

BRUNSWICK RECREATION COMMISSION

DATE: August 21, 2019

TIME: 7:00 pm

ROOM 206, TOWN HALL

85 UNION STREET

MINUTES

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Deputy Director, Troy Smith; Dave Watson, Veterans Plaza Committee; Jay Astle, Director of Public Works

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

1 MINUTES

MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2019

Minutes up for consideration were included in packets disseminated to the Recreation Commission in advance of today's meeting. Chair Lyne stated that all were present before calling for a motion on the minutes.

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

MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2019

Chair Lyne stated that all were present before calling for a motion on the minutes.

COMMISSIONER FOUSHEE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILKOFF. VOTE 4-0 UNANIMOUS OF THOSE PRESENT

2 CITIZENS INPUT AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

3 ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chair Lyne informed the group of an adjustment to the scheduling noting that Dave Watson of the Veteran Plaza Committee will provide an update on the efforts of the Veterans Plaza Memorial.

5 OLD BUSINESS

5b UPDATE ON THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA PROJECT

Watson began his remarks by directing everyone's attention to a flyer located in their packets. Watson explained that this flyer advertises an upcoming event that is being held at the Frontier Restaurant on Maine Street in Brunswick. Watson explained that the event will take place on Friday, September 20th at 8pm. Watson encouraged folks to attend if they have

never seen the entertainment that is booked for event because they are tremendous musicians and noted that they have performed at the Blue Angels air show as well. Watson added to these remarks that the band is called the Volunteers Jazz band. Watson continued on to note that the name of the ensemble is indicative of the work that they do as they donate a lot of money, work with foundations like the Travis Mills Foundation and Veterans programs, and perform gigs at places like the American Legion.

The cost, Watson noted, is \$10 per ticket if purchased in advance and \$12 per ticket if purchased at the door. Watson continued to note that a portion of the proceeds will go to the Veterans Plaza. Watson then explained that the Frontier Restaurant is a 70 person venue; however they also have a 200 person venue and agreed that, if enough advance tickets are purchased, they will move the event to the 200 person venue. Watson summarized that the hope is for enough people to attend this concert.

Watson then segued into discussing the Jazz band in greater detail, beginning with the fact that all members of the band are professional musicians. Watson continued to detail that some of the musicians even tour around the country performing concerts. Watson reiterated that the group is comprised of volunteers and mentioned again that they are very excellent musicians. Watson added that he will soon be receiving more information about the band from the band's coordinator and this will include a link that people can use to preview their music. Watson also added that this information will be forwarded to Troy Smith at the Parks and Recreation Department for dissemination.

Chair Lyne then inquired where a person should go if they want to buy tickets. Watson replied that folks should go to the Frontier Restaurant or they are available online. Watson also added that they are available for sale now. Chair Lyne then asked whether or not the tickets are available on the Veterans Memorial website, but Watson informed the group that the tickets are not currently available on that website. Watson then added that the website will have a link shortly, as he is still waiting for that information to be finalized. Foushee followed up by inquiring about the availability of the link to the Veterans Memorial Plaza on the Town of Brunswick and Brunswick Parks and Rec websites, but Watson was unclear as to whether or not this is the case. Deputy Director Smith interjected that information about the Veterans Plaza has been posted to the Parks and Recreation's Facebook page, but established that this information is not linked to either of those websites. Both Smith and Watson agreed that this would be an easy step to complete and is a logical move considering the Town of Brunswick's involvement in the project efforts.

Watson summarized his remarks by restating that the tickets are available for purchase online or in-person at the Frontier and the links to purchase the tickets will be coming shortly. Watson closed these remarks by adding that these are the only methods of dissemination that he is aware of. Smith added that the Recreation Department will also be using their email database and the Facebook platform in order to get the word out and try to boost the sales.

Watson then welcomed inquiries from anyone who might have questions about the Veterans Memorial Plaza. Chair Lyne mentioned that he was interested in hearing about how the

fundraising efforts have been going. Watson informed the group that these efforts have been successful and things are going well. Watson then expressed that the committee is a little nervous because the hope was to begin building this year and to be open for Veterans Day 2019. Given the increase in the expense for building and construction, Watson continued, the committee has elected to move forward with building in the year 2020 and will conduct the ribbon cutting ceremony on November 11 at the 11 hour. Watson then explained that the committee has a goal, based on an estimate created in 2017, but that estimate is already two years old and will like require more than the \$250,000 estimate. Watson continued on to explain that the estimate is being reevaluated and a decision will be made. Watson added to these remarks that the committee has raised, to date, \$231,500. Watson also added that honor blocks are still being sold. After the initial sale of first 320 and due to the rate at which they were purchased, Watson explained, the committee asked the architect to redesign the memorial and it now includes 445 honor blocks. To that point, Watson added that the number of blocks sold to date totals 326 blocks.

Watson concluded that the committee will continue their outreach efforts with businesses in the community and with the sale of honor blocks. Watson also added that there needs to be firm grounding in explaining why the construction of this project will not start even though the committee is so close to the initial \$250,000 figure that has been spoken about. Watson expressed that it is essential for committee members to be totally honest, not lie to people, and be upfront about why and how we plan on doing it. Watson further concluded that he is very proud of the committee. Watson expressed that, once word got out about the cost increase, the topic of value engineering came up, but the committee had discussed building with integrity and building it correctly for the longevity of the monument. Watson summarized that value engineering and cost-cutting measures are not on the agenda and will not be happening.

Chair Lyne remarked that he was aware that the cost of construction has gone up and assured Watson that most people should understand that fact. Watson agreed, but reiterated that honesty is essential and committee members cannot assume that the general public understands what the committee is talking about. Chair Lyne then asked Watson if the Veterans Memorial Plaza website is the best way to make a pledge. Watson confirmed this information and repeated the website address, veteransplaza.info. Watson used this opportunity to explain that the website allows users to make a donation through GoFundMe and well as to adopt a veteran to honor by purchasing a block in their name. Watson included in these remarks that historian Barbara Demaris has completed research on these Veterans who served from the Revolutionary War to WWII and their profiles are available for viewing right on the webpage. Watson continued on to include that order forms can be found on the webpage, printed and filled out, and can be sent to the attention of Jim Oikle at the American Legion Post.

Chair Lyne mentioned that he was viewing the website as Watson spoke and named the different headers that folks can click on, including Adopt a Veteran, Veterans' Interviews, Honor Blocks, Plaza Details, Why Now?. Chair established that the website is pretty comprehensive and Watson agreed, highlighting that the page includes about 18 interviews from Veterans explaining why the Veterans Plaza is important to them. Commissioner

Archbell, adding to the discussion, then noted that there are some familiar faces featured in the interviews, including Watson! Watson continued his remarks, placing a spotlight on one such Veteran, a Purple Heart recipient who earned his medal in WWII, as well as two additional Purple Heart Honors.

Chair Lyne thanked Watson for coming to the Recreation Commission meeting and providing the update on the Veteran Memorial Plaza. Lyne added that there aren't actions to be taken on this agenda item, but the updated information is important. Watson agreed and noted that Director Farrell is a common member of both the Recreation Commission as well as the Plaza Committee should there be a time in the future that the Recreation Commission would like to hear from the Plaza Committee again.

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

Deputy Director Smith presented the monthly recreation program report highlighting the various recreation programs being offered by the department throughout the upcoming fall season. Smith noted that he would also be touching base on the summer programs that just wrapped up as well. Smith, before diving into the details of programming, took a moment to thank the summer staff, camp directors, seasonal employees, coaches and community partners as the Recreation Department would not be able to offer such a wide variety of programming without them. Smith added that their hard work and effort resulted in a really great summer for Brunswick youth and youth from surrounding communities. Smith then segued into detailing the programs that ended after the last Recreation Commission Meeting on July 17th. These included;

- Summer Vacation Camp Session 2— 150 Participants
- Mini Camp Session 2— 33 Participants
- 7-9TH Grade Boys Basketball Camp—14 Participants
- Track & Field Program— 45 Participants
- Lego Camp- Artic Expedition—9 Participants
- Kayak/Stand Up Paddleboard Camp— 8 Participants
- Youth Field Hockey Clinic—32 Participants
- Golf for Kids—4 Participants
- Soccer Day Camp— 77 Participants
- Hip Hop Dance Club— 13 Participants
- Women's Softball League— 3 Teams, 43 Participants
- 6-9th Grade Studio Art Camp— 19 Participants
- Entomology Camp- I Love Bugs! — 12 Participants
- Mad Science Summer Camp (Brixology/ Engineering Camp) — 18 Participants

Smith then summarized the program offerings listed above show just how busy the summer and just how many kids were involved in summer programming. Smith added that there were also a number of great comments received in response to a successful summer. To that point, Smith noted that the goal each summer is to offer as many programs as possible and, while the Recreation Department sometimes competes with itself, the Recreation Department really does try to provide a great number of offerings and to make summer special.

Next Smith highlighted programs that are upcoming for fall season and these included;

- Start Smart Soccer
- Cross Country Running Club
- Cross Country Trail Biking
- BYSL Grades K-8
- Youth Field Hockey
- Youth Field Hockey Travel Team
- Teen Hip-Hop/ Jazz Combo Class
- Hip-Hop Dance Club
- Mad Science Brixology
- Brick by Brick Lego Program
- Fall for Arts and Crafts Afterschool Program

Finally, Smith introduced programs upcoming at the end of the fall season and these included;

- Goblins Parade and Creepy Creatures Party on Halloween
- Jr High Dance
- Halloween Window Painting
- 52nd Annual Ski and Skate Sale on November 3rd

Deputy Director Smith then delivered remarks about the Preschool program, noting that the new school years begins on the 9th of September. Smith added that the Recreation department is currently accepting registrations for the 2019-2020 school year for the 2-day program for 3-5 year olds, but the 3 and 5 day option is currently full. Smith further explained that anyone who is looking for a preschool program to look into the recreation program which offers a 2, 3 or 5 day option from 9:00-11:30am. Deputy Director Smith then encouraged folks who were interested to get on a waitlist for spots if they are not currently available. Smith invited waters to visit the website or come directly to the Recreation Center, where the program is held, to find out more information or to schedule a meeting with the lead teacher.

Deputy Director Smith then began discussing the Movies in the Park events that concluded on the third Thursday of August. Smith added that this program was run in collaboration with the North Brunswick Neighborhood Association and was another great offering again this year. Smith mentioned that there was a rainout on the first day, but the event has averaged over 400 people each night. Smith added to these remarks that he expects this program to grow throughout the years.

Chair Lyne thanked Deputy Director Smith before welcoming questions or comments from the other members of the Recreation Commission. Lyne, after tallying up the total number of participants in each program throughout the summer, noted that 477 children were active in Recreation programming over the summer and that he was very impressed. Smith agreed, adding that this did not include the other 1/3 of program participants that were reported on earlier in the summer.

Additionally, Lyne inquired about the trails out at the Neptune Woods location. Lyne remarked that those trails are new and offers new programming as a result of the collaboration with the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust. Lyne further remarked that while those trails are operated by the Land Trust, they are in close proximity to the Recreation Center. Lyne specifically asked of Director Smith how one might get to the trail head. Director Smith replied that visitors are encouraged to park at the Recreation Center. When exiting the parking lot, Smith continued, folks should take a left and continue down Neptune Drive until the bend in the road at the Coastal Landing assisted living facility. Smith added that there are signs pointing in the direction of trails and there is a port-o-potty at that location as well. In terms of the trails themselves, Smith noted that the trail are geared towards beginning bikers and more specifically youth bikers, but anyone is welcome to bike, run, stroll or walk on those trails. Lyne followed up Smith's remarks by inquiring if dogs were allowed on the trails as well. Smith replied that he was under the impression that dogs were welcome as long as they were on a leash.

6 **NEW BUSINESS**

6a **WINTER CROSS COUNTRY SKIING OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE IN THE WINTER OF 2019-2020**

Commissioner Wilkoff began his remarks by noting that two weeks prior to the Recreation Commission meeting, Wilkoff attended a meeting hosted by the Bowdoin College Cross Country Ski Coach, Nathan Alsobrook. Wilkoff noted that this meeting was at the outdoor recreation center on the Bowdoin College campus. Wilkoff also noted that this meeting was attended by a mix of long time Brunswick area skiers, folks what had just recently moved to Brunswick, but were unsure of the skiing opportunities, as well as folks who had expressed an interest in cross country skiing and all were generally informed by word of mouth.

Out of this meeting emerged the understanding that the Bowdoin College ski program would like more outdoor ski facilities in the Town of Brunswick because they would otherwise have to go out to ski on the Pineland property which is a bit of a distance away Wilkoff mentioned. Wilkoff also mentioned that this meeting was informal and was an opportunity for people to express issues or concerns, share their experiences and offer for discussion their hopes for greater opportunities in the future. Wilkoff added to these remarks that the close of the meeting was met with attendees self-assigning tasks like making important contacts and research into comparable programs in surrounding areas, like Cumberland and Bethel, and how they are able to maintain their trails. To that point, Wilkoff noted that one attendee is or was a professional trail groomer and, while he doesn't currently have those pieces of equipment, he was a very good resource.

Wilkoff stated that an additional point emerging from the meeting, in terms of the facilities that the Parks and Recreation Department manages, is the concern that trails are being groomed, but are being groomed on a schedule that has little to no relation to weather. For example, Wilkoff mentioned that the trails are typically groomed on Wednesdays, but that is regardless of whether it had snowed or how long it was between the storm and the scheduled grooming day. Commissioner Wilkoff felt that it was important for him to be

attendance in order to explain that the Recreation Department is running on slim for help and they get around to the grooming when they can or after they have completed the parking lots and sidewalks. This led to a discussion, Wilkoff noted, about whether or not this equipment could be optimized or could be used by someone else. Wilkoff continued on to note that he was tasked with speaking to Director Farrell about this possibility and subsequently met with him one week prior to tonight's meeting.

Wilkoff established that it would not be possible for outside folks to be using the heavy equipment, but asserted that the meeting with Director Farrell resulted in a number of encouraging solutions. Of the solutions that emerged, Wilkoff noted that one possible option included hiring a contracted company, similarly to one that would be hired for snowplowing, and they would operate under the auspices of the department to complete that work. Wilkoff explained that he and Director Farrell planned with additional stakeholders, including professional groomers, to discuss how this might work and to find out what the needs of the department will be in terms of training and education with regard to the trails and the machinery. Wilkoff summarized that this will be the focus of he and Director Farrell's attention in the coming months.

Wilkoff then segued into discussing the larger meeting group once more, highlighting that the group discussed how to optimize other Land Trust properties, including Neptune Woods which is heavily utilized by the mountain biking community presently. Wilkoff reminded the Recreation Commission that they learned about a piece of machinery called a SnowDog, which is generally used for grooming purposes in terms of trail biking, at a previous meeting. Wilkoff continued on to state that investigations into whether or not that can be used for cross country ski trails will be conducted and whether or not a cooperative relationship can be developed between the two groups, both bikers and skiers. Wilkoff hypothesized that perhaps the SnowDog could be used to create trails or perhaps trails could be assigned for skiers and for mountain bikers. Wilkoff explained that the course for mountain biking on that property is pretty typical with ups, downs, and tight turns, but very few people would ski those trails. Wilkoff continued to explain that there is also vast expansive land that could be developed for cross country ski trails. Finally, Wilkoff explained that one additional proposal was to look into skiing on the blueberry fields adjacent to the High School complex.

Wilkoff described how he mentioned these possible options to Director Farrell and Farrell added the possibility of the Captain Fitzgerald property off of the Old Bath Road. Wilkoff continued to describe how Farrell interpreted this land as a very viable option due to the wide open space and the established roadways that are already in place. Wilkoff added that he visited this land and found that, while it was much larger than he had anticipated, it has a lot of potential if properly groomed for things like skate-skiing. Wilkoff reiterated one of his initial talking points to establish understanding that he and Director Farrell will be meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss these possibilities. Wilkoff restated that the possibilities specifically are optimizing the equipment that the Recreation Department already has and using of the SnowDog in order to groom trails and the use of the Fitzgerald property.

Another member of the assembled group Cathy Thorson, from the Bike-Ped Committee,

has already talked with folks at the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust and they are very eager to get more use out the trails that are already in existence. Wilkoff summarized that his efforts so far have been very encouraging and he plans to report back as more updates are become available. Wilkoff added to these remarks that he received an email from Coach Alsobrook and he is looking to have another meeting with the larger assembly at the beginning of September in order to check in with regard to the previously assigned tasks.

Chair Lyne added that the trails issue can become tricky in the wintertime as the different uses for these trails will not always be compatible. Commissioner Wilkoff agreed, and noted that the trails used now, at the Crystal Springs Farm for example, are often walked on because there is a population of folks who walk there. Wilkoff concluded that these efforts will include an educational piece to inform people of the expected usage on the trail or that dogs shouldn't be on the trails and as well as acknowledging that some trail systems will not get groomed as often while there might be another trail system that will get groomed more seriously. Commissioner Wilkoff restated that these discussions have been encouraging and he is excited to see how the work turns out.

Chair Lyne followed up these remarks by acknowledging that, from a maintenance standpoint, the Recreation department has taken over a lot of the responsibility for the sidewalks and parking lots in town. Smith agreed, noting that the Recreation Department has it challenges, but are doing things like talking with Director Farrell, brainstorming solutions and as always, looking at hiring seasonal maintenance help for ice rinks and such. Smith hypothesized that a job description could be written that fits the bill of being able to get out right after or during a storm so this person is getting utilized much faster. Smith acknowledged that trail grooming falls lower on the list of priorities as it is important to get lots and sidewalks open.

Chair Lyne shifted to telling a brief story about an old Bowdoin College classmate that he ran into the night before. Lyne explained that this gentleman spoke to him about cross country ski opportunities and was in attendance at the afore mentioned meeting. Lyne continued on to add that he is a Brunswick resident who currently grooms the trails for the Waldorf School in Freeport and would love to have the opportunity to do it in Brunswick. To that point, Lyne asserted that there are people out there that are looking to help. Lyne closed out this section of the meeting by thanking Wilkoff for his update.

5a **REPORT ON THE JULY 25TH ABUTTERS MEETING PERTAINING TO THE FUTURE RELOCATION OF THE BRUNSWICK FARMERS MARKET FROM THE CURRENT LOCATION ON THE NORTHLY END OF THE LOWER MALL TO AN ALTERNATE LOCATION**

Public Works Director, Jay Astle, began his remarks by reminding the Recreation Commission that the Farmers Market Committee Sub Group has been working over the past 9 months to figure out if there are possible relocation sites for the Farmers Market that is currently on the north end of the Lower Mall. Astle, acknowledging he may be stating the obvious, mentioned that this area has sustained quite a bit of degradation due to successive years of use by the Farmers Market. Astle also acknowledged that this damage

is hard to see during market days because there is so much activity there, but if one drives by on off days they will really see the significant loss of greenery and significant compaction, in addition to the fact that it is messy when it rains, is unsightly, and unsafe. To that point, Astle established that the sub-committee has been talking about possibly relocating the market for a couple of years.

Director Astle reminded the group that this committee was formed about 8-9 months ago to comprehensively look at the Farmers Market and where they might be able to go other than their current location. While recognizing that the Farmers Market's stakeholders want to remain situated at the downtown corridor, and given the substantial amount of public interest in keeping the market in the downtown corridor, Astle explained that the committee looked at 24 possible locations. Astle continued to explain that these possibilities started with the wackiest of options, which were easy to cross off the list. Astle described how it was important to get these locations down on paper and hone in why they were not viable options because they included things like closing off streets that one would never contemplate closing off, but it was contemplated. Additionally, Astle noted that the group looked at private properties that were large enough to sustain the footprint of the Farmers Market.

In noting those who were active on the committee, Astle included Town of Brunswick staff, the Brunswick Downtown Association, Farmers Market representation, Brunswick Police and Brunswick Fire. Astle summarized that these committee members looked at all of these locations through their different lenses to establish reasons for why it would or would not work. Astle continued on to summarize that through their work they were able to whittle it down to two possible locations.

One of these locations, Astle introduced, was Park Row, which would require some traffic changes to make the two-way street a one way street, going North to South, from School Street to Fitch Place. One half of that street Astle noted would be used for the Market vendors to set up and patrons for the market would access the Mall side while leaving one side for slow-moving traffic on Park Row. Astle then introduced the second location that met most of the criteria and was not disqualified due to public safety or other considerations, which was utilizing the two sidewalks that bisect the Mall. Currently, Astle explained, they are five feet wide with pavers to match the other sidewalks, but they would likely be expanded to 10 feet wide and would utilize those as the primary patron access, with tents set up on either side of the two sidewalks. The benefit of that, Astle continued to explain, is that the existing sidewalks would be used to carry most of the foot traffic, which is one of the driving factors with regard to the compaction problem. Astle then detailed how, in its current location, there are just so many people that are at the Farmers Market Tuesday and Friday from the beginning of May to Thanksgiving. To alleviate the problem, Astle summarized, that the goal is to move the market to a hardscaped area. It will still sustain damage on either side of sidewalk or walkway and it will have to be repaired periodically, but it would cut down on the square footage being impacted. Additionally, a side benefit would be moving the compaction area away from tree roots, which is having a big impact now and is affecting the health of the trees in the market's current placement.

Astle concluded that the two locations mentioned in the meeting were the ones that rose to the top of the list and, while neither of them is perfect, they are the best out of some not so great alternatives. Astle then segued into highlighting the steps of this process as outlined for the abutters meeting which included walking through the procedure for how these spaces were selected, as well as to get feedback on those two options. Astle added to these remarks that a significant number of those in attendance were Park Row residents, property owners, and business owners. Of those in attendance, Astle also added, many expressed valid concerns related to safety and the prospect of having such a busy market practically in the roadway with moving traffic a couple of feet behind it. Astle addressed this concern by proposing that the Town of Brunswick mitigate that issue with traffic control and slowing people down and having a physical barrier between the market and moving traffic. An additional concern, Astle mentioned, was access to properties as getting in and out of driveways and parking lots as regular business patronage as it might be difficult to direct those folks to those businesses, especially on a one way strip of road. Astle then detailed an example of how it would be difficult for a guest in town to understand the change in the traffic pattern, while someone who has lived here for years would know to just go around the block and access their home via a different street.

Astle then restated that there were a lot of valid concerns that arose, as well as things that the sub group had not previously thought of. Astle added that there are still things that can be done to make this a more palatable solution, but the primary concerns as related to being on the Mall and using those two sidewalks would be infrastructure cost to widen those sidewalks and the impact that it would have on the trees in that area, as well as the cost of periodically repairing either side of the sidewalk. Astle concluded that the sub group agreed to take all of the information from the public meeting, to reconvene the group to talk about those things and figure out if there are identifiable solutions to some of those concerns. The discussions, Astle continued to state, would address what would the cost be for that particular solution and a determination would need to be made to see if the solution is cost prohibitive.

Chair Lyne summarized Astle's remarks, stating that two solutions were proposed and both of them are still in the vicinity of the Mall. Astle affirmed Lyne's remarks and added that this stipulation was important to both the Farmers Market vendors as well as the patrons. Astle continued on to state that there is quite a bit of value in the current location of the market and the downtown location is pretty big attraction for people coming to town two days per week.

Commissioner Foushee inquired if the timeline of the relocation was going to be in time for the coming Farmers Market season of 2020. Astle replied that the timeline keeps moving. Astle explained that the subgroup, when they began meeting back in January, had hoped to identify a solution for the 2019 season, but that did not work out. Depending on where the process goes, Astle continued to explain, it is feasible that something may be ready by May of 2020, but that is dependent upon what infrastructure improvements that need to be made, where the need is, and how quickly that work can be done. To that point, Astle noted that this is dependent upon the construction season and available funds to complete the work. Putting the market back this year where they had been, Astle added, even after determining

at the end of the 2018 season that the location was unfit and there was no way that they could go back there, produced results as bad as anticipated. Astle detailed that with all the rain this season and the sidewalks on either side of the Mall, there is a concave bowl where all of the water wants to drain now and there is no place for the water to go because of all the compaction. Astle continue to detail that the compaction is 6-8 inches deep in some places and there is no hope of that water dissipating anywhere. Additionally, the Farmers Market stakeholders don't like to be in that area when it is wet and they are getting a lot of complaints from their patrons. Astle concluded that the prospect of putting them back where they are is unsafe and the hope is that something will get done in time for next year.

Commissioner Wilkoff stated that he looked into the comments expressed by patrons at the meeting and acknowledged that he had not had that same thought previously. Wilkoff paraphrased that they were curious why the vendor's trucks could not park somewhere else, like in the Hawthorne School parking lot and perhaps with a golf cart they could move stuff in and that would cut the square footage down. Wilkoff continued on to add that he is aware that they would prefer to not have to do that, but Wilkoff asserted that this compromise should be more of an inconvenience than a deterrent for the vendors.

Astle replied that the availability of the Hawthorne Lot is truly just the month of July and half of the month of August, as the school department is still using the lot in May and June and they return to work in the middle of August. Astle acknowledged that there might be a little benefit to it, but one of the concerns from the Market's perspective is that, unlike the winter market where the infrastructure is all set up, they have their stalls or tables already there, and all they need to do is cart in their goods, at the summer Farmers Market they have to bring everything including tables, chairs, display stands, crates and tents, in addition to the goods they are selling. Astle then provided the example that if folks were to arrive at 7am and see the vendors, even on the smallest scale, setting up for the Farmers Market and how much stuff actually comes along with their trucks, it's hard to think that they would park and carry all of these goods. Astle's example continued as he highlighted that they would be carrying these good twice a week for 8 months and after all is said and done would likely say they will never do it again. To that point, Astle affirmed that the subgroup did look into that location and other satellite parking locations. Astle then recognized that this is a good problem to have; where the market is so popular that people descend upon it, leaving virtually no parking on Maine Street or Park Row during the market, but the Hawthorne Lot was actually discussed as it relates to the vendor vehicles because right now they are parking on the Mall. Aside from Town of Brunswick staffed vehicles that can drive on the Mall, Astle explained, no other vehicles are allowed on the Mall because it does a ton of damage, but for two days a week over the course of 8 months per year they are able to drive their box trucks up on the Mall. Astle added to this remark that the trucks are usually full and very heavy as well as the fact that they make sharp turns and every time they do that, it creates more problems. Astle added that, throughout this process, the sub group has questioned how to keep the Farmers Market on the Mall, but not the vendor vehicles. Astle continued on to add that even the solution of setting up tents alongside, the Farmers Market, especially the bigger vendors who are unloading, loading and resupplying all day, would be resistant to any plan that does not involve having vehicles right next to their tents. Astle concluded that it is not a popular solution so the

subgroup has really grappled with the fact that the issue not only revolved around the all of the tents and the people patronizing the market, but also what will have to be done with all of the trucks, where they have to go and how they can be accommodated so they are sort of close by. Astle further concluded that one of the attractive aspects of Park Row was that everyone could be lined up from School Street to Fitch Place, there is enough space to accommodate all 15 vendors with the amount of tents that they have right now, as well as their vehicles which range in size from compact to full size box trucks and vendors wouldn't be driving onto the Mall.

In an effort to gain clarity, Chair Lyne asked if the set up would be trucks parked next to tents all the way down Park Row and if the street would revert back to normal parking outside of Farmers Market days. Astle affirmed that Lyne was correct and noted that parking would be retained there outside of market hours meaning that folks could not park there on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7am-3pm.

Foushee then inquired if the expansion of the sidewalks would truly mitigate the issue of the trucks being on the Mall. Astle replied that the expansion to a 10 foot berth would allow them to drive up in the morning, to off load their stuff right where they will be vending and then drive off and park along Park Row. Astle continued to state that another iteration of this plan includes only half of the trucks being allowed to drive onto the Mall. The larger of the trucks, Astle mentioned, would be permitted to remain on the Mall turf, but this would be limited and, rather than having 15 trucks all driving on the Mall, it would be whittled down. Astle concluded that the benefit of the sidewalk location is the pedestrian traffic, but also that, if the sidewalk is widened, trucks wouldn't be able to get up onto the Mall to unload and load without doing any damage.

Foushee then inquired if there is an estimated cost for expanding the sidewalks. Astle replied that it would cost between \$14,000-\$15,000. Foushee followed up Astle response by inquiring which budget the funding for that would come from. Astle joked that it would come from the Recreation Department's budget given the absence of the Parks and Recreation Director at tonight's meeting, but, in all honesty, acknowledged that those factors need to be worked out and much of the funding would probably come from the Public Works budget because it is a sidewalk project. Aside from widening the sidewalks, Astle added, there would need to be access points on both the Maine Street side and Park Row side of the Mall so the trucks would be able to get up onto the sidewalks. Additionally, Astle recognized that parking would have to be restricted near these areas as well in order to provide the necessary turning radius to get safely onto and off of the sidewalk. To that point, Astle summarized that it is not as simple as just expanding the space from 5 feet to 10 feet.

Chair Lyne inquired if this solution would be a hardscape or if it was possible to stone dust the area. Astle replied that stone dust would actually act in the same way as it will get compacted over time and there will be no drainage. At least with a hardscape, Astle continued, there is the possibility for shedding the water in a place desired or allowing for some type of filtration. Chair Lyne then thanked Director Astle for his remarks.

7 **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

- 8 The next meeting of the Recreation Commission was scheduled for September 18, 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 FOUSHEE; VOTE 5-0 UNANIMOUS OF THOSE PRESENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.