

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
March 16, 2021**

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Decker, Todd Richards

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2nd meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Merchandise:

Todd attended the meeting to present ideas for merchandise. He had asked KDK printing for some design ideas for T-shirts. Todd presented three designs to the Commission. The group discussed which designs they liked best. Todd will take the preferred designs back to KDK and get more information about shirts to be ordered. The group discussed selling T-shirts at Lighthouse Park, Pemaquid Beach and Ellingwood and that the \$2,000 merchandise budget probably would not allow for many shirts at each location. But if the shirts sell well, an order can easily be placed for more.

Sculpture Donations:

A press release was submitted providing information about the heron sculpture and how to donate toward the bronze casting. Initially, Parks thought the original sculpture was being donated to be bronzed but instead a life size replica is being created in bronze. Chris Hall included information about the sculpture in the Bristol newsletter. Jessica Westhaver set up a QR code on the Parks website making it easy for people to donate toward the bronzing through PayPal. Fundraising will continue until enough money has been raised through donations and/or grants.

Park Opening Dates:

The Commission discussed opening dates for the parks. Lighthouse Park will open May 5th, the Wednesday before Mother's Day. The beach will open Saturday, June 5th and tentatively plan to open for the first couple weekends before opening full time. The maintenance crew will start the second full week in April starting the 12th.

Lighthouse Apartment Inquiry:

A journalist writing a story about staying at Maine Lighthouses contacted Lara to inquire about staying in the lighthouse apartment. She will be writing an article for AAA magazine which is due on April 12th. She would like to stay two nights if possible because she is driving from New York. She asked about a complimentary visit since the article would provide some marketing for renting the apartment (and Lighthouse Park). The Commissioners agreed to allow her to stay for two nights in the offseason. Lara will ask Sheila if she would be willing to donate the cleaning service and then contact the journalist about scheduling with Sheila.

Swimming Hole/Fish Ladder Park Survey Questions:

The Swimming Hole/Fish Ladder online survey has gotten 40 responses so far. Lara emailed the responses to interested parties who are involved with the planning. Most of the responses so far are focused on keeping the park natural.

Triathlon:

The Commission discussed the annual triathlon and whether to host it in 2021 with the current COVID-19 restrictions. Registration is now three months behind and there is still some uncertainty about gatherings. The group thought that putting a deposit down on a timer could be risky since the deposit was not returned last year. Plus, with registration opening late, there is a chance that there would be fewer participants which could also cause Parks to lose money on the event. Laurie made a motion to cancel the triathlon for 2021, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Parks Vehicle:

Clyde found a 2020 Buick Encore that was a loaner with 3,000+ miles on it. O'Connor quoted about \$19,000 for this car. Parks needs to get three quotes for vehicles before a decision is made. Sandra will contact other dealers for quotes for similar vehicles.

Other Business:

Public Comments:

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.