

**BRUNSWICK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**DATE: April 17, 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; Parks and Facilities Director and Town Arborist, Jay Astle

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**

None.

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 had not delivered the program report for the month of March and would be including that information. Smith noted that the change in weather has brought about the shift from winter programming to spring programming. He then reviewed those programs that recently were completed and are currently in process. These included;

- Indoor Early Bird Golf- 13 Participants
- Mad Science- Brixology!- 10 Participants
- Kick Start Soccer- 142 Participants
- Winter Lego Program- 20 Participants
- Polar Bear Baseball Clinic- 45 Participants
- April Vacation Camp- 58 Participants

- Youth Rowing- 14 Participants

Smith noted that there are 300 youth participating in the spring programs. He then summarized the programs that are upcoming for the spring and these included;

- Golf for Kids
- Adult Early Bird Golf
- Spring Cross Country Running Program
- Start Smart Baseball/ Softball
- Women's Softball League
- Lego- Brick by Brick

Deputy Director Smith then delivered remarks about the Preschool Open House event. Smith mentioned that this event was well attended with lots of fun had by all. Smith also mentioned that it was a great opportunity for folks to explore the preschool space. Smith encouraged anyone who is looking for a preschool program to look into the recreation program which offers a 2, 3 and 5 day option with classes running daily from 9:00-11:30am.

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 those wishing to register. 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: August 5-9
- Girls Softball Clinic: 9-12n, July 8-12
- Mad Science- Brixology and Engineering: July 15-19
- Art Camp K-5 and grades 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>: July 8-12 & July 15-19 respectively
- Lego Camp: 9-3pm, July 8-12
- Entomology Camp: 8:30am-12:30pm, July 22-July 26

Smith added that there are a number of programs that are still in the process of being finalized and these programs include:

- Youth Track and Field

- Kids on the Field Baseball
- Coffin Pond Learn to Swim
- Polar Bear Baseball Camp
- Boys Basketball

Smith summarized that the hope is that registration for these programs will all become active within the next two weeks. Smith then reminded listeners that information regarding all of these program offerings can be found online, by calling or visiting the department at the Recreation Center, or through its social media platform.

Deputy Director Smith then began discussing the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Bicycle Club, Brunswick Police Department, in addition to many other sponsors. Smith further explained that this event will take place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in the Walmart parking lot from 9:00am-12pm with the rain date being held for Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Smith added that to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this program, the organizing committee is giving away 25 new bicycles to participants who attend and participate in the event. 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, and a performance by the Woodside One-Wheelers. 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 this is a really great event and the hope is that everyone can make it to this year's event which is sure to be bigger and better than years past!

5 **OLD BUSINESS**

5a **THE MASTER PLAN FOR DOWNTOWN BRUNSWICK AND OUTER PLEASANT STREET CORRIDOR IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MARCH WORKSHOP QUESTIONS FOR THE RECREATION COMMISSION**

Chair Lyne introduced this topic by naming Margo Knight, Chair of the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC), who has been closely following the traffic needs and transportation needs of the downtown. Chair Lyne explained that the MPIC committee is in charge of the prior plans or studies that have been conducted in the Town of Brunswick and, in an effort to keep those plans alive and to re-engage Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT); the MPIC committee has met and has started to come up with their priorities once again. Lyne further explained that they want to invite MDOT to Brunswick in order to have some conversations about the status of or the potentiality for these changes to traffic patterns or ideas that came out of these prior studies. Lyne noted that the MPIC committee recently met with a representative of the Bike and Pedestrian Committee as well as the Town of Brunswick Engineer and Town Manager which produced the meeting minutes that were included in the print materials disseminated to the Recreation Commission for this meeting. Lyne added that the MPIC committee has asked whether or not the Recreation Commission has any initiatives that could be added to the

list, with the end goal being a meeting with MDOT where the Recreation Commission's interests are represented. Lyne noted that Director Farrell highlighted within those minutes the items that are closest to the Recreation Commission, like access to the Mill Street Canoe Portage and associated activities, use and traffic that happen on the Mall. Chair Lyne then gave the floor to Director Farrell in order to speak more in-depth about these two major topics.

Director Farrell began his remarks by noting that although he was unable to attend the meeting, the minutes state that Margo Knight described Mill Street River Park. Farrell stated that he is unsure of exactly what she is referring to in these notes because there is the Mill Street Canoe Portage as well as the park that is on both sides at the intersection of Mill Street and Cushing Street. Farrell added that a lot of folks might not be aware, but there is a grass area as you come around from the west on Cushing to Mill Street and immediately there to the left is a parcel of land that the Parks and Recreation Department maintains. Farrell also added that there was a beautification project done on that site and directly across the street is the entrance to the swinging bridge where there's a small park area. Farrell noted that when he first read the meeting minutes, it seemed like they were referring to 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Park because they reference the challenges of safe pedestrian access across Mill Street, but Anniversary Park is on Maine Street obviously. Farrell further noted that there is a parking area at the Swinging Bridge Park where someone could pull off and park and there is also an actuated crosswalk, or a lighted crosswalk (of which the Town has 3 or 4 throughout the community), at the intersection of Cushing and Mill Street so that a pedestrian can use to safely get across. Farrell then questioned whether they are actually speaking about the Mill Street Canoe Portage which is downstream from the boat launch and has a pedestrian crosswalk. Farrell re-stated his uncertainty with regard to which location is being spoken about based on the meeting minutes, but acknowledged that all of the potential crossings being spoken about are challenging crossings. Farrell also acknowledged that even with crossings that are actuated, pedestrians are discouraged, and noted that this was even more so at the Canoe Portage where there aren't any actuated crosswalks and pedestrians must wait for motorists to give them the right to cross. Farrell then mentioned that even on Maine Street, from Anniversary Park to Fort Andross, pedestrians are forced to wait and it can be pretty intimidating to try and make eye contact with motorists who then give them access. Farrell concluded that, while he is unsure of the exact location, the need is there and he will get clarification on this issue.

Chair Lyne followed up these remarks stating that the genesis of this discussion, with regard to the plans taking place at Mill Street, is due to the not so pedestrian friendly conditions at Mill Street. Chair Lyne explained that no matter where one might be going on Mill Street, whether to the Swinging Bridge where there is parking or somewhere else, there is fast moving traffic and so any of the little parks along there could be thrown into the discussion. Lyne summarized that the question at hand is how to slow traffic down and make it approachable by anyone on bike or on foot.

Director Farrell responded to this summary adding that since the advent of the Frank Wood Bridge project, the MaineDOT asked for as many plans as the Town of Brunswick had that had previously and historically analyzed the issue along Mill Street. Farrell noted

that while the MDOT has a substantial number of these plans, one of the studies that best addresses the question at hand was completed in the early 2000s by Terrance DeWan & Associates. Farrell continued on to note that this study included pedestrian walkways on the river side of the street and working with the MDOT to obtain privately owned properties on the other side of the street to allow for a widening of the right of way so that pedestrian facilities could be put on the river side of Mill Street. Farrell's supposition is that some of the information came from that plan because there are some really great recommendations in that document; however the realities of implementing them are pretty cumbersome given the property rights issues and railroad overpass that would require abutments to be moved.

Director Farrell then reasoned that the cause of this issue has come forward and the reason for both the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager being in attendance at the meeting is that there are already 3 MDOT studies being completed, including the Riverwalk and Pool Table feasibility studies and the Frank Wood Bridge project study. To that point, Farrell added he had also been in attendance at previous meetings with the Town Manager, Parks and Facilities Manager, Jay Astle, MDOT, and the consultant team of TY Lin, who is the consultant to MDOT for all three of the projects. Farrell explained that the advantage of using the same firm for the three different projects is that, while the consultants may be working on individual projects, they can be talking to one another, as these three projects will interconnect.

Director Farrell then noted that one ever-present challenge is funding and there are still a lot of unknown aspects of each of these projects. Farrell added that he is also aware of processes being stalled on projects in favor of another, like with the Riverwalk Feasibility study and the Pool Table Study. Farrell explained that work has been halted on the Riverwalk project until the Pool Table study is further along, as they are unaware of how that project may impact the Riverwalk project in terms of how the traffic patterns might change. Director Farrell then acknowledged Jay Astle and asked him to provide insights with regard to this topic as he recently met with the Riverwalk Advisory Committee.

Parks and Facilities Manager Astle informed the group that he was at the recent Androskoggin Riverwalk Committee meeting to provide them with the same update that Tom had just delivered to the Recreation Commission, the T.Y Lin development of the feasibility for the pool table. Astle noted that he recently learned that T.Y Lin has finished a preliminary report on the pool table and they have submitted it to MDOT for review and release at the end of the following week so clarity on the possible plans for the Pool Table and the potential impacts on the Riverwalk feasibility study will be coming.

Director Farrell responded stating that in terms of the report or the minutes from the workshop, the committee is looking for the Recreation Commission's thoughts regarding the challenge of how to make better or safer pedestrian facilities in the whole Mill Street area. Farrell clarified that it is his interpretation that they are looking for safe passage on Mill Street in general as there are several parks facilities along that stretch of road. Farrell added that they have given all the input they could on the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Park crossing and, with Mike Lyne as a co-chair of the Frank Wood Bridge Design Advisory Committee,

the Recreation Commission has consistently been clear with the group that the connection should be under the bridge and trying to widen the alignment as it really narrows down as you get to the corner of Fort Andross. Farrell also added that the approach there gets shifted to create more room for the pedestrians and cyclists and this is something the Recreation Commission has gone on record in the past to recommend. With regard to the feasibility study, Farrell noted that they have advocated for the best outcome for maximum width possible to accommodate good facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Farrell then made mention of Mill Street Streetscape Plan, noting that this plan has been on the shelf for more than 15 years and the Recreation Commission has not had much additional input into this over that time because there aren't any initiatives that have gone forward even though the Town of Brunswick has acquired the properties along that stretch of Mill Street since that plan was originally produced. Farrell also noted that this falls far short of getting the kind of access along that whole corridor of Mill Street that would be necessary to make a widening happen.

Chair Lyne concluded that there isn't much else to be added to the listing provided to the Recreation Commission from MPIC as the list provided is fairly thorough and has been worked on for years anyways. Farrell agreed with Lyne's statement and recommended either a memo be sent or a representative from the Recreation Commission or a representative goes to MPIC's next meeting to share the observations expressed tonight. Director Farrell also noted that there are items in the document before them that are not relevant to the discussion this evening, which Director Farrell will be addressing with MPIC at their next meeting and could speak about this matter at that time as well. Farrell welcomed another member of the Recreation Commission to be in attendance to speak about these items. Lyne suggested that a memo would be sufficient in this area and agreed that he would work in concert with Director Farrell to establish this document.

Director Farrell then switched gears to discussing the Mall district, as it is called in the Master Plan. Farrell explained that District 6 Town Councilor, Jane Millet, who is on the committee, stated that the Town of Brunswick is in the process of trying to address the future location of the Farmers Market. Farrell further explained that Ms. Millett reported that the committee's work is progressing well, but they still need a committee to address the comprehensive group of users on the Mall. Director Farrell informed the Recreation Commissioners that he and Parks and Facilities Manager, Astle have been in attendance at those meetings with Councilor Millet and Brunswick Downtown Association Director(BDA), Deb King, Abby Suduakas, President of the Farmers Market, Ryan Leighton, Assistant Town Manager as well as the Brunswick Police and Fire Chiefs. Director Farrell then noted that at a previous meeting he reported that they were about to undergo an evaluation of all of the side streets that connect to Maine Street from Fort Andross to the Mall to see if any of them had the required square footage and if they could be closed down for certain periods of time a couple times a week from a public safety perspective so that the market could take place on a hardscape.

Farrell noted that they also looked into some parking areas within the downtown district, they have prioritized a listing of these locations, and of this listing the group came back with two potential spaces, but neither one has been determined to be feasible at this time.

One of those potentialities, Farrell explained, was to locate it on the upper Mall and while Farrell did not come prepared to discuss all aspects of this location, there are a whole range of issues associated. Farrell further explained that while many of these issues were discussed at the previous meeting, more work has been done on this topic and a decision has been made on the location. Farrell clarified that the Farmers Market is putting out paid advertising to announce that they are opening and the decision for this year, while it is not what they hoped to achieve for this coming season, is to have them go back to where they were the previous year. Farrell added that if the Veterans Plaza contract is let in June, which is the hope, construction would start on the northern end of the Mall after Labor Day and at that point, the market would be relocated to the northern end of the ice rink area for the remainder of the season. Farrell then added that the committee will continue to work to try to come up with a better permanent solution.

Director Farrell then switched to discussing the second potential location and, noting that it would possibly be located completely on Park Row and would require closing half the street on Tuesdays and Fridays. Farrell stated that this proposal was met with some opposing views from some adjacent property abutters. Farrell included in his remarks that this committee was pulled together by the Town Manager with a very specific charge and he is confident that the committee delivered the product that John Eldridge was looking for in terms of the analysis of these potential areas. Farrell concluded that they have arrived at the same challenges that have always been there; there is no easy solution and we will continue to look into other spaces and increasing the hardscape on the Mall. Farrell added that he showed the Recreation Commission those plans at a previous meeting and he assured the Recreation Commission that those plans will be revisited during the coming year, but there clearly needs to be a different plan for the 2020 operating season. Farrell then described how the Plaza, if all goes as planned, will be in place and where they have been (and will start out this summer as well) will not be an option any longer because that location will be re-sodded and because of the physical impacts or the compaction problems that are associated with all the use on the Mall.

Farrell included in these remarks that there has been consensus that the largest contributor to the degradation and the severe compaction of the Mall is the Farmers Market. Farrell indicated that the ice rink causes some level of soil compaction as well, but not to the extent that the foot and vehicular traffic from the Farmers Market causes. Farrell then stated that simply moving the market to a different area on the Mall is not a solution. One of the recommendations suggested is that wherever the Farmers Market is located, they would fully pay the cost to re-sod that area annually and that for the first month of that early spring operating season, the market would have to be located some place off of the Mall. Farrell explained to the Recreation Commission that the Farmers Market would typically spend May on the Mall but, if the Town of Brunswick were to sod an area annually and bring them back to that area, there would need to be at least 4 weeks of the growing season for sod to take root and subsequently be able to withstand the traffic.

Farrell concluded that this would still keep the Farmers Market off the Mall for a period of one month. Farrell then restated that no final decision has been made and he wants to be very clear about that fact because there have been a lot of opinions about how the Town of

Brunswick is trying to solve this challenge. Farrell summarized that the determination is that the market will be located where they were in the previous season and will transition only if necessary to the northern end of the rink area in September if the Veterans Plaza goes to construction. Farrell sought approval from Parks and Facilities Manager Astle, before confirming that he has included all pertinent information and there aren't any additional points to be incorporated.

Finally, Director Farrell switched transitioned to discuss the final item in the meeting minutes from the MPIC that are pertinent to the Recreation Commission. Farrell explained that this topic is the Smoke-Free Ordinance that includes all parks and public spaces, comprised of the Mall and surrounding sidewalks, etc. Farrell further explained that there had been an initial meeting of the committee and that committee included BDA Executive Director, Deb King, Town Councilors, Jane Millet and Kathy Wilson, Tom Garrepy from the Brunswick Police Department, Troy Smith, Melissa Fochesato and Andrea Saniuk-Gove from Mid Coast Hospital and Kristin Collins the Town of Brunswick's attorney. Farrell noted that it is his opinion that the meeting was a very productive one and it has resulted in collaboration between Farrell, Melissa Fochesato and Andrea Saniuk-Gove from Midcoast Hospital, preparing a draft ordinance. This ordinance will be drafted with input from ordinances in South Portland, Augusta and Portland who do have Smoke-Free Area Ordinances which are different than the Town of Brunswick's current smoke free resolution.

Farrell mentioned that the next meeting of this committee is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May and will include a draft, compiled by the smaller group of Farrell, Fochesato and Gove and the draft ordinance will be given to the larger committee for review. The key piece to this, Farrell explained, is whether or not the Town of Brunswick can legally restrict smoking in the public right-of-ways. One of the committee members, Councilor Wilson, has been desirous of having Maine Street be smoke-free and there is some question about whether or not that can be done under state law.

Farrell continued on to note that they are continuing to work on that document and it will come back to the Recreation Commission from the committee with a recommendation. Farrell also noted that everyone on the committee seems to be in consensus that they should move toward an ordinance. Farrell summarized that while there is a resolution that has been in place for 15 years and has been amended a few times, the Police Department will now enforce this ordinance if the council adopts it. Farrell included in these remarks that it will be on hierarchy of priorities so that response will depend on the significance of the other calls that they are responding to, but if they are available and they get a call about someone refusing to comply then they will respond. Farrell concluded that he expects that at the next Recreation Commission meeting they will receive a draft of this ordinance and the Recreation Commission's role would be to consider whether or not this document is acceptable or needs to be edited because the Recreation Commission will be the group that recommends that this ordinance go forward to the Town Council for formal adoption as only the Town Council can adopt an ordinance.

Lyne replied to Director Farrell's remarks noting that this topic came up in the past two

years ago and the decision was made to stick with the resolution based on the Brunswick Police Department's response at that time. Lyne explained that because it was just so hard to enforce, the Recreation Commission supported their decision on that. Lyne further explained that if they are now willing to enforce this, it changes things. Lyne concluded that in terms of the MPIC, he and Farrell will work together to develop a memo and will respond.

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

Director Farrell explained that his purpose is to give the Recreation Commission an update on where the committee is that's doing the fundraising for the Plaza Project. Farrell opened his remarks by introducing the Recreation Commission to the Veterans Plaza Project website, noting that it was developed early on in the project. Farrell then began explaining the drop-down links at the top of the page, beginning with the *Why Now?* tab. Farrell explained that this page is a brief executive summary that explains why the project is important. Next, Farrell explained that the *Plaza Details* tab includes the longer case-statement that talks about how this project has evolved over time, how it became a project, as well as the details of the Plaza design. Farrell noted that the detail has been seen by the Recreation Commission already when they brought those details to the Village Review Board for approval and received their endorsement. Farrell continued on to explain that the *Honor Blocks* tab shows the radiating blocks coming from the center circle and there are 320 honor blocks that will be part of the project. Farrell then informed the commission to that date, they have sold 125 blocks at \$250 per block. Farrell concluded that they are moving in a really positive direction in terms of the sale of these blocks.

Director Farrell mentioned next that he plans to meet with different groups in the community and he is looking to the Recreation Commission for help with this and with the veterans. Farrell included in these remarks that the Recreation Commission is about to view a video that has been packaged for these presentations. Farrell stated that the Recreation Commission will not be viewing the complete video, but will show a couple of the components of what will be presented. Farrell noted that when he is going to these groups, like People Plus, people in the audience want to purchase these honor blocks and we have also received cash donations beyond the cost of the honor blocks. Farrell noted that they also had a warm welcome and positive response when they met with the Patriot Riders, a motorcycle group comprised of veterans and a lot of honor block order forms were distributed at that presentation. Farrell also noted that they presented to the Bowdoin Fire Auxiliary and many people came forward to make financial contributions and to purchase blocks. Farrell explained that the purpose of this is not so much to sell the blocks, but to build awareness of the project.

Farrell summarized that if one would like information about the Honor Blocks, just go to the website [www.veteransplaza.info](http://www.veteransplaza.info) and click on the blocks. Farrell explained for people viewing at home that this web page gives you an idea of what the options are for the blocks and what a person could have reflected on the block. Farrell further explained that there is also an honor block form that details all of the specifics that one would need to know to order one. Farrell added that these forms are available at the Recreation Center, as there are a lot of veterans that come to the Recreation Center who were once enlisted and stationed

here in Brunswick and are now coming back to use the facility to exercise. Farrell called attention to the fact that these blocks are getting purchased faster than had been originally anticipated. The organizing committee after seeing one third of the supply of honor blocks now sold, that the plaza features the 12 major conflicts as recognized by our country and government and all of the honor blocks that are being purchased are for Veterans from WWII to the present. Farrell explained that while we have veterans from the area that had served in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and Spanish-American War; no one is purchasing blocks for people that served in those conflicts long ago.

Farrell concluded that in order to populate the plaza with honor blocks that represent veterans that served in all 12 of those wars, the committee has set a goal of having at least 10 honor blocks at a minimum for those that served in each of the different conflicts. Farrell noted that the way this is being achieved is through the *Adopt a Veteran* option which he pointed on the larger screen display for folks at home as well. Farrell informed the group that those who were interested in making a contribution to the project, but didn't have someone they wanted to recognize, that they could go to this link, pick a war or conflict and, after clicking on this, it will bring up a profile of a local or area Veteran who served in one of those long-ago wars. Farrell also informed the group that if someone wants to donate \$250 to the project, a block will be created there in the memory of these Veterans who have been researched by Barbara Desmarais, who is a local historian having served on the Pejepscot Historical Society Board and who used to be on the Town Council years ago. Farrell praised Desmarais for her work with researching and populating these veteran's profiles from the long-ago wars. Farrell added that he came to the Recreation Commission meeting this evening from the Plaza Committee meeting and the first two Adopt-a-Veteran blocks have been purchased by others. Farrell summarized that they are really driving people towards those Adopt-a-Block option. Farrell also noted that the other thing that the group is doing is to reach out to groups that have a specific interest in those time periods, like the Civil War reenactors and Civil War round-table group, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution and those groups have been asked to take on the project of raising funds to purchase some number of blocks for veterans of those conflicts that they have an interest in. Farrell further noted that, while the committee has not received funds towards these particular blocks, they have gone in front of two of the groups and those groups agreed to work toward that end.

Farrell concluded that there are a lot of moving parts and one is the fundraising campaign which is a very targeted and strategic campaign that the Brunswick American Legion Post #20 is leading. Farrell mentioned that this committee meets bi-weekly, in addition to the full committee that meets weekly. Farrell then introduced the page on the website that he believes people are most interested in, the drop down link for *Donate Now*. Farrell explained that they intentionally added this to the website to drive people who were interested in making a donation. Farrell further explained that if you go to that link, you can donate online right through Go Fund Me, in addition to the options for mailing a check or using a credit card. Farrell noted that on this page it also displays the project goal and shows that of the \$250,000 required, \$70,000 has been raised and that comes in a variety of contribution types. Farrell directed everyone's attention to the Go Fund Me page so that they could be aware of the donations that have come in and the folks who wanted to be

recognized for the contribution level. Farrell pointed out that there are a number of donations from area businesses and then there are also comments about the contributions from those donors on the left side of the page.

Director Farrell concluded that this is the best place for someone who is looking for information and doesn't know how to access the information. Farrell then announced that the website is [www.veteransplaza.info](http://www.veteransplaza.info). In regard to the website Farrell explained that this website has always been in their marketing materials, but they have since learned that most folks are looking for an ".org" web address and are giving up when they cannot find the page. Director Farrell then noted that this effort is doing very well and, after the many discussions that Farrell has had with business owners and community members who have contributed the \$70,000 to date, there is an additional commitment of just over \$100,000 in verbal pledges. Farrell added that the group will continue to work hard over the next 45 days, which is a crucial window for the committee because in order for the project to occur this year, 80% of construction funds would need to be raised in the form of cash in hand and pledges by June 30 to let a contract. Farrell explained that this is a requirement from the Town Manager and this is a driving factor in pushing the project forward to make it happen. Farrell further explained that if the 80% is not in by that time, the construction of the project would be delayed to the following year (2020).

Farrell concluded that if all goes well, the mark will be hit by June 30, they will let a contract, construction will begin after Labor Day, and the Veterans Plaza will be dedicated on Veterans Day 2019. Farrell noted that this is an aggressive schedule and always has been since the beginning of the project, but this is also real incentive to get it done. Farrell also noted that he wanted to give the Recreation Commission some context beyond the materials disseminated as people are working very hard on the committee and the community is coming together (both veterans and non-veterans). Farrell welcomed those who have questions to reach out to him and also suggested that people visit the website where the most comprehensive information about the project can be discovered.

Chair Lyne followed up Director Farrell's remarks noting that the website looks great and he inquired about who had created the website. Director Farrell informed the group that Bryan Cobb, the I/T Specialist for the Town of Brunswick, was the person who developed the website. Farrell also mentioned that Bryan and his wife, Kat, are both committee members.

5c **11th ANNUAL SCOOP-A-THON TO BENEFIT THE BRUNSWICK TEEN CENTER**

Director Farrell called attention to materials disseminated to the Recreation Commissioners. Farrell explained that the card present in their materials is a snapshot of the Teen Center, when it's open and what goes on there. Farrell also noted that he thought it would be valuable for commissioners to be aware of these opportunities. Farrell added that one of his responsibilities as Director of Parks and Recreation is to serve on the board for People Plus and he is also Chair of the Teen Center Advisory Committee. Farrell also added that he has been very involved in this event for the last 11 years and this 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Scoop-a-thon is coming up on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. Director Farrell noted that last year they

raised \$9,000 for the Teen Center and they are looking to top that number this year. Farrell explained that this year there is an added feature and that Chuck Rooney, a Brunswick resident and local craftsman, has built an impeccable wooden canoe that was on display at the Music in April event hosted by People Plus at the Recreation Center. Farrell further explained that only 200 chances to win the hand-made, beautiful canoe will be sold and they are sold at \$20 per chance. Director Farrell noted that this canoe will be on display at the entrance to Shaw's in Cook's corner from 8am to 8pm and tickets will be available until they are gone. Farrell added that someone will be there for the entirety of that display time in order to take contributions from interested patrons and then the drawing for the canoe will be at the end of the evening after the event. Farrell, noting that more than 1,000 people in attendance at the previous year's event, summarized that it is a huge event every year and more people come out in support of the cause. Farrell also mentioned that there will be celebrity scoopers all day long. Director Farrell then invited the Recreation Commissioners to come down to Gelato Fiasco and buy some gelato for a really great cause. Farrell concluded that this organization really does great things for the teens in the community.

5d **300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN COMMONS UPDATE**

Parks and Facilities Manager, Jay Astle, began delivering remarks about the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration by first asking how many in attendance were aware that the Town Commons was approaching its 300<sup>th</sup> birthday. With a show of hands, all in attendance affirmed that they were aware that this milestone is approaching. Astle noted that May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 is the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Commons as well as the kick off to Arbor Week. For those who may be unaware, Astle added that there is a Town Commons Committee made up of Brunswick residents and there is also a sub-committee for planning events for the 300<sup>th</sup>. Astle called everyone's attention to the itinerary for the festivities surrounding this monumental anniversary. Astle explained that there are a couple events leading up to the anniversary, including an exhibit at the Pejepscot Historical Society that features a set of 12 panels which walk folks through the history of the commons over the 300 years. Astle noted that it will be there for about a month and then that traveling display will move to the Curtis Memorial Library during the summer. Astle continued on to note that after its residency there, it will move to the Brunswick High School and the hope is that some of the panels will be on display at Town Hall as well as the Recreation Center in order to widen the awareness of this anniversary. Astle added that on the day of the anniversary, Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a brief presentation, a couple of different guided walks that will be offered in the Town Commons and a 5k race that starts at Bowdoin College and takes the trail system to the Town Commons and returns to Bowdoin. Astle explained that the Run for the Commons is set to begin at 7:30am. Astle also noted that there are a number of events that are cross-advertised in celebration of both Arbor week and the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. For those interested in attending, Astle mentioned that the location of the Town Commons is on the Harpswell Road, route 123, just beyond the Bowdoin Campus.

Astle then introduced a short trailer for the video Uncommon Ground that was produced by the students at Brunswick School and is really well developed. While Director Farrell queued up the video, Astle mentioned that the full film will be shown at the Crooker

Theatre on April 23rd at 6:30pm. Chair Lyne mentioned that at this same event Jim St. Pierre will be giving a talk about the Town Common's history. As Farrell continued to prepare the video, Chair Lyne also mentioned an event on April 28<sup>th</sup> which is a Wildwood walking tour at the Brunswick Town Commons and a couple high school students, Ben Wilson and Scout Masse, will be giving that tour. Lyne continued his dictation of the itinerary noting that on May 1<sup>st</sup> a talk would be led by Fred Koerber at the Pejepscot Historical Society and the title of the talk is *What is the Brunswick Town Commons?* Finally, Lyne added that on May 5<sup>th</sup> there would be an early morning bird-watching tour and on May 12<sup>th</sup> a botanical walking tour.

By this point, the video is queued up and ready to be shown. The one minute and 30 second trailer explains how important the Town Commons is to Brunswick and how the Town Commons was first developed. Astle, following the end of the clip, noted that this will likely be a very interesting presentation, adding that the video features high production value.

Chair Lyne followed up this presentation by asking where a person might access this information should they be interested in participating in the festivities. Astle explained that the itinerary is posted on the front page of the Town of Brunswick's website. Astle then encouraged all to try to attend at least one event and explained that the Town Commons really is a neat place.

Launch

6 **NEW BUSINESS**

6a **BROWNTAIL MOTH TREATMENT PLAN FOR 2019 YEAR**

Before delivering his remarks, Jay Astle, the Town of Brunswick's arborist, called attention to materials disseminated to the Recreation Commission that outline the browntail moth remediation efforts for the spring. Astle explained that the plan for this year is the same as last year; locate the high infestations on Town properties, primarily the parks, that are frequented by the public. Astle added that both high infestations and high usership do not mix. Astle then noted that the listing of properties before the commission are those that have been remediated in the past. He then explained that so far this year efforts have comprised of manually clipping nests out of trees, predominantly cherry and apple trees that can be reached from the ground. Astle further explained that in the coming weeks, treatment will consist of an application of pesticides, spraying the bark, leaf spraying and performing trunk injections in select locations. Astle mentioned that prior to the meeting he completed a final assessment of where browntail are so that contractors can be lined up for the application of pesticides and that application will be focused on the Upper and Lower Mall, Shulman Field, as well as along the Bike Path.

Astle concluded that these steps encompass the plan for this season. Astle then began discussing that he has received a number of calls from residents in town that are curious when road-side sprayings will occur. Astle explained that they have not in the past and have no intention of doing road-side spraying this year along the roads or in

neighborhoods. Astle further explained that there are towns like Cumberland and Falmouth that have done limited treatments like that, but the Town of Brunswick will not be doing that. Astle clarified that he is aware that there are serious pockets of infestations in town, particularly the Bunganuc area, as well as much of the entire Durham Road stretch. Astle noted that there are spaces in town that are badly infested as they were in years past, but that there are also areas in town that are no longer infested as badly. Astle restated that while they will not be doing road-side spraying, the Town has authorized individual homeowner to treat trees within the town right of way in the past, but that the homeowners are responsible for the cost of that remediation. Astle explained that if homeowners are already doing a treatment on their property, it makes sense to treat the trees in the right of way also even though they are town trees. Astle further explained that they will not do the application themselves and will not pay for it, but permission has been granted in the past for people who are interested.

Chair Lyne inquired if there are contractors in town that can be contacted should someone need to treat trees abutting their yard. Astle confirmed that there are a number of contractors, but that folks should reach out sooner than later because they fill up quickly and there is a short window for doing the pesticide application with any type of effectiveness. Astle added that the time for remediating is when there is leaf mass in terms of the leaf spray treatment, but there are a few weeks before there would be any sizeable leaf mass. Astle noted that the majority of people will likely be spraying oak trees as well.

Commissioner Archbell inquired as to why the Longfellow playground was not included on the listing of spaces that would be remediated. Astle acknowledged that Longfellow playground is a problem, but explained that the property there belongs to Bowdoin College. Astle also explained that in the past couple years Bowdoin has treated certain areas of their campus where the biggest problems are and where the majority of people hang out. Astle added that he works closely with Bowdoin when remediating due to the close proximity of adjacent properties that each entity treats and this resulted in some cost savings as they were able to have them do both areas at the same time.

6b **TREE CITY USA RE-APPLICATION PROCESS**

Astle explained to the Recreation Commission that an application was submitted for 2018 to Tree City USA and Brunswick was awarded the designation for the second year in a row. Astle mentioned that the State of Maine holds a ceremony on the first day of Arbor Week, which is always the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. The ceremony this year will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Camden Public Library and all of the recognized municipalities in Maine will receive their Tree City USA award from the Forest Service. Astle invited those who may be interested to attend the ceremony in Camden.

5b **VETERANS PLAZA PROJECT VIDEO**

Chair Lyne called everyone's attention to the video that Director Farrell planned on showing earlier in the evening. Director Farrell prefaced this video by noting that there are

different pieces of the plaza presentation that go with presenters when they call on potential contributors and if they request to see the video, it will be shown. Farrell noted that they are using it more frequently in the larger groups he described like People Plus. Farrell explained the video is about 5 minutes long, identifying that the first third of the video is the regulatory process that the committee went through to get this project approved by the Town of Brunswick. Farrell added that the second two-thirds of the video is a series of excerpts from 18 different ½ hour videos that were done with local Veterans and one Gold Star Family member in order to get their feedback on why they thought this project was important and why they felt that people should support it. Farrell explained that folks have really been moved by the comments in the second half of the video, people are really identifying with the comments being made by the Veterans, and folks are being compelled to want to contribute when they see it.

As Director Farrell began to show the video, Chair Lyne inquired if the video is on the website, but Director Farrell told him that it is not. Following the video, Director Farrell mentioned that they really thanked the Veterans who were willing to go on camera and one thing they all shared in common was their passion for this project and importance of this space in the downtown. Farrell added that everywhere the presenters go people think it is a wonderful addition and think that if there is something placed on this most focal part of the downtown, this memorial is a good addition. Farrell explained that it has been really gratifying that so many people share same views because often, as the Town of Brunswick is updating public spaces, there are a lot of differing opinions.

Chair Lyne thanked Director Farrell for showing the video and noted that the video was very powerful. Lyne also stated that he could not agree with this project any more.

7 **OTHER BUSINESS**  
None

8 The next meeting of the Recreation Commission was scheduled for May 15, 2019 at 7:00pm in Town Council Chambers at the Brunswick Town Hall.

9 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.