the one that works best could be used on various sections near pathways. This will be tried in the spring. Beth will do some more research and come to another meeting.

Swimming Hole:

The swimming hole is still closed due to work being done on the dam/fish ladder. One contractor who is currently there does not want to allow swimming while they are working because their insurance company advised against it. Their work will be done in about a week. The next contractor working there said it would be fine to allow swimming. The Selectmen had discussed the issue and felt it was the decision of the Park Commission to determine if swimming should be allowed while the next phase of work is going on. Lara will ask Chris if the contractors would like to pay to keep the port-a-potty there and if not, she will have it removed. Clyde makes a motion to open the swimming hole to allow swimming as soon as the current contractor is done, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Sea Level Rise Committee:

A resident has inquired about the town starting a Sea Level Rise Committee with the suggestion that a Park Commissioner be on that committee. The Park Commission realizes the concerns regarding sea level rise which is evident in the recent beach pavilion project. The pavilion was moved back and raised up in response to the predictions of rising sea levels. It was discussed that Lincoln County EMA and regional planning office have this covered along with the Darling Marine Center. The Commissioners feel that they have taken advice from experts on the decisions about the pavilion and will continue to refer to experts on issues pertaining to parks and a committee would not be necessary.

Benefit at Beach:

Tammy Legault from the SS Minnow has asked about having a benefit event at the beach for a girl from Damariscotta who is fighting cancer. Jessica had checked with MMA legal about this and found that Tammy could do it as an event. But they would be required to enforce masks, alcohol, distancing, etc. The Commissioners are concerned about the recent outbreaks in other areas of the State and feel that they do not want to risk an outbreak occurring at Pemaquid Beach. Clyde makes a motion to not allow this event due to the COVID pandemic, Laurie seconded, and motion carried.

Floats:

A resident inquired about storing his float at Hanna Landing because he is no longer allowed to store near the fort. Clyde explained that private floats are not being allowed at the restoration property at the Fort this year which might mean more floats will be stored at the landings. Floats will need to be stacked which is written into the storage contract with the haulers. More South Bristol residents might want to store at Bristol town landings this year and the resident had asked if Bristol residents had priority. Clyde thought there would be enough room for all floats if they were stacked and stored correctly.

Cameras:

The lighthouse painting will be finished this week so cameras can be installed after that. The group discussed placement of cameras and how to get internet in the booth.

Park Admissions Update:

The final admission numbers for August have shown an improvement at the lighthouse. The monthly percentages of this year compared to last year have been as follows:

May – 48%, June – 47%, July – 65%, August – 80%

Hopefully, the trend continues, and September and October percentages continue to rise. So far, the lighthouse has made \$97,587 in admission fees.

The beach has reached its projected revenue of \$126,000. The admission total at the end of August was \$124,720 and combined with the discount beach passes being \$2,660, the total at the end of August was \$127,380.

Beach/Ellingwood Tentative Closing:

Admissions at the beach have decreased the past week with the cooler weather. The facility will remain open through Labor Day and then open the following week at 10am from Tues-Friday and then open at 9am on Sat and Sun. Sunday, 9/13, will tentatively be the last day but that will be determined later.

Ellingwood Information Center has been very slow with many days without park pass income. Pat did say people have been stopping in for information though. The Commission discussed that after Labor Day, Ellingwood would be open only on Saturday.

Other Business:

Pat finished fixing the Visit Maine website and it looks great. Parks now has the password so the site can be updated at any time with new information. THANK YOU, PAT!!!

Executive Session:

The Commission went into Executive session MRSA 405(6A) at 7:55 discuss staffing issues. Executive session ended at 8:30.

Public Comments:

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.