

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
January 17, 2023**

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Shelley Gallagher

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 January 3 meeting, approval, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

New Business

- A. How to find staff and retain them is our biggest issue going into 2023. It was discussed doing a referral program for staff where if they refer a friend that is hired and comes to work with us, the staff member that referred them would be eligible for a bonus. The amount of time the new employee would need to work, and the amount of the referral bonus would still need to be decided, but it was decided the concept of referrals bonuses would work. We will need to hire quite a few new staff so before the hiring we will have to discuss setting standards for cell phone use, radios, cleaning, etc.
- B. We want to add new merchandise to sell for the beach and lighthouse. We can do custom reusable mugs and water bottles at a fairly low cost. A couple of samples will be arriving Wednesday and Laurie will post pictures to our facebook page asking for comments and other ideas people may be interested in seeing. With the ability to take credit cards, once we know what design we want to use, we can post them online before summer for people to purchase and ship them. We will display the mugs and water bottles at the lighthouse gatehouse and museum for purchase at the gatehouse, as well as for sale at the beach and Ellingwood. Shipping will be an option for people who live out of the area.

Old Business

- A. DEP and a dune specialist from Maine Geological Survey came to the beach to look at the damage done to the dunes and offer guidance on what can be done to restore them. Their original thought was using Christmas trees to shore up the dunes, but after looking at the damage, it was decided that wouldn't be the best option. With the amount of erosion under the dunes with the dune grass and rose bush roots exposed it would be better if the tops of the dunes collapsed down allowing the roots to take hold in the sand. They suggested using some of the driftwood we have removed from the beach and placing it at an angle under the dunes into the wind to catch sand in the upcoming spring storms. That sand and driftwood would give more support to the dunes as they collapse down also. They gave us good information so we know what we can and can't do so we have a plan to repair the dunes.

- B. The budget was discussed to confirm the numbers and inquire about the date for the budget committee meeting. The meeting date has not been set yet, but the tentative dates are either Feb 13 or 14.

Clyde moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm.