

Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
October 20, 2020

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Sargent, Pat Porter, Mira Coleman, Chris Hall, Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland, Rick Poland, Jay Crooker, Allison Lee

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

Minutes:

Sandra made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 6th meeting, Laurie seconded, and motion carried.

Pemaquid Merchandise:

Mira Coleman attended the meeting to discuss selling merchandise in the Parks. Most of her products are chart related. She had seen that Parks sold some merchandise online and wondered if there was a place to sell her products at the beach. She wondered about attending a table somewhere in the parks on the weekends. The Commissioners talked about hosting an artist's market either at the Lighthouse and/or Beach. The Commissioners decided to give some thought to ideas for ways to sell this merchandise.

Fish Ladder:

Members of the fish committee attended to discuss future plans for the Park at the swimming hole/fish ladder. Clyde said that Parks do not have the money to put into that park for the next few years but would certainly maintain the park property like other parks are maintained (mowing, trash, etc.) Laurie asked how much land was there and the group discussed how much parking would be available. Chris said next priorities will be phase two to finish off the fish ladder, build a foot bridge across the dam, install mechanical gates, and design a landscape plan. Chris said eventually it would be nice to have an alewife festival and the group discussed how this could be part of a mid-coast alewife festival by including both the Damariscotta Mills and Bristol Mills festival at the same time. Rick said there is plenty of rock for building walkways and stairs. Jay discussed the educational opportunity the park provides from an archaeological and historical perspective. Rick and Jay built an informational kiosk and the group discussed putting a donation box there. A fundraising effort will be made to fund phase 2 of this project. Chris said this funding will likely come from a combination of donations, grants, and town budgets. Lara said that one good grant opportunity through NOAA will not be available next until 2022 but she is still looking for other grants to help fund this project. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (that helped fund the pavilion) might be a good match for phase 2 of the fish ladder but the Park Commission had planned to apply to this program for the walking trail at the beach. Lara will have a discussion with Doug Beck about the possibility of applying for the fish ladder first and if that would hurt future chances of getting funding for the walking trail. Clyde asked when the group should meet again to discuss, and Allison suggested doing an informal site visit before the snow flies. Rick voiced his concern about people maintaining the fish ladder into the future. Chris and Jay said they hoped there would be enough income generated from alewife harvesting to help with maintenance. The group set a date to tour the fish ladder on November 1st at 10am.

Road Safety:

An update was given to the Commissioners about the efforts to improve the safety of Huddle and Snowball Hill Roads. A group of residents signed a petition that was presented at a Selectman's meeting and the issue of road safety was discussed. They want reduced speed limits, enforcement of these limits and possibly the addition of a shoulder near the four-way junction. The landowners have discussed either a shoulder or a sidewalk. Laurie asked if they were in favor and Chris said they were. This issue is important to Parks, because of the increased traffic the new pavilion attracts and the growth of the triathlon. Improving the safety of those roads, improves the safety of park visitors.

Donations:

Meredith Fossett dropped off a wall hanging done by the Clamshell Quilters to be donated to the Parks Department. It is a picture of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse that was quilted by five different quilters – each completed one panel. Clyde presented the donation to the group.

Don and Tracy McKinley moved to town recently and through the help of their neighbors, Frank and Janet Montuori, donated some items to Bristol Parks. They donated a sturdy sign hanger, a wooden screened panel and a few loads of

crushed stone. The wooden screen will likely be used at the beach to hide the outside electrical panel and the crushed stone was dumped and spread in the Ellingwood parking lot which should help the problems with puddling and mud. These donations are very much appreciated.

Pemaquid Point Lighthouse Park was listed in an obituary, for a young man from Boston, as a place to send donations in lieu of flowers. So far Bristol Parks has received \$425 in donations in Memory of Andrew Headden. All money received will go into the Capital Reserve account that is already set up for Lighthouse Park.

Lighthouse Closing Update:

Lighthouse Park closed for the season on October 18th. The final admission revenue was \$150,204 which is 70% of last year. The lighthouse apartment is still generating revenue with renters still scheduled.

Public Comments:

The Halloween drive through the campground has been changed to a drive-by at the New Harbor Fire Station.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.