

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
September 7, 2021**

Commissioners present: Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Decker, Pat Porter

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 August 17th meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

August Financials:

Both the beach and lighthouse set records for park admissions for the month of August. The lighthouse brought in \$60,372 and the beach brought in \$59,146 in August which was the most either park has ever brought in for August. Currently, the Parks Department has met it's 2021 projected revenue for admissions and there is still the month of September and part of October. The beach will be closing soon for the season, but the lighthouse will remain open through at least half of October. Most other Parks revenue is also above what was projected for 2021. The lighthouse apartment rentals, weddings, beach rentals, merchandise sales are all well above what was projected. Part of this is because the Commissioners were conservative with estimates not knowing what COVID would bring. But it is also because the amount of people visiting the parks was higher than normal.

Parks Capital Projects:

With revenue exceeding expectations this year, the group discussed projects to be addressed within the Parks Department. The Rock Schoolhouse roof and Bell Tower siding need to be replaced and would be a priority based on their current conditions. A water treatment system at the beach would be expensive but is also a need because the current water clogs the shower heads due to the iron build up. It also stains the toilets and sinks, even with frequent cleaning, and they end up looking not clean when they are just stained. A generator at the lighthouse might be something to consider since the apartment is used often, and power seems to go out frequently at the Point. The future walking path at the beach will need money as a match for a possible grant. More kayak racks were discussed and possible further improvements at Hanna Landing. The parking lots at the beach and lighthouse could both use some improvements. Some projects that have money that has already been raised but more funding is needed are playground at the beach, sculpture at the beach and the Veterans Memorial.

Share the Road Sign:

Todd Richards inquired about Parks purchasing a Share the Road Sign to display on Parks property at Ellingwood so people driving in and out of Bristol will be aware of pedestrians and cyclists. Laurie and Sandra agreed it would be a good idea.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Lights:

Lara had a suggestion to help with pedestrian and bicycle safety on Bristol roads. The Parks Department could purchase some LED strobe lights to give away to pedestrians and cyclists. Todd Richards provided some good feedback such as purchasing lights that are rechargeable. There would only be a limited amount but if they were given to people who frequently walk or bike, then they could help make the roads safer for everyone, including drivers. Sandra suggested giving away safety vests as well which would also be helpful. Lara will look for safety grants to help with this project. The group also discussed purchasing a set number of lights and if the response from the public was good then either Parks could purchase more or maybe the Fire Department would want to purchase a batch. If the community shows interest in making Bristol roads safer than a town wide effort could make that happen.

Staff Celebration:

The Parks Department will be having a staff celebration on Saturday, October 2nd. The town office staff is also invited. It will be a potluck and give everyone an opportunity to relax and celebrate the successful season. Lighthouse Park will close early that day to allow everyone to be there. Lara will send out an email to staff with details.

Floats Update:

Float storage will be allowed this coming season at Hanna Landing and Moxie Cove. The town attorney is not available

for a few months for clarification on the deed for Moxie Cove so the Selectboard decided to allow float storage for this year, but a determination will be made by the end of the year about future seasons.

Ellingwood Staffing:

Ellingwood has had few visitors on Sundays, so the group discussed closing on Sundays. Pat and Meredith both said that Sunday has been a slow day throughout the season. Laurie and Sandra both felt it would be a good idea to close on Sundays.

Maintenance Projects:

This year was busy for the maintenance crew and some projects were not able to get completed. The group discussed projects that could be completed before closing the parks for the season. All painting projects should be finished such as the art gallery railings and the entrance to Ellingwood. Other projects that were planned for the year that haven't been completed yet are: painting the lighthouse apartment floor and replacing the restroom locks at Lighthouse Park. Sandra wondered if the windows in the restrooms need to be replaced. Clyde will give his input at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Public Comments:

Laurie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.