

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 2021 MEETING OF THE WESTPORT COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEMBERS ATTENDING; BRIAN GALLAGHER, ANDERS NEWCOMER, MARTIN COSTA, RICK GRUNDY, KIM LEGENDRE.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED.

EVERYONE PARTICIPATED REMOTELY DUE TO COVID 19.

THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2021, AND APRIL 26, 2021, meetings were approved.

### WATER ACCESS UPDATE.

BEACH AVENUE: MARTIN COSTA REPORTED THAT HE VISITED THE AREA AND NOTICED ONE OF THE HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGNS WAS DOWN. HE CALLED CHRIS GONSALVES OF THE ROAD DEPARTMENT ABOUT PUTTING THE SIGN BACK UP. MARTIN ALSO SPOKE TO SEAN LEACH WHO ADVISED HE CONTACTED THE STATE ABOUT OUR PLAN TO INSTALL GEO GRIDS ON THE PARKING AREA. MR. LEACH LEARNED THAT THE STATE IS OKAY WITH THE PLAN. MR. LEACH WILL NOW START THE PROCESS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY PERMITS. FINDING THE FUNDING WILL BE NEXT BUT IF NECESSARY, OUR COMMISSION HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE GRIDS.

HIXBRIDGE LANDING; JEFF BULL IS AN ADVISOR TO OUR COMMISSION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE WAY TO PROCEED IS TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE SELECT BOARD ADVISING OF OUR INTEREST IN DONATING MONEY FROM OUR FUNDS TO THE CAUSE. WE HAVE AGREED TO EARMARK 45,000.00 FROM OUR FUNDS WHICH CAN BE ADDED TO THE APPROXIMATELY 480,000.00 THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO CREATE A PLAN THAT CAN BE SENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT.

'BABY BEACH' THIS IS A PROJECT THAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH IN TIME FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON. SEAN LEACH ADVISED THE BEACH COMMITTEE WILL PLACE A WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TABLE NEAR THE WATER. MARTIN COSTA WILL SPEAK TO CHRIS GONSALVES ABOUT INSTALLING MORE HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGNS NEAR THE WATER. MARTIN SPOKE TO ROSS MORAN OF THE WESTPORT LAND CONSERVATION, THE ORGANIZATION THAT INSTALLED THE MOBILITY MATS AT BEACH AVENUE, AND THERE ARE NO EXTRA MOBILITY MATS. THE WCOD APPROVED SPENDING UP TO 43,000.00 TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF MOBILITY MATS TO BE PLACED AT THE BABY BEACH SITE.

DUE TO A KAYAK SHORTAGE AT OSPREY SEA KAYAKS IT IS APPARENTLY TOO LATE TO START A PROGRAM TO TEACH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HOW TO TRANSFER INTO A KAYAK AND THEN GET THE KAYAK TO THE WATER.

COVID 19 UPDATE; VACCINATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE 12 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

POSSIBLE NEW HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE TRAILS AT WESTPORT WOODS; A MAP OF THREE POTENTIAL TRAILS WAS SENT TO EVERYONE. ROSS MORAN, DIRECTOR OF THE WESTPORT LAND CONSERVATION TRUST HOPES TO ADDRESS US IN JULY, 2021 TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE NEW TRAIL.

### POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE WCOD;

TWO NEW SWINGS AT TOWN PLAYGROUNDS; DANA STEWART, THE RECREATION DIRECTOR WAS ASKED TO GET ONE OR TWO MORE QUOTES FOR THE SWINGS. POSSIBLE COST 41,500.00.

GEOGRIDS POSSIBLE COST 43,000.00.

MOBILITY MATS AT BABY BEACH; POSSIBLE COST OF UP TO 43,000.00.

HIXBRIDGE LANDINGUPGRADE; AGREED TO EARMARK45,000.00 for the project.

NEXT MEETING; JUNE 28, 2021.

AJOURNED