

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
August 17, 2021**

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Decker

Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3rd meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Swimming Hole Railing:

The railing at the swimming hole was loose so it had to be removed. It was originally installed in such a way that all components were removed for seven months of the year so that a DEP permit would not need to be obtained. This installation prevented sleeves from being installed to stabilize the railing. Since the railing did not hold up well with the current set up, Lara contacted the DEP to see if something could be installed permanently into the ledge to stabilize the railing. Lara asked if a permit would be required for this, and the DEP response was that something could be installed into the ledge and remain in place provided the remainder of the railing was removed for the rest of the year. Lara contacted Adam Sprague, who fabricated and installed the railing, to give him an update. He came to Ellingwood to get the railing and drill bigger holes.

Grants:

A grant had been applied for through the Belvedere Historic Preservation program to replace the siding on the bell tower at the lighthouse and notification was received that this funding was not approved. The group discussed looking for another grant for this project.

Lara reported that she would be applying for a grant through the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation for all-terrain wheelchairs for the beach and lighthouse parks. The group discussed including wheelchair accessible picnic tables as well. The grant cycle opens on September 2nd and is due October 14th with grants being awarded by the end of December.

Lara reported that a grant through the National Endowment for the Arts would be a perfect funding opportunity for the sculpture at the beach. This grant requires a 50% match and is due in February which would allow time for fundraising for the matching funds.

Youth Sports:

Lara and Holly Nelson met with Jen Ribeiro to discuss starting up the Youth Sports program at Bristol Consolidated School this fall. The program had taken a break due to COVID and Holly and Lara recognized plans may still change depending on COVID but decided to have a soccer clinic twice a week with Tuesdays being for grades K-1 and Thursdays for grades 2-4. They will limit the number of students to 15 and it will be held from 2:30-4 for the month of September. Lara will check with two current staff members about helping with this program and then send the program and registration form to Jen Ribeiro to send out to parents through email.

Rangefinder:

A rangefinder was purchased to help the staff at the beach measure how far boats are from the shore. There have been a more boats coming closer to shore so this tool will help staff know when they need to use the bullhorn to ask them to move further out.

Area Maps:

New area maps were not ordered this year because there were many left over from 2020 that were not given out due to COVID. Pat has asked if the Commissioners planned to order new maps this winter and if so, she will start gathering information from the businesses that will advertise. The Commissioners agreed that new maps would be ordered for next year. Lara will notify Pat.

Other Business:

A tree at the lighthouse had a limb break off while some kids were climbing on it this past weekend. They were not hurt.

The tree appeared to be rotted in the middle. Park staff put danger tape around the tree so no one would climb on it until the maintenance crew could clean it up. This week, Sean and the maintenance crew cleaned up the tree limbs and Clyde checked out the other trees to see if others were rotted. He thought another tree was mostly dead and might need to be taken down so he will ask Joe Rose to check it out.

Clyde reminded the group that the digital sign will need to be put on a Selectmen's agenda at some point to ask for the issue to be put on the warrant for next year.

Two Saturdays ago, Clyde went to the beach to check out a septic alarm that was going off under the boardwalk. He checked it out and called Alan MacPhee who came down right away and found the problem. There are two pumps in the septic system that alternate back and forth. One of the pumps was not pumping so the alarm went off. Alan said that one of the wires had burned off and they didn't know why but he fixed the wire, and it solved the problem. The Parks Department really appreciates how quickly Alan was able to respond to the issue.

Laurie and Sandra helped with parking at the beach during the lobster boat races and reported that they had a great time interacting with people.

Public Comments:

Laurie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.