

**Bristol Parks & Recreation  
Ellingwood Information Center  
December 21, 2021**

*Commissioners present: Sandra Lane, Clyde Pendleton, Laurie Mahan  
Also present: Lara Decker, Pat Porter, Chrissy Bradley, Ross Bradley*

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

**Minutes:**

Sandra asked for the number of times that horses had been discussed about being allowed at Pemaquid Beach be changed to “once” rather than “multiple times”. Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, with that change, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

**Horses on Pemaquid Beach:**

Chrissy and Ross Bradley from Stonewall Stables attended the meeting to discuss horses being allowed on Pemaquid Beach. Chrissy described an application that is used for Popham Beach. The group discussed if a truck and horse trailer could fit in the area outside the gate, which is closed from some time in December to March or April. Clyde thought that it could fit with another car at least. Laurie talked about the size of Pemaquid Beach being smaller than Popham and wondered if people would want to ride on such a small beach. Chrissy responded that the idea came up out of a conversation about taking a ride on Christmas Day. She thought Pemaquid Beach would be used by only one or two horses at a time. The group talked about the parking lot being very soft and muddy at times and that horses could do some damage. Chrissy suggested not giving permits when the parking lot is muddy. If permits were issued on a case-by-case basis, the permits could be denied when the parking lot is soft. Clyde said the access beside the closed gate might be too small for horses so this would need to be checked. The gates at both ends of the access path would also need to be open for the horses to get to the beach. Chrissy will check out these areas to see if these spots would be accessible when the gates are closed. The question of liability came up and Chrissy said there is a law that protects people from suing others against equine activity if someone was injured. Pat mentioned that there is a caveat in that law that might prevent everyone from being protected. The group also talked about the Maine Tort Claims Act protecting the town from liability. Clyde suggested limiting this to only two hours before low tide and two hours after low tide to be sure there was enough room. Laurie thinks the Commission should further discuss and consider this idea after accessibility around the closed gates is checked.

**Beach Event Brochure:**

Pat asked if everyone had a chance to look at the tentative brochure. She has been trying to find vendors (caterers, photographers, florists, etc.) to be listed. Laurie asked if this brochure should be treated like the Area Maps and have vendors pay to be in it. Pat will continue to look for vendors and will get feedback from the Commission hopefully before the next meeting.

**Wilderness First Aid Course:**

Alvah from Maine Kayak contacted Lara about hosting a Wilderness First Aid Course at the Learning Center in Lighthouse Park on May 14 and 15 from 8-5. Normally, renting the Learning Center for 20 hours would be \$75/hour so a total of \$1500. The group recognized this would be a good thing to offer to the community. Laurie made a motion to charge \$350 total for both days, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

**Reeve Foundation Grant:**

The Parks Department received a grant from the Christopher Reeve Foundation for \$8,000 to purchase five wheelchair accessible picnic tables, and one beach wheelchair for Bristol Parks. The Parks Department will contribute \$1,971 toward these as well. There will be two picnic tables placed at the beach, one at the lighthouse (another one already being donated), one at the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk and one at Fish Ladder Park.

**Summer Camp Follow Up:**

The Marine Science Summer Camp organization responded to questions posed by the Commissioners at the last meeting. The camp runs Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm, and wouldn't require any indoor space. The schedule could run either one week or several. The cost of the camp is \$375/camper/week, all supplies, materials and a Marine Science Camp t-shirt included. The Commissioners discussed how the Parks would be paid admission fees for this. Clyde suggested this be

done in August since it is the slower months. The Commissioners wondered how Parks would be reimbursed for the usage of the Park. Clyde suggested a weekly \$500 usage fee along with a \$2/camper admission fee. Lara will have a conversation to see what they normally pay different parks for usage fees.

### **2022 Budget:**

The group started working on the Expense projections for the 2022 Parks budget.

### **Executive Session:**

The Commission went into Executive session MRSA 405(6A) at 8:15. Executive session ended at 8:25. Lara submitted a letter of resignation to the Commissioners which was accepted, effective January 7<sup>th</sup>. She had already spoken to each of them previously and explained that an opportunity has been offered to her that she feels is best for her and her family. Lara is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as the first Parks Director for the Town of Bristol and plans on assisting the Parks Department with the transition to a new Director.

### **Other Business:**

### **Public Comments:**

Laurie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:30 p.m.