

**Bristol Parks & Recreation  
Ellingwood Information Center  
October 6, 2020**

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

*Also present: Lara Sargent, Pat Porter*

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

**Minutes:**

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

**Apartment Rental:**

Brooke from the Seagull Shop asked if the Parks Department would be willing to donate a free night at the lighthouse apartment to be used in a silent auction to benefit the Seagull Shop. Pat explained that they do have insurance, but it will not cover everything plus they want to pay staff that have lost their jobs. Laurie said she would like to support them. Clyde thought a weekend in the offseason would make more sense and they would have to bring their own linens and clean it. Sandra made a motion to donate a weekend in the offseason Laurie seconded and motion carried. Lara will contact Brooke and Sheila.

**Lighthouse Park:**

Admissions at Lighthouse Park improved last month with September bringing in 85% of 2019 September revenue, which is the highest monthly percentage in 2020 compared to 2019. So far, October revenue is very close to October of 2019 and peak leaf season has not arrived yet.

The tentative closing date for the Park is October 18<sup>th</sup>. There is a small wedding on October 17<sup>th</sup> and a memorial service planned for October 18<sup>th</sup>. If admission numbers are down so much that the park is no longer profitable, then it will close. Clyde suggested opening the park at 10 for the rest of the month but for Lara to first check with the crew about the number of people they see between 9-10am and then decide.

The group discussed closing tasks for the season which include: The maintenance crew will take up the speed bumps, put away the picnic tables, take down big sign near Hanley's, remove all other signs, empty soda machines, drain the water in the restrooms (at lighthouse and beach) and move the port-a-potty at the lighthouse.

The railing at the swimming hole will need to be removed and put at Hanna Landing.

**Pemaquid Falls Landing Gate:**

The group discussed having a gate built by the maintenance crew and Sean that could be installed on the Town Landing Road behind the mill. This gate could be built out of material at Hanna Landing and could be installed somewhere on the road that would provide enough room to allow people to park on that road and walk in. Sean already has a sign that says, "Road closed November through April". Installing this gate and sign would help prevent the overnight parking in the spring during elver fishing and would hopefully eliminate some of the problems. In the past, trash has been an ongoing issue and residents have complained that the fishing prevents them from using this park for birding or photography. Clyde was concerned about who would pay for the gate. He also suggested putting the gate in a spot that people couldn't drive around it. Clyde said he will talk to Sean about it.

Lara had gotten a phone call about the trash bin being removed from the landing. This was removed because people were leaving their personal garbage there. Lara started checking the landing weekly and cleaning up trash since there is no trash bin there anymore.

**Pemaquid Beach Gate:**

The gate at Pemaquid Beach is normally closed and locked in the winter. The group discussed the value of leaving it open as long as possible for people to be able to use the new facility. Lara also pointed out that people are still putting money in the donation box. Clyde said to leave it open as long as possible – maybe close it December 1<sup>st</sup> but wait and see. Laurie pointed out how much people appreciated leaving the beach open in the spring during COVID. Both Laurie and Sandra were looking forward to bringing their dogs to the beach after October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ellingwood Kayak Launch:**

The hole in the driveway at the Ellingwood kayak launch has been fixed – THANK YOU SEAN HUNTER! Sean brought in two loads of gravel and the tractor to fix the troublesome area. Hopefully, this solves the problem that was created by water running down the driveway.

**Park Financials Update:**

A summary of the Parks finances was provided by the town office. While many areas of revenue were down for the year, there were also areas that were up. Revenue that was down include: Lighthouse Park admissions, LH apartment rent, Art Gallery rent, Learning Center rent, vending machines, triathlon, youth sports and weddings. These all are down due to COVID-19 restrictions. The lighthouse has more out of state visitors that were not allowed to travel to Maine. Lodging restrictions affected the Lighthouse Apartment rental. Gathering restrictions prevented many weddings, rental of the Learning Center, the triathlon and youth sports. The decrease in visitors at the lighthouse caused vending revenue to decrease. Areas of revenue that were up were Pemaquid Beach Park admissions, area maps, season passes, floats, beach rentals and beach merchandise sales.

**Public Comments:**

Pat announced that Caring For Kids would be doing a drive by trick or treat at Pemaquid Campground on Halloween from 5-8 pm. The Bradley Inn will remain open Fridays and Saturdays until December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:47 p.m.