

Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
June 2, 2020

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Sargent, Candy Congdon, Pat Porter, Hillary Bulmer, Anna Fiedler, Jessie Daly, Tucker Phinney, Chris Hall

Meeting called to order at 6:01 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19th meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Floats:

Tucker attended the meeting to discuss the town landings and float storage. He wanted clarification on the designated spots for float storage before signing the float storage contract. Tucker said he does not have enough room to store all the floats because of the boats that are stored. He prefers not to stack. Clyde said that Tucker should charge accordingly if he must spend extra time stacking. Laurie asked if maybe they could stack just two. Clyde said he could talk to Troy about moving one of the boats where the sailboat is, once the sailboat is moved, to give the floats more space. Clyde and Tucker discussed different ways to store all the floats effectively. Tucker pointed out that Parks gets money for float storage but not for the boat storage. Clyde said that he thinks that the boats from fishermen should not be charged but a storage fee for pleasure boats should be charged. Moxie Cove was more difficult this year because two floats got left on the ramp. Tucker would like some work to be done on Moxie Cove such as trimming of branches for the boom truck and bringing in some gravel. Clyde said he would look to see what needs to be done and determine if the work is something the maintenance crew could do. Clyde will send Chris an email about the storage of boats at the landings for the selectmen to discuss.

Lara received a phone call from a float owner who is a merchant marine and will not be back to Bristol until mid-July. He wanted to notify parks that his float would not be removed from Moxie Cove by June 15th and wondered if a deal could be worked out for the late fee. Last year he had agreed to do some work at the landing, fixing the ruts, to pay off the fee. Parks would be willing to accept some work again in place of the late fee.

Pemaquid Beach Park Opening:

Sandra announced how much work Clyde has put into the beach this year. He has been raking the beach each morning for weeks and supervising the maintenance crew. Sandra wanted to acknowledge the amount of time and effort that Clyde has given to Parks.

Lara reported that she would be working with a group of volunteers on Thursday to transplant dune grass.

Lara presented COVID-19 procedures for Pemaquid Beach Park for both visitors and staff. The Commission reviewed the procedures and provided suggestions. Sandra suggested putting up a sign telling people who are exhibiting symptoms to not enter the park. The importance of signage was discussed.

Three fitness instructors attended the meeting to discuss offering fitness classes at the beach this summer. Jessie and Hillary discussed doing a bootcamp through Ocean Blue Fitness on one weekend afternoon through the summer. Clyde said a class would need to be late such as 4 or 5 because the beach is usually busiest on the weekends. Hillary said they would evaluate the beach and look for a place where there was space for the class to social distance. The beach would officially be closed after 5 so the facilities would not be available, but this would allow the class to take place without the participants having to pay an entrance fee. Anna attended to discuss offering a Nia class as well. All the fitness instructors will be in contact with Lara about scheduling once that is determined.

Lighthouse Park:

Lighthouse Park opened later than normal, and the revenue is down about 50% from last May. The Art Gallery is considering not opening at all because of the risk it poses to the attendants and manager. There had been discussion about the idea of their staff using and cleaning their own bathroom and the Commissioners discussed and agreed this would be ok.

If the Gallery does not open, the Commission discussed how to handle the rent. The Commissioners discussed charging 50% of the normal rent to hold the space for next year. The group will wait to see if they decide to open and then finalize the rent due.

There are still weddings planned for the park even though some have decreased the number of people attending to abide by the gathering guidelines. For the ones that are close to fifty people, our staff will set up and space out chairs appropriately. A staff member will be brought in to monitor and supervise the wedding to make sure

Pat attended to discuss the Ham Radio Field Day at the lighthouse for the Lincoln County Amateur Radio Club. They do this every year to prove they can operate without electricity. They normally have less than 10 people at one time so the event would follow social distancing guidelines. The Commissioners agreed that this would be fine.

Pemaquid Falls Town Landing:

Lara shared a resident's concerns about Pemaquid Falls Town Landing. Some elver fishermen left trash and debris behind. He had suggested "No Smoking" signs to help with the cigarette butts and "Pick up After Your Pet" signs. Lara had put up a No Smoking sign a few months ago but it disappeared. The maintenance crew will put up new signs. It was also asked that the crew not trim to the water because of erosion concerns. After checking with the crew, they said they do not normally trim to the water. Chris brought up the topic of overnight parking at the landing during the elver fishing season. The group discussed putting up a gate at the end of the road through the winter/spring months. This would prevent the road from having to be plowed through the winter but also would prevent the overnight camping which would follow the town's parking ordinance. Laurie believes if there is a town ordinance then it should be enforced and the group agreed. The group discussed places to install a gate. Clyde asked if there was a way to charge the campers. The group will discuss again in the future.

Passes for non-Bristol Residents:

There have been requests from non-Bristol residents for more options for Bristol Parks passes. Lara shared an email from a South Bristol resident. The group discussed the possibility of offering passes to South Bristol residents, but no decisions were made.

BCS Project:

BCS will be putting devils all over town for Devil's Pride Week and kids will have to find the devils and have their pictures taken with the devils. Some of the devils will be put in the parks so kids will go to the parks to take their pictures. Lara will notify staff so they will allow them in for free.

Pat talked about the effort to get things donated to the graduating eighth graders. It has been very successful, but they are still looking for more donations.

Staffing:

The group discussed pulling in another staff person for some of the weddings so the social distancing can be monitored effectively. The Commission also discussed pulling in a staff person to rake the beach on the weekends.

Other Updates:

The maintenance crew has been working on getting signage put up throughout the parks and town. The heavy covers to the trash bins are finally being fixed so that they are safer for park staff. Spectrum has set up installation on June 8th to install the phone and internet. The container company has been contacted about moving the storage container to the side of the parking lot to be used to store the Gator this summer. Neal Kimball has donated the thresholds at the pavilion as a donation from Highland Building Services.

Public Comments:

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.