

Recreation & Parks
January 9, 2024
6pm @ Community Center

Attendance: Matt Martin, Linda Rice Collins, Rosanna Ferrante, Shelly Bedrossian, Karin Ernst

Meeting called to order at 6:04p.

Meeting minutes for 12/04/2023 – Motion to approve. All in favor.

Appearances:

- Benjamin Franklin Martin V (Biff Martin) – Redd's Pond
 - Provided copies of pages from the 1963 Town Warrant and the 1964 Town Report relating to a vote that transferred care of Redd's Pond to the Recreation and Park Commission
 - Would like to know who is responsible for the care of the pond and the land/walkways around it; Peter confirmed Rec & Park Comm is responsible for the pond itself. Land around it – cemetery?
 - Asked what happened to Jenny Armini's grant from the state for study - Peter confirmed the money is there and an engineer will be hired to determine what needs to be done/fixed
 - Spoke about why Redd's Pond is important to him and what he has done to take care of it in the past – stated that Marblehead Yacht Club has paid Solitude Pond Treatment to treat the pond for invasive species growth for 25-30 years but said it is not their responsibility. Last treated 2-3 years ago
 - Matt will find out how much money was granted, who is in charge of it, who is responsible for the land around the pond, who will maintain

Topics:

- Public Comment Policy Discussion
 - Karin drafted a policy for public comments in future Rec & Park Commission meetings based on those used by the Board of Health as well as commissions from other towns
 - Better to have sign-up in writing than by phone
 - Speakers must state their name, address, topic.
 - Non-residents? Peter will find out if they are allowed to speak
 - Jaime asked if allotted time of three minutes will be strictly enforced – Matt fine with timing it
 - Shelly suggested motion to extend the time allotted if necessary – yes, at direction of the Commission. Discussed need for consistency to prevent issues/claims of unfair treatment
 - Termination of public comment privilege if exceeding time or issuing threats - may or may not pass
 - Karin will update and make notes, then send out new draft
- Ongoing Project Updates
 - Pavilions at beaches – Peter
 - No updates to report
 - Matt and Peter discussed options for help from highway department
 - Peter will work on getting four holes dug to prepare and possibly reach out to highway dept
 - Aiming for movement by April 2024
 - Seaside Grandstands
 - Matt reported this is on hold as the person helping is currently working on another project
 - Aiming for completion by May 2024
 - Seaside Lights – complete
 - Vine St cleanout
 - Structure with some kind of roof for cover?
 - Peter needs itemized list
 - Aiming for Q1 completion

- Hammond Nature stairs, wall, handicap accessible?
 - Wall is done; stairs need to be replaced - will likely have to go out to bid
- Stramski's – Peter and Linda
 - Plumbing and electrical classes still working
 - Karin requested a full breakdown of the project – important for all Commission members to know what is being done and why, how much money has been spent, etc
 - Finance director Aleesha Benjamin will need to check if the funds are available – see minutes from 12/04/23 meeting
 - Karin suggested holding a separate meeting about this project to get all Commission members up to speed and on the same page
- Fountain Park stairs - Rosanna
 - Becky still working on getting price for each step so press release can go out; Rosanna will follow up with Becky
- Castle Rock
 - Repair walkway?
 - Overgrowth already cleared out
 - Help from Neck Association?
- Dog Park – Peter and Linda
 - Met today (01/09/24) and walked through plans
 - Put in larger gate?
 - Need permission from Ted Moore to go across his property – Linda handling this, wants him to meet her to discuss
 - Dog park group offered to pay for new gate – still researching and deciding on a proper surface other than stone dust
 - Path for vehicles – official use only, not for public
- Disc Golf
 - Rosanna reported she and Jaime are on 01/11/2024 Conservation Commission agenda; they will introduce disc golf and possible ideas for locations in Marblehead

Park Updates – Peter James

- Cleanups continued – trash at least 3x/week
- Helped with Christmas tree pickup for tree burning
- Pickleball nets at Seaside not down yet
 - Courts are locked until playable, then will use portable nets
 - Matt wants nets down
 - Mario Otto resigned from his full-time position
 - Job has been posted – looking for candidate with experience
 - No viable applicants yet
 - State of the Town – January 24, 2024 @ 6pm

Recreation Updates – Jaime Bloch

- New session of programs has started
- First weekly ski trip was today (01/09/2024)
- Sunday soccer league getting up and running
- Summer – 95% loaded; major programs are in
 - Opens February 5th @ 11a

- Jaime will be meeting with some parents to discuss and explain summer planning to help parental anxiety
- Summer hiring email hopefully going out next week
- Need to hire two staff members for payroll:
 - David Zampesi – recreation instructor & fill-in building attendant
 - Motion made to hire; unanimously approved
 - Elizabeth Ann Martin – driver for truck carrying the equipment for the ski trips
 - Matt Martin abstained from vote due to his familial relationship with applicant
 - Motion made to hire; unanimously approved

Linda Rice Collins read the following:

“I would like to take the time to acknowledge the passing of Phillip Norcross, a former commissioner for the Recreation and Park Department. Phillip served as commissioner for many years. I had the pleasure of working with Phil as both a playground counselor and a commissioner. Phil put countless hours into this town quietly behind the scenes. He was supportive, thoughtful, and meticulous in his approach. His legacy as a Commissioner is this beautiful building, the Jacobi Community Center. Heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family Nancy, Derek, former Recreation and Park Commissioner, counselor, beach attendant and wife Joanne, and his grandchildren Mitchell, Jennifer, and Gil.”

Correspondence

- 06/08/24 Kathleen Edwards - Wedding ceremony at Crocker Park (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor pending insurance and fees
- 09/07/24 Caroline McIver - Wedding ceremony at Crocker Park (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor pending insurance and fees
- 09/14/24 Liza Dingle - Wedding ceremony at Crocker Park (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor pending insurance and fees
- 09/21/24 Rachel Grosz - Wedding ceremony at Crocker Park (see attached permit summary report)
 - Motion to approve, all in favor pending insurance and fees

Next Meeting – January 22, 2024 @ 6p

Meeting adjourned @ 7:52p