

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
September 4, 2018**

Commissioners present: Laurie Mahan, Sandra Lane

Also present: Lara Sargent, Pat Porter

Meeting called to order at 6:06 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Lane made a motion to approve the minutes from August 21st, Mahan seconded, and motion carried.

Beach/LHP clean-up:

Sargent reported that a group from Lincoln Academy came to clean trash at the parks on August 29th. When they were leaving the beach, Sargent asked how the clean-up went and the guidance counselor who had attended reported that they were basically leaving with empty bags because both the Lighthouse and Beach were so clean. The Parks Department has heard similar comments throughout the year from park visitors and keeping our Parks clean has become a top priority for the staff and it shows! The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the efforts by Bristol Parks staff.

Beachcombers' Rest:

The Pemaquid Watershed Association provided a folder to the Parks Department of press releases that were published this year in the Lincoln County News. The articles detail the different offerings that were provided by PWA this year. They had some great activities involving fish printing, a scavenger hunt, fairy houses, weekly touch tanks and more. These types of learning activities are greatly appreciated. The beach visitors and the Bristol Parks staff really appreciate the effort by PWA to offer such interesting and fun activities.

Travel Writers:

Two travel writers from New Jersey contacted Sargent about visiting Bristol Parks in September. They will be visiting both the beach and lighthouse and will be including their visit in their travel writings. They agreed to send Sargent a link to the article when it is complete.

Gardens:

The Park staff continues to pass along feedback from Park visitors about the gardens looking beautiful this year. The flower bed at Ellingwood was recently expanded to include (and hide) the well-head. The Commissioners discussed ideas for new plantings in this bed. The commissioners liked the idea of making that a seasonal bed to put various seasonal plants throughout the year. The fruit trees in the parks have yielded some peaches this year. The peach trees at Hanna Landing provided snacks to staff and visitors and it was reported that they "tasted great". The tomato plants throughout the parks have been providing many tomatoes as well.

Request for Selectmen:

The Park Commissioners are requesting that if there are any discussions involving Park Staff at Selectmen meetings (including Executive Session) then that Park employee and the Commissioners should be given the opportunity to attend, if they wish. Sargent will relay this information to the Town Administrator.

Youth Sports Clinic:

Sargent described the youth sports soccer clinic scheduled for September 10th to October 3rd. Sargent will assist Holly Nelson with coaching a group of k-2 students on Mondays and grades 3-5 students on Wednesdays. There will be a maximum of 20 students in each session. Mahan made a motion to continue the youth sports program that began in the spring, Lane seconded, and motion carried.

Beach/Ellingwood Hours:

The beach remains open and continues to be profitable. Sargent will monitor the number of visitors and when it is no longer profitable the beach will close. This will take place on or before September 15th. Ellingwood Information center visitors have dropped off significantly. The Commissioners discussed having Ellingwood on certain days from 10-2 along with all other hours that Sargent is available. This will be determined as the number of visitors are monitored.

Public Comments:

Mahan made a motion to end the meeting at 7:52 , Lane seconded, and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.