

BRUNSWICK RECREATION COMMISSION

DATE: May 15, 2019

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL

TIME: 7:00 pm

85 UNION STREET

MINUTES

Present: Chair, Mike Lyne and Commissioners Melissa Archbell and William Wilkoff

Absent: Brianne Weaver, Eric Foushee

Also Present: Director of Parks and Recreation, Thomas Farrell; Deputy Director, Troy Smith; Melissa Fochesato, Director of Community Health Promotion at Midcoast Hospital

Chair, Lyne welcomed everyone and then asked Commissioners and staff to introduce themselves.

1 **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2018**

Minutes up for consideration were included in packets disseminated to the Recreation Commission in advance of today's meeting. Chair Lyne inquired if there were questions regarding the minutes, but there weren't any. Chair Lyne then called for a motion on the minutes.

COMMISSIONER WILLKOFF MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARCHBELL. VOTE 3-0 UNANIMOUS OF THOSE PRESENT

2 **CITIZENS INPUT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

3 **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Melissa Fochesato is in attendance at the meeting in order to give an update on the smoke-free ordinance draft. As such, Deputy Director, Troy Smith, will deliver his program report later in the meeting

5 **OLD BUSINESS**

5a **UPDATE ON THE SMOKE FREE ORDINANCE DRAFT**

Chair Lyne introduced Melissa Fochesato before giving her the floor to present the draft of the ordinance. Melissa affirmed that all members of the Recreation Commission were provided with the draft ordinance before beginning her remarks. Melissa began by stating that she was unaware of the exact date of the last meeting, but that over the last few months they have been working hard. Melissa noted that, with Director Farrell's collaboration, they have assembled a nice team to review and update the current resolution in order to become an ordinance. Mellissa further noted that in addition to the Parks and Recreation Department and herself, as she represents Midcoast Hospital Community Health Promotion

and specifically works with the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, the committee was also made up of a town councilor, school board members, the town attorney, town clerk, Dr. Wilkoff, and the Brunswick Police Department.

Fochesato updated the Recreation Commission on the many meetings that have been held and informed the commission that they have been meeting regularly to review model policies and examples from across the state and across the country to see how those towns approach ordinances and find out what would work best for our town. Melissa then reminded the Recreation Commission of the reason why these models are being researched and that is because the Town of Brunswick currently has a resolution, which was, at the time, very strong and was one of the first in the state. Fochesato continued on to note that since the advent of the resolution a few things have changed, including the introduction of electronic vaping devices as well as the fact that the trend has become to adopt more formal ordinances. Fochesato explained that the Town of Brunswick has become comfortable with the resolution and since talking with other towns and police departments about the importance of ordinances, the goal was to look at the current resolution and see what could be done to strengthen and formalize it.

Melissa Fochesato then began detailing the timeline of events with regard to the work on the resolution, noting that the Brunswick Downtown Association made a request to strengthen the areas around the Mall, including sidewalks, making that a more smoke-free area in order to protect those who have underlying medical conditions and young ones who may be visiting the Mall with their families. Second, Melissa detailed how they were approached by parents and school board members who were concerned about people smoking at school bus stops and not stopping when being asked so this became an additional consideration with regard to the ordinance and it seemed like a good opportunity to do that as well. Finally, Fochesato detailed how a councilor requested that Brunswick consider going with a stronger ordinance and the results of that are located in section 14.9 of the document disseminated to the Recreation Commission.

Fochesato explained that, rather than strengthening this as a Parks and Recreation resolution, the committee is requesting that this become a Town-wide ordinance to include Parks and Recreation. Fochesato continued to explain that this would cover all town owned facilities and grounds, including schools, sidewalks and at or within 25 feet of all parks and facilities, within 20 feet of school bus stops when children are present (and bus stops are designated annually by the Brunswick School Department), and finally, establishing a smoke-free corridor on Maine Street, from Bowdoin College to the Androscoggin River, within the hours of 7am and 7pm when most families with young would be visiting.

Melissa then began discussing the school's involvement in this initiative noting that when these discussions first began, they knew that the school board and the school's input was very important. Fochesato also noted that school officials and 2 schoolboard members who are part of the committee were able to review the ordinance and provide input on the document that was subsequently updated the draft with their input. Additionally, Fochesato explained that they have spoken with the superintendent of schools and are expecting a formal letter of support from the school department as well as their cooperation in sharing

the information about those bus stop locations and the change in the policies in effect at those spaces.

Fochesato looked to Director Farrell for his input before she summarized that this process is very close to the end, aside from a few items that the committee would like the Town of Brunswick's attorney to review. Fochesato added that the document currently seems very strong and this document is almost ready for approval once reviewed by the Recreation Commission. Director Farrell invited Will Wilkoff to remark on this process as he has sat in on many of the meetings.

Wilkoff noted that one of the things that helped to move this process along was the Brunswick Police Department agree that, while this issue can't always be their top priority to enforce, they will agree to make an effort to enforce the ordinance. Wilkoff continued on to note that the Police Department's goal is the same as the committee, to be part of the education effort rather than getting a pound of flesh from someone and create ugliness. Wilkoff's opinion is that this education effort is well timed with the national anti-smoking effort and this is the opportunity to move this ordinance forward.

Director Farrell then made mention of his observations throughout the process, recognizing that, based on what he heard from many different committee members, vaping in the schools is more pervasive than he had anticipated. Farrell continued on to state that not only is this a local issue, but a national one as well and trying to address this was a very educational experience for many around the table. Farrell added that he is aware that when this ordinance goes to the Town Council, in whatever final form it goes in, it will need to be vetted and one of the things that the committee will do is take the draft to the Downtown Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC).

Farrell explained that this was the process before the committee came to the Recreation Commission previously and the discussion with them emanated out of the Brunswick Downtown Association's (BDA) involvement with MPIC, noting that Music of the Mall was the driving force to get the discussion started. Farrell further explained that when this issue was brought forth before, Councilor Wilson, who is a member of MPIC, was straight forward in her opinion that she would like the ordinance committee to consider a smoke-free corridor on Maine Street so that was placed on the agenda. Additionally, Farrell explained that the Parks and Recreation Department, in addition to Melissa Fochesato and the school board members, have all received and fielded phone calls over the last few years about the issue of smoking at school bus stops and what can be done.

Farrell concluded that these items really framed where the discussion went. Farrell summarized that there have been multiple draft iterations and the Town's attorney was present in one of the meetings with the ordinance committee and they talked about the legal implications of these goals. Farrell included in this summary that Melissa spoke with the State of Maine Attorney General's office multiple times in response to input that the ordinance committee had and that the Town of Brunswick's attorney had, in order to determine if folks were interpreting the law similarly and to determine if it is possible to preclude smoking in certain areas. Director Farrell then noted that from the standpoint of

having all of the players involved in the discussion and using resources, the ordinance committee has taken a thoughtful process to get the ordinance to where it is now. However, Farrell added, there are components of this that some are going to be concerned about, which will likely center around the Maine Street corridor, and for some the school bus stop issue will be dicey because of the difference in public versus private school bus stops. Farrell gave the example of a school bus stop being on someone's driveway or lawn and made mention of the challenge of responding legally if there was a complaint filed.

Farrell's final consensus was that all around the table were in alignment with Wilkoff's assertion, that this is an effort not to penalize or make examples of people, but to try and educate people about why compliance is important to the health of our community and its children. To that point, Farrell noted that the first infraction will not result in someone being served a civil summons while more information gets out there. Farrell used the example of when the resolution was instituted back in the early 2000's, it took a few years of the Parks Department signing the facilities and it policed itself. Farrell explained that parents would discretely explain to others that the parks are a smoke-free area and bring to their attention the signage at the entrance to the park.

Farrell concluded that there has been a major transition in the number of people smoking that go to the Recreation Departments facilities and that is a major shift from 15 or 20 years ago. Director Farrell added that it is his sense that, whatever components of the ordinance get adopted, the same type of evolution will occur and will likely be more of an educational tool than an enforcement tool. Farrell then identified that it is clear that most municipalities are moving towards an ordinance and, although Brunswick was the first to go with a resolution in the early 2000's, many communities have seen the benefits of making it an ordinance so it have more teeth. To this point Farrell noted that, in those extreme circumstances where someone is defiant or uncooperative, the ordinance would have teeth that the resolution does not have in terms of options for response.

Farrell established that the intention for the meeting this evening was to hear feedback and input, as well as respond to questions that the Recreation Commission has and this input would be taken back to the committee and before MPIC for their review and subsequent action preferably. Farrell added that it would then come back before the Recreation Commission at the next month's meeting for an action that would subsequently have to go to the council if the decision was a recommendation for the adoption of an ordinance as they are the only entity that has that authority. Farrell summarized that the Recreation Commission would essentially be recommending the adoption of an ordinance, either as it is drafted currently or with any other amendments that occur as a result of next month's meeting or the coming meeting with MPI C if either group determines that some of the language requires tweaking.

Farrell summarized that the process, as he laid it out above, is what they expect and what they would recommend. Farrell further summarized that the action step for the Recreation Commission is to provide feedback at this point.

Following Director Farrell's remarks, Melissa Fochesato clarified that this ordinance would

not apply to privately owned properties so that might be a question for someone following along, especially with regard to the school bus stops. Fochesato clarified her statement adding that this ordinance would not apply to a single family's bus stop in any way.

Commissioner Archbell expressed that she had a piece of feedback which she self-identified as possibly trivial. Archbell noted that, in terms of an enforceability loophole, the document mentions section 14-11, but the document lists 14.11 (in addition to 4.10 and 14.12). Archbell explained that she realizes from an enforceability standpoint this could become an issue. Archbell also noted a reference within the section on electronic smoking devices that brings up or excluding devices not prescribed by a doctor. Archbell admitted that she does not have much knowledge about these devices, but identified that this exception is very clear before questioning whether or not this was meant to address a potential loophole in the use of these types of devices.

Melissa Fochesato replied noting that the purpose of this inclusion of prescribed electronic devices in the document is that one claim of electronic devices is that it could be used as a cessation device. Fochesato foreshadowed that statement by adding that she is unaware of any such devices on the market currently. Fochesato explained that they did not want to preclude a device that could be used to assist someone who is quitting or trying to quit. Fochesato restated that she was unaware of whether or not these are on the market at the moment, but that there is a chance that there could be.

Chair Lyne asserted that he does not have any input to add and that he is in support of the document as it is written currently. Lyne added that if the vote were to take place at the meeting tonight, he would be voting in favor of the document, but looks forward to when that document comes back to the Recreation Commission. Lyne then made note of the fact that he was on the Recreation commission when the vote took place for the smoke-free resolution and identified that the enforceability of the resolution was a big issue so he is in favor of the switch to an ordinance. Lyne explained that with the change in societal norms and he believes that an ordinance is appropriate, especially now that a new wave of smoking is coming on. Lyne further explained that it was not an issue even 5 years ago so clamping down on it now could hopefully curb some of those habits.

Before moving on to another topic, Chair Lyne invited Deputy Director Smith to include remarks about the Smoke-Free Ordinance. Smith remarked that he has been fortunate enough to sit in on these meetings and that he was absolutely in favor of this effort. Smith noted that especially around the Parks and Recreation facility, the Downtown Brunswick area or events run by the Parks and Recreation Department this is a great idea.

Director Farrell followed up these remarks by making the Recreation Commission aware of candid conversations with MPIC and noted that these have been interesting discussions to have because there has been a little bit of a back and forth with regard to the time frame. Farrell added that the first time frame proposed was 7-9pm, but ultimately had to take a step back after realizing that some business owners might feel that it discourages a demographic of their clientele from patronizing their business. Director Farrell explained that the committee understood that and backed off the original window that was identified

to 7pm rather than 9pm. Farrell further explained that this time frame is where the committee anticipates that people will have potential concerns with regard to the ordinance. Director Farrell then concluded that if the committee were to summarize areas that they anticipate challenges or where this ordinance won't resonate with everyone; this is one of those areas.

In terms of the sample ordinances that were used, Farrell added that there are portions of this ordinance that were adopted from the sample ordinances that Fochesato shared with the committee from other Maine Communities. Farrell began to detail these aspects of those samples, listing smoke-free bus stops and 20 foot buffer around businesses are not new to Maine, but that the Maine Street corridor restriction between 7am and 7pm will be a new to Mainers. Farrell restated his supposition that this is where the discussion will likely arise.

Fochesato assured the room that this will likely be a small impact because it seems that everyone is concerned about the recent trends in smoking. Fochesato then gave examples of how she knows that this issue is of utmost concern noting that the schools adopting stronger evidence based policies, there are several bills before the State of Maine Congress, there's new curriculum and interventions in place as well as physician corresponding directly with students. Fochesato concluded that it is a great step for the Town of Brunswick to stand with stakeholders and to align with the movement to protect youth. Fochesato also concluded that this is a strong statement to make and that it is well timed.

Director Farrell expressed to the group that he thought it would be beneficial for Melissa to discuss how it is that she interfaces with the Parks and Recreation Department in terms of what Midcoast Hospital is trying to do through her facilitative efforts surrounding community health and smoking cessation specifically.

Melissa Fochesato explained that the hospital serves as the main prevention partner in many areas meaning that the hospital is an arm of the state health department, holding several of the Maine CDC contracts via Maine Health and University of New England. Fochesato continued to explain that in terms of the work on Tobacco, the hospital is partnered with many communities around the state to look at different ways to promote smoke-free communities, to help people who want to quit, and for youth prevention. Fochesato then made mention of Andrea, her tobacco prevention specialist and noted that Andrea would be attendance if she weren't at a vaping presentation at the Brunswick High School. Fochesato added that the hospital also focuses on healthy eating and physical activity before noting that one such collaboration she works on is the Bike Rodeo. Fochesato detailed how the hospital is trying to make more active, safer communities; increase the knowledge and understanding the rules of the road and how to bike or walk safely. Fochesato also added that a large portion of the work is on substance abuse prevention so tobacco falls into that category, but there are two folks working on marijuana education, opioid prevention, and the big green boxes at the police department. Finally Fochesato detailed that a lot of work is done through coalitions by Access Health which is a coalition led effort that the hospital is a part of. Melissa summarized that those are the Maine tobacco prevention contracts so they are doing the same work as many other communities around the state and then in general, there is the Center for Health and

Wellness which is a new effort with Midcoast Parkview Health to bring education and technical assistance to medical exercise and healthy eating courses, which there are about 4 classes per day that a person can come and drop in for. Melissa concluded that all of this work amounts in trying to reduce barriers to health in our community and she is responsible for overseeing many of those facets.

Director Farrell followed up by asking Melissa to speak more about the trail piece of her work. Fochesato explained that this is one of the areas that Midcoast Hospital has started to work together with the Parks and Recreation Department. Fochesato remarked that the Town of Brunswick is so fortunate to have the Land Trust, trail groups, Parks and Recreation, and all of these different opportunities to be healthy but noted that these different entities have started to step on each other's feet. Fochesato explained that they decided to all get together to talk about how to promote our resources together in one unified voice so you could go to one place, whether just visiting or if you live here, and you could find out where to go for a walk or hike. Fochesato introduced a new group that emerged from this collaboration, Get Active Southern Midcoast, which includes Sagadahoc County, Brunswick and Harpswell. Fochesato explained that the group is doing an assessment of all of all the trails and creating seasonal activity guides. Fochesato further explained that this guide, after the trails are analyzed, will explain where you can bike, walk, where you can bring your dog and where to find water access, all located on one map. Fochesato added that she just made a request from towns and schools to see how many of these guides each would need. Fochesato continued on to note that the total has reached about \$5,000 needed as the schools will distribute them and they will be available at the Town offices, health fairs and special events like the Trek Across Maine. Fochesato summarized that there are a lot of opportunities to stay healthy and active without spending a lot of money and she plans to bring this document outlining those opportunities to the next meeting.

Commissioner Wilkoff followed up by asking whether or not this map will be made available on the internet for folks who may be coming to visit want to plan out activities. Fochesato stated that there will be a pdf version posted online and there will also be copies at the visitor center. Fochesato also explained that a future goal is to create a local website where someone could go to Get Active Southern Midcoast and search for where they could bike and hike or, if its winter, where I could skate and all of that would be available right online. Wilkoff also asked whether or not it would have the bike route included and Fochesato explained that you will be able to search for places to bike and then there would be a link to the specific site where you can download the actual maps where biking trails are endorsed and are safe for people to go biking.

Before Lyne closed discussion for this item, Director Farrell remarked that Troy Smith, Deputy Director for the Parks and Recreation Department is the Parks and Rec's liaison for the coalition that Fochesato described as putting together this resource. Lyne thanked Fochesato for her work and wished her luck with the ordinance. Lyne then stated that everyone can expect to hear from Fochesato in one month at the next Recreation Commission Meeting.

4 **RECREATION PROGRAM REPORT – TROY SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Deputy Director Smith presented the monthly recreation program report highlighting the various recreation programs offered by the department. Smith noted that he would be presenting a set of programs that are underway as the Recreation Department is the middle of the Spring Season, school is wrapping up, and focus is beginning to shift to summer programming. These included;

- April Vacation Golf for Kids- 8 Participants
- Spring Cross Country Running- 47 Participants
- Cross Country Running Meet- 197 Participants
- Start Smart Baseball- 17 Participants
- Kick Start Soccer Program- 142 Participants
- Brick by Brick Lego- 10 Participants

Smith then summarized the programs that are upcoming for the spring and these included;

- Adult Early Bird Golf
- Women's Softball League
- Kids on the Field (Interdisciplinary Softball/ Baseball/T-ball)

Deputy Director Smith then delivered remarks about the Preschool program, noting that it is wrapping up for this year and the Brunswick Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the 2019-2020 school year. Smith explained that the program is for 3-5 year olds and focuses on socialization and learning. Smith further explained that anyone who is looking for a preschool program to look into the recreation program which offers a 2, 3 4 or 5 day option from 9:00-11:30am. Deputy Director Smith then encouraged folks to visit our website or come directly to the Recreation Center to find out more information or to schedule a meeting with the lead teacher.

Deputy Director Smith then began to deliver remarks about the summer programming season, noting that summer is the busiest time of the year for the Parks and Recreation Department. Smith informed the group that 85% of summer programs have been advertised and are available for registering. Smith added that the remaining 15% of programs will hopefully be finalized by the beginning of May.

Deputy Director Smith then segued into discussing the many summer school vacation program offerings, beginning first with day camps, followed by sports camps and then enrichment programming.

- Summer Vacation Camp: 9-4pm, June 24-July 19 and July 22- August 15
- Preschool Mini Camp: 9-11:30am, July 9-25 and July 30- August 15
- Girls Summer Basketball Camp: 9-11:30am, June 25-June 28
- Golf For Kids: Tuesdays, July 2- July 23
- Seaspray Kayaking and SUP: 9-12 or 9-3pm, July 15-19
- Seacoast Soccer Day Camp: 9-10:30 and 9-12n, Age 4&5 and 6-14, August 5-9

- Girls Softball Clinic: 9-12n, July 8-12
- Mad Science- Brixology and Engineering: July 15-19
- Art Camp grades K-5th and grades 6th-9th: July 8-12 & July 15-19 respectively
- Lego Camp: 9-3pm, July 8-12
- Entomology Camp(I Love Bugs): 8:30am-12:30pm, July 22-July 26
- Coffin Learn to Swim- 9:00-10am, July 8-19 and July 22- August 2
- Boys B-ball- 9-12:30 Grades 3-6 and 7-9, July 8-12 and July 15-19 respectively
- Polar Bear Baseball Camp- Ages 7-9 and 10-12
- Youth Track and Field- 5-7pm, Ages 6-10 and 11-14, June-August
- Youth Field Hockey Clinic- August 5th-9th, Grades K-2 and 3-8, 9-10 and 9-11:30
- Hip Hop Dance- August 5-9th, Ages 6-8 and 9-13, 9-12 and 1-4pm respectively

Smith then reminded listeners that information regarding all of these program offerings can be found online, by calling or visiting us at the Recreation Center, or through our social media platform.

Deputy Director Smith then began discussing the 25th Annual Bike Rodeo and Family Safety Day. Smith explained that this free event is put on in collaboration with Midcoast Hospital, the Brunswick Rotary, Brunswick Masons, Center Street Cycles, Merrymeeting Wheelers Association, Gorham Bike and Ski, the American Red Cross, Walmart, the Rec Department and the Brunswick Police Department, in addition to many other sponsors. Smith further explained that this event takes place on Saturday, May 18th in the Walmart parking lot from 9:00am-12pm with the rain date being held for Sunday May 19th. Smith added that to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this program, the Recreation Department is giving away 25 new bicycles to participants who visit. Smith announced that there will also be bike and helmet safety checks and bike registrations, there will be a full obstacle course, a bounce house, family safety booths, a smoke-house and fire truck tours led by the Brunswick Fire Department, visits from McGruff, Slugger, Sparky, Otto the Moose, Ready Fox and a performance by the Woodside One-Wheelers. Smith noted that there will be goodies and food from just about every Pizza place in Brunswick. As a final point, Smith added that those who complete the obstacle course or visit all of the safety booths will receive a free event tote bag and every child who needs a new helmet will be fitted with an appropriate helmet for free. The Deputy Director concluded his report by summarizing that the organizers are really excited about the event before sharing a promotional video. After the video, Smith highlighted the many sponsors featured in the promotional material and added that this event would not be possible without their donations. Smith then emphasized that this event will surely make for a great Saturday, filled with fun and learning about safety and invited all to join, whether they have a bike or not!

Chair Lyne thanked Director Smith for his program report delivery and noted that it is clear that a lot is going on at the Recreation Department. Lyne then invites folks in attendance to ask questions or make comments. Commissioner Wilkoff inquired about the sponsors and, more specifically, asked who did the work to amass these participating sponsors. Smith replied that it is a group effort and the organizers meet about every two weeks. Smith added that this is his 9th Bike Rodeo as Deputy Director and each year the word spreads which

makes it easy for the organizers. Deputy Director Smith then stated that this year being the 25th Annual event meant that they had to do a little more work because they wanted to do more for participants to make this bike rodeo special.

Chair Lyne segued into talking about summer programming and asked specifically about staffing for the summer since Deputy Director Smith has just delivered his program report outlining the many programs for the summer. Deputy Director Smith explained that most of the counselor positions for Summer Vacation Camp have been filled, but the Recreation Department has a great need to fill the positions for Lifeguarding, as well as the Water Safety Instructor positions. Smith added that there are a number of opportunities in the area to get certified before the summer. Smith re-stated that the big push now is for water safety instructors, swim aides, and lifeguards

5b **UPDATE ON THE VETERANS PLAZA PROJECT**

Director Farrell directed everyone's attention to their packet where they would find two pieces of information from the Veterans Plaza Committee who has been meeting weekly since the fall of 2018. Farrell reminded the group that they have all seen the plaza presentation, but that the committee has been meeting in order to raise money for the plaza and need to raise \$250,000 dollars.

Farrell noted in this update that the committee just recently met and reported that the Plaza Committee was going to attempt to let a contract to a preferred contractor team if 80% of the funds for construction of the plaza or about \$210,000. Farrell explained that if the committee had raised that 80% by June 30th they would be in a position to let a contract. Farrell added that some might be aware from reading the newspapers or if they are aware of the current climate for construction in Maine, those seeking contracts have been unable to aware them. Farrell gave the example of the MaineDOT and their inability to secure contractors because the bids are coming in way over estimates. Farrell continued to explain that the committee made the decision to defer construction of the Veterans Plaza by approximately 6 months and instead of putting out a request for a quote, or RFQ, now, the RFQ will go out in January. Director Farrell summarized that this will push the construction of the memorial to 2020 instead of 2019.

Director Farrell noted that although this decision is meant to garner more favorable pricing for the construction of the plaza, the project is well on its way to meeting the goal. Farrell also noted that the committee is over the 55% mark in terms of the monies pledged and collected. Of the 320 honor blocks available for public purchase to honor a loved one who is serving or has served as a U.S. Veteran, Farrell emphasized that 176 of them have been sold as of the meeting that occurred early today. Farrell mentioned that these blocks are made of granite and are sold at a cost of \$250 per honor block.

Director Farrell then stated that there will be a big push on Memorial Day, including a float in the parade that is catered to the project, and the Boy Scouts will help to disseminate honor block order forms to people along the parade route in conjunction with Veterans who will be in the parade. Farrell included in his remarks that a letter went out on Monday to major donors who have contributed to date and they received this personal letter explaining

the decision to change the schedule of the project in terms of its timeline. Additionally, Farrell explained that a separate letter was sent to all the people who have purchased honor blocks or who gave donations of lesser amounts to support the project and this letter explained where the committee is in terms of the fund raising goal and that the committee values their interest in the blocks, their support and their contribution, but the project will be delayed until the 2020 season. Along the same lines, Farrell added that a state-wide press release was sent out advising the media outlets where the project is in terms of the fundraising goal and the rescheduling of the construction to occur in the year 2020. Farrell summarized that those various pieces of communication were included in the Recreation Commissioner's packets.

Farrell then restated that the committee just met today, as they meet every Wednesday at 4:00pm and they continue to work very hard on this goal. Farrell explained that the committee has a number of meetings scheduled with different individuals, corporations and businesses already scheduled for the coming 2 months in order to continue the fundraising effort. Farrell further explained that the committee is scheduled to appear before 3 or 4 larger groups who are interested in learning about the project. Director Farrell then invited anyone listening who may have an interest in learning more about the project to reach out if they have a particular organization in mind. Farrell noted that those interested folks can contact him directly or Deputy Director Smith at the Parks and Recreation Department and they will schedule a team of staff and Veterans that would then travel to this group for outreach. Farrell added that the team would bring all necessary documents and pieces of equipment necessary to deliver a high class presentation about the Veterans Plaza and its components.

Farrell emphasized that this is a great project. Farrell added that he has been a part of many projects during his time with the Recreation Department and this project is reaching folks of all demographics and levels within our community, resonating with many different people. Farrell then stressed that it has been a real pleasure to meet with Veterans in the community, especially folks who he had not met previous to this effort, and to see just how much this means to people in the community. Farrell mentioned that when he delivers this presentation he has had stories shared with him from people that he has known for many years. Farrell continued on to state that he has learned things about these colleagues about their families that he had not known prior to the project, like Gold Star family members or a brother who was lost in the conflict. Farrell summarized that it is amazing how far the U.S. Military and Veterans reach into all of the different family groups that comprise the community.

Farrell, noting that he has mentioned this repeatedly in past as well, then restated that this project is to honor all Veterans and that fact has been particularly important to the Veterans on the Plaza Committee. Farrell explained that there is no rank or differentiation and that if you are a Veteran, you can be honored with an honor block. Farrell emphasized that all people are welcome, but noted that there is this effort on Memorial Day to push the honor blocks. Farrell highlighted that with this extra push and based on the degree of sales, as they are coming in at about 10 Honor Blocks per week, the sales of Honor Blocks might max out. Along those same lines, Farrell warned that there may be a time in the not-so-

distant future where there will no longer be an opportunity to purchase one in honor of a family member. Farrell encouraged those who are listening to visit the website, www.veteransplaza.info, to find out more information about fundraising efforts, read the case statement for the project, to adopt a Veteran (there are profiles from Brunswick area Veterans online) or to download the order form. Farrell reaffirmed that for anyone looking to find out about the project, they should visit www.veteransplaza.info. Farrell closed his remarks on the Veterans Plaza by affirming that he will keep the Recreation Commission abreast of the information that comes from the upcoming meetings.

Launch

5c **UPDATE ON THE 300TH CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN COMMONS**

Chair Lyne introduced this next topic, highlighting that Facilities Manager Jay Astle had provided the previous update, but that the update would be delivered by Director Farrell at this time. Farrell directed everyone's attention to their packets where they have a schedule for the entire celebration which spans over the period of a few weeks. Farrell highlighted that the key aspect of this celebration is the 300th Anniversary date on the coming Sunday, May 19, 2019. Farrell further highlighted that there will be a formal ceremony at the Town Commons beginning at 12:30pm. Farrell explained that there will be people speaking at this event, including Town Councilors and noted that these speeches will include a brief history of the Town Commons delivered by Jim St. Pierre, Angela Twitchell will deliver remarks about the Town's Selectmen establishing the Town Commons as a historic landmark in 1968, Larissa Vigue-Packard from the Historical Society will read the original Pejepscot proprietors statement dated May 18, 1719 which led to the creation of the Town commons, and closing remarks from the Brunswick Town Council. Farrell mentioned that, in addition to these speakers, there will be poetry and tree plantings as well.

Farrell then informed the group that he was contacted by Senator Collins' office and they intend to send a representative to the formal portion of the ceremony. Farrell added that there will also be a 5k fun run earlier in the day on that Sunday beginning at 9am at Bowdoin College's Watson Arena. Farrell explained that the trail for this run will take runners through the Commons as well. Farrell also added that there will be a tree walking tour at 10am and a wildlife walking tour at 5pm on the Town Commons on Sunday. Finally, there will be the formal opening of the Town Commons exhibit at the Pejepscot Historical Society at 2pm on Sunday. Farrell informed the group that he has had the pleasure of viewing this exhibit and noted that it was tremendously well done. Director Farrell then encouraged folks who have time to view the exhibit, in addition to making it to the events on the day of the celebration.

Director Farrell voiced that all of this information is available on the Town of Brunswick's homepage and, if one wants to view the entire schedule, it is posted there and is the first item on the click menu. Farrell reemphasized that folks should visit the website if they are unsure and make an effort to attend some of the events. Farrell finished his initial remarks by extending kudos to the Brunswick High School Students who prepared the 25 minute film titled *Uncommon Ground*, noting that the video is extremely well done.

Farrell explained that this video is about the history and value of the Brunswick Town Commons its importance to the community. Farrell restated how good the film is, mentioning that the video resembles a professional film production. Farrell included in his remarks that this video can be viewed on YouTube or Vimeo by visiting one of these sites and typing in Uncommon Ground. Farrell added that the video should populate immediately and will likely be the first video in the drop down menu. Farrell reestablished that for those listening who have not seen the video, he highly recommends that folks watch the film, stating that the video is very well done and explains the history of the Town Commons.

Commissioner Wilkoff replied that he agrees with Director Farrell's assertion, noting that the video is unbelievable. Wilkoff added that the major narrator is so professional and one might think that this narrator came straight from public television. Wilkoff continued on to note that you really get a whole picture from watching the film and it is a really beautiful production.

Chair Lyne followed up Director Farrell and Commissioner Wilkoff's remarks by inquiring as to whether or not the names of those involved are included in print material or if Director Farrell can recall their names. Farrell apologized, stating that he is unaware of those names presently. Lyne replied that he is aware their names are present on a bulletin board outside the theatre where the film is being shown and added that there will be an opportunity to recognize these folks in the future. Finally, Lyne noted that he has heard this same opinion resonating with many folks, including his sons who are presently enrolled in Brunswick High School.

5d **TREK ACROSS MAINE UPDATE**

Director Farrell prefaced his remarks to the Recreation Commission by establishing that this update would be brief. Farrell explained that the final physical layouts of the Trek at the Recreation Center have been finalized and noted that the Trek will take place over the course of 4 days. Farrell, in an effort to explain how logistically involved of an effort this undertaking is, stated that the expectation is for about 1,500 cyclists to participate in the Trek this year. Farrell explained that the cyclists will leave the Recreation Center on Friday and return on Sunday. Farrell restated that logistically this is a huge undertaking and, to provide the Recreation Commission with some sense scale of the event, Director Farrell included in tonight's packets some maps that show how the Recreation Center facility will look over the 4 day period and what will go on where. Farrell added that, for folks who are still interested, the deadline for registration is fast approaching so if there are interested riders listening they should visit the Trek Across Maine website in the next 4 or 5 days. Farrell added that the new map is also up on the Trek's website for those who want to preview the route and this map includes both the two-day loop and the typical three-day ride.

Farrell mentioned that the Recreation Department has been working closely with the Trek officials, including a promotion opportunity where they visited the Recreation Center with

a TV crew from Channel 8 News. In addition, Farrell mentioned that the Rec Center staff will be working with them again tomorrow to set up separate IT access to the facility for the Trek to use specifically for the event. Farrell reasserted that staging and hosting this event is a major undertaking for the community before commending both the Recreation Center staff and the Trek Across Maine staff for their efforts so far. Farrell added that the weekend of Trek Across Maine is also Father's Day Weekend and the Seacoast Soccer Tournament so Brunswick will be a very busy community.

6 **NEW BUSINESS**

6a **HOSTING THE 2020 REGION ONE USA TRACK AND FIELD MEET IN BRUNSWICK**

Chair Lyne, before giving the floor to Director Farrell, established that while this is technically new business, the hosting of this track and field meet is something that the Town of Brunswick has done in the past. Director Farrell affirmed that the Town of Brunswick had hosted this event in 2010 and stated that the track and field meet will be coming to Brunswick in the year 2020. Farrell added that this is a 4 day track meet that involves athletes from region one which is all of New England, as well as New York (specifically the Adirondack and Metropolitan regions). These athletes, Farrell noted, typically travel with families so over the 4 day event there is a major economic impact in Brunswick in terms of hotels and restaurants. Farrell noted that these are incredibly impressive young athletes, as all of these children would have qualified in their respective state meets. Farrell further noted that those who compete and place in this meet then go on to compete in the National USA Track and Field meet.

Farrell included in these remarks that the previous event in 2010 was organized in conjunction with Bowdoin College and the college has graciously agreed to do it again. Farrell added that he has been in contact with Tim Ryan, a couple coaches from the track team itself, and Tony Sprague in terms of the facilities at Bowdoin College and all of these folks come together to make this a really strong proposal. Farrell then explained to the Recreation Commission that the written proposal they had to submit is included in their packets for the meeting this evening. Farrell further explained that this group took the written proposal when they met with USATF state board in Augusta at the beginning of May in order to walk through the proposal. After doing so, Farrell explained, they were able to address a lot of questions and USATF awarded Brunswick with the opportunity to host the meet again. Farrell asserted that the Town of Brunswick is looking forward to the event and also stated that more information about the meets will be coming in the future as planning efforts for the July 2020 event will begin in September of 2019.

Chair Lyne inquired about where the event will be located and specifically mentioned the Bowdoin track facility. Farrell replied, noting that the McGee-Samuels Track at Whittier Stadium is the main event venue. Farrell continued on to note that shuttle service will be provided for athletes from the field house so that athletes have an opportunity to warm up on the indoor track before coming to the competition track. Farrell included in these remarks that the javelin events will be held at a different athletic field complex near Watson. Farrell concluded that the complexes beyond Whittier Field Complex will be in use, but the McGee Samuelson Track is the main venue for the event. Farrell noted that

there are a lot of pieces to this planning that will emerge later, but noted that this event will also be live-streamed so this event is really administered at a high-quality level.

Finally, Farrell, noting that Brunswick had athletes competing in the 2010 event, included in his remarks that there will also be Brunswick youth from our own track and field program who will qualify for these events in 2020.

Chair Lyne followed up these remarks by affirming that this event is taking place in July. Farrell clarified that the event will take place from July 9rd to the 12th. Chair Lyne then offered a big thank you to Bowdoin College for allowing an event of this caliber to be hosted there because it will be a big deal for the town. Lyne also mentioned that he is aware of a couple athletes from Brunswick who have a really strong shot at being there so it will make for a fun event!

7 **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

- 8 The next meeting of the Recreation Commission was scheduled for June 19, 2019 at 7:00pm in Town Council Chambers at the Brunswick Town Hall.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

COMMISSIONER WILKOFF MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARCHBELL; VOTE 3-0 UNANIMOUS OF THOSE PRESENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.