

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
July 21, 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:

Clyde made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7th meeting, Laurie seconded, and motion carried.

Pemaquid Beach Park:

Lara provided an update on park admissions. The beach continues to be busy but so far July income is a little less than last year. This is due to more rainy days this year. If the hot weather continues for the next few weeks, this July will likely be just as profitable as last July.

COVID-19 procedures have been evolving throughout the season. When the Governor announced that masks were required in all indoor public spaces and in outdoor spaces where social distancing could not occur, Parks updated procedures to follow these guidelines. Masks are now required in the bathrooms but also the pavilion area and the boardwalk. In addition, there is now a beach patrol log to keep track of how often staff are monitoring distancing on the beach. There have been inquiries from concerned people that Parks is not limiting the number of people or cars. Lara feels that the procedures in place are far more effective than just counting people or cars. After researching what the State Park Beaches are doing, the procedures at Pemaquid Beach seem above and beyond what is expected. At the state park beaches, masks are only required in the restrooms and recommended everywhere else. At Pemaquid Beach, masks are required everywhere near the pavilion (unless eating at the picnic tables), in the restrooms and on the boardwalk. At the state park beaches, they are not enforcing masks or social distancing. At Pemaquid Beach, both are being enforced. At the state parks, they are counting cars to determine when they are full (Reid allows 375 cars and Popham allows 200 cars). At Pemaquid Beach staff is patrolling the beach frequently to see if there is room for more visitors. The space on the beach changes with the tides so to check this first-hand is more effective than counting. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office also agreed to have a deputy walk the beach once a day. In addition, staff is disinfecting bathrooms hourly (and keeping a log) and other fixtures and picnic tables frequently. A point to be made about the distancing on the beach, which seems misunderstood by some, is that every person does not need to be six feet apart. Every party needs to be six feet apart from other parties. For example, when a family comes to the beach together in a car, they can be together at the beach. Lara has observed parties social distancing at the beach with no issues. The bathrooms are currently being monitored for number of people but now that facemasks are required, the Commission decided to open all the stalls to help prevent the congestion in the concourse area. This would keep the flow going and less congestion. Lara will make a bigger sign about the mask requirement.

A yoga instructor at the beach has asked about offering massages on the beach after her yoga class. Laurie said massages were offered on the beach in Belize. The Commissioners are receptive idea but not a good year to start this because of needing the extra room on the beach. Sandra suggested possibly offering this when the beach is slower in the fall.

Clyde brought up the idea of putting one of the donated benches near the entrance for people who wait near the entrance for someone to pick them up in the car.

Clyde mentioned that the trash cans in the trash bins are too tall making it difficult for people to get their trash in the container. He mentioned putting something under the cover to make it sit higher which would solve this problem.

Lighthouse Park:

Lara provided an update on park admissions. Lighthouse Park admissions have picked up some. July has shown about 63% of last July which is better than the 50% that was observed in June.

Staff at the lighthouse has asked if Parks would purchase the plush lobsters for the kids that visit the Fishermen's Museum. It used to be that they were purchased for the kids that could not climb the tower but with the tower closed, the staff still enjoys giving these to the kids. Laurie thought it was a good idea but to save money maybe only give them to younger kids. One box of 500 will be purchased for the year.

A family that was going to initially purchase a picnic table in honor of their loved one, has asked if they could instead

purchase a set of two Adirondack chairs joined by a table. They have a spot picked out and Lara shared pictures with the Commissioners. They agreed that this would be a nice addition to Lighthouse Park.

Lara has been trying to piece together coverage for a staff member who has been ill. There are a few days that coverage is still needed, and Lara is working on using some beach staff to help fill in and hiring someone else to work at the beach.

LCN Ad:

Lara presented an ad for the Lincoln County News that would thank businesses and donors involved with the Pemaquid Beach Pavilion. The Commission reviewed and discussed whether to include individual donors in this ad since it might encourage solicitation. Thank you cards were previously sent to these donors. It was decided not to put individual names in the paper but a blanket statement about the generous donors.

Swimming Hole Handrail:

Adam drilled the holes in the ledge and the handrail is built and ready to install. It should be ready for when the swimming hole reopens.

Executive Session:

The Commission went into Executive session MRSA 405(6A) at 8:15 to discuss staffing. Executive session ended at 8:26.

Public Comments:

Pat mentioned that the Maine Tourism ad needs to be fixed because it has incorrect information. Laurie asked if Pat could work on that while working at Ellingwood and she agreed to try.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.