

# **Recreation & Parks**

## **October 1, 2024, 6:00 PM**

### **Community Center**

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

Meeting called to order at 6:04.

#### **Previous minutes**

- Motion to approve previous minutes. All in favor.
- July 17: Motion to approve July 17th minutes. All in favor.

#### **WalkTalk Collective - Lisa Sugarman**

- Local author Lisa Sugarman shared information about the WalkTalk Collective
- The WalkTalk Collective is a group that combines walking and talking on Monday mornings
  - Builds community involvement in breaking stigma around talking about well-being and mental health
  - Open to the North Shore community
  - All ages, all paces and abilities, emphasis on inclusivity
- Discussed the Recreation department's involvement
  - The high school would allow the group to walk - it is lit
  - Would use a waiver through WuFoo, but participants can just show up - no barrier to entry
  - The program is growing and a partnership could amplify it

#### **Dog Leash Law - Update - Shelly**

- Shelly outlined the goals: Work with the Board of Health, Animal Control, and ourselves to manage the off-leash dog issue. Rewrite the by-laws so they make sense. Provide privileges to dog owners who demonstrate responsibility and enforce laws strictly. The goal is for this to go before town meeting in May.
- Issues with current dog leash laws:
  - The dog park is not really accessible since new construction started.
  - The by-laws are unclear.
  - Dogs are off-leash on playing fields.
- Researched the "Pooch Pass," a system being used by Salem and Swampscott:
  - It is an extra step beyond a dog license. It would be in the form of an additional tag on the dog's collar with a yearly fee. Participants sign an affidavit that they can control their dog, understand all rules, and agree to abide by them.
  - Money from the Pooch Pass system would pay to have dog refuse stations established and maintained by an outside company (put out to bid) in 10-20 areas in town.
  - Discussed enforcement options - could auxiliary police officers be used?
  - Discussed dogs on official playing fields - they would not be allowed on the playing fields, but they could possibly be allowed leashed on sidelines.

- Dogs on beaches - not allowed on designated bathing beaches (Stramski and Grace Oliver). They can run on the left side of the boat ramp at Riverhead. Lead Mills and Back Beach are also okay.
- Shelly suggested putting in a fourth side to the fence at Coffin to provide an area for dogs.

### **Bid for Boilers for Community Center**

- Rossana attended the opening for the bids. References need to be checked.
- Price range - lowest was 57,000, highest was 108,000.

### **Stramski Update**

- Met with Peter Rice a few days ago - on the first floor, most of the electrical is done. The fire alarm system and plumbing need to be hashed out. Determined that there should be a split heating and cooling system (for the main floor only). Mini-split that sits on the wall, with the unit outside - one or two.
  - Peter suggested removing the dead tree. Remove three trees located in front of the ramp area.
- Rossana and Matt met with Jill from Essex Tech on Zoom
  - They have time and manpower for electrical and plumbing right off the bat.
  - Split heating and cooling system is recommended.
  - Fire alarm system can then be addressed (it would be designed around the split system). Essex Tech will install the fire alarm.
  - Motion to approve mini split for heating and cooling of the Stramski House. There was discussion around the timing of installation; it needs to be completed before turning the water on.
  - Karin amended motion: Approve a mini-split system for the basement and first floor. All in favor, the motion passes.
  - Electrical: finished rough already in progress.
  - Carpentry: outside we need posts for the ramp railing. Shingles for the boarded window.
  - Insulation will need to be sprayed.
- Follow-up with the architect and inspector - do we need revised drawings?

### **Recreation Update - Jaime**

- Fall programs are underway. We are ready to launch the next set of fall programs - will go out tomorrow with our events.
- October is busy: scarecrow stroll, pumpkin painting, haunted house (Haunted Hamond Hospital).
- The department is looking for volunteers to keep everything running at an accessible price point.
- The Haunted house at Hamond's is underway:
  - Haunted Hamond Hospital
  - 7th and 8th graders meet every Thursday with Kate Anslinger and James Horgan.
- Due to holidays, school days off, and the election, late fall will be a short session.
- The Ski Trip opening up - it will return this year.

- Karin, Matt, and Jaime met with the superintendent at Eveleth to go over the MOU and understand the agreement.
  - Jaime is advocating to use Eveleth for programming. The Community Center is not available until 3, and Eveleth would provide indoor space in the winter.
    - The library still has materials stored in the building.
    - Boiler needs to be checked.
- Jaime's National Recreation and Parks Professional Certification exam is coming up. This will open up opportunities beyond programming.

### **Correspondence**

- Fundraising for Gatchell would like to place a sign at town parks with a QR code for donations at the following parks: Gatchell's, Hobbs, Gerry, Seaside, and Devereux. 3'x8' sign at Gatchells and 2'x6' at the other playgrounds.
  - Discussion about whether signage at parks is allowed. Tabled while looking into rules. Smaller size? For how long?
  - A proof and reducing the size of all signs to 2'x6' is needed before the request goes forward.
- George Halstead requests the use of Crocker Park on Friday, July 11th or Saturday, July 12th, 2025 for a wedding ceremony with 150 guests.
  - Will wait until the board receives updated details for the correct day.

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Matt - Move to close the open session of the meeting at 7:22. Everyone present in favor.

Next meeting date TBD.

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Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn