

# Recreation & Parks

## October 29, 2024, 6:00 PM

### Community Center

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Attendance: Linda Rice-Collins, Rossana Ferrante, Karin Ernst, Shelly Bedrossian. Matt Martin not in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:00.

#### **Previous minutes**

- Motion to approve previous minutes from 10/02/24. All in favor.
- Executive session minutes approval tabled.

#### **Bill Walsh-Rogalski**

- A need for a portable toilet at Redd's Pond was brought to his attention by a member of the Model Yacht Club. It would be useful for the community because it is heavily used, i.e. by kids, the Festival of the Arts, etc.
- The town supplied a portable toilet for about five years.
- Cost is approximately 1350/year, it would be needed for part of the year (May to October).
- The MYC cleans algae in the pond and clears trash. Their dues are \$20 annually and a portable toilet would be a significant part of their budget.
- Discussion about past practices: Rec & Park used to split the cost every other year with the MYC. Last year was the MYC's turn.
- Motion to support the placement of a portable toilet at Redd's Pond at its previous location for four months, from May 15 to October 15, to be paid out of the beach funds for the year 2025. All in favor.

#### **Racket Working Group Update**

- A public forum will be held to bring outdoor racket players together to discuss what's working and what should change. Changes and tweaks could be made for the next season.
- Discussion about meeting dates in the upcoming months. The meeting will be held on November 12th. Public will be notified via email from Recreation & Parks, Facebook, and local racket groups.
- Discussion about possible topics to help keep the dialogue constructive.

#### **Park Properties Update**

- Memorial benches
  - There are a few hundred memorial benches. A number of them are in disrepair and are out of warranty.
  - Discussion: Offer people an opportunity to purchase a new one. Otherwise we can give them the plaque and take the bench out.
  - Discussion: do we have documentation about what is expected when a bench is purchased?
  - Linda noted that when people pay for a bench, the fee also goes toward an endowment.

- Linda will send out a document with benches that need to be replaced.
- Jaime will send the memorial bench application to review the language.

### **Gatchell's Field Lights**

- There have been ongoing problems but the lights are working as of now.
- Youth Baseball is doing a study to come up with a plan to raise money to re-do the lighting at Gatchell's.
- Discussion about how to ensure that they stay on reliably for the next three weeks.
- Jaime suggested rechargeable portable stadium lights as a backup option.

### **Park Update - Pete**

- Leaves are being taken care of.
- Restrooms will be closed at the beginning of November, except Gatchell's.
- Vine Street
  - Everything has been pulled out; Pete will organize what can be kept and what is being thrown out, with a goal of finishing by the end of December.
- Seaside Basketball Court
  - Met with Tom McGovern. Got a cost for new backboards - 4500. A previous quote from a company in Beverly to replace them was for 12000.
- Community Center Boilers
  - Contract has been signed. As of this morning, everything is in stock and ordered. The pumps are a week or two out. Within the next few weeks he will be starting. The hot water tanks are separate.
- FinCom
  - Jaime, Rossana, and Pete met with liaisons to clarify how much each position was paying.
  - The finance director is looking for a spreadsheet in November.
- Job posting for maintenance craftsman/mechanic
  - Nothing yet - can it go out to tech schools? Need an update from HR.
- Cleaning services
  - We have explored a few options, but nothing has worked out yet.
  - Discussion about procurement and what other nearby towns do.
- Devereux Beach
  - John Chew fixed a rotted post at the main pavilion.

### **Recreation Update - Jaime**

- Recreation has been busy. Fall 1 finished today. We are going into a short Fall 2 session.
- Leading into basketball season: Grades 3-4 girls' basketball is extremely light at the moment.
- A new activity submission form will be ready November 15th, before anyone goes on winter break.
- A manual for recreation contractors is being worked on and will be presented at the next meeting to help clarify expectations.
- October events

- **Scarecrow Stroll:** attended by close to 1000 people.
- **Pumpkin decorating:** just shy of 50 people on the public school no school day.
- **Haunted House:** great success. Grades 3-12 volunteered and met once a week. Just shy of 500 people attending.
- Ski trip
  - Registration opened and closed in 5 minutes. Numbers are limited by how many spaces are allotted from Bradford.

### **Correspondence**

- **Samantha Boland** wrote to notify that Walk MS: Marblehead has been retired and thanked the department for their past support.
- **Joel Steiner** of Changing Futures requests the use of Devereux Beach for their inaugural Polar Plunge on January 1st. Approximately 100 people, Weds. January 1st, 11 AM to 2 PM. Fee waiver requested.
  - Motion to approve pending insurance. All in favor.
- **Abby Seay** requests the use of Castle Rock for a wedding ceremony with 50 attendees on Friday, August 8th, 2025, from 3 to 6 PM.
  - Motion to approve. All in favor.
- **Nanny Noyes** requests the use of Chandler Hovey for a wedding ceremony with 150 attendees on Saturday, August 16th, 2025, from 2 to 5 PM.
  - Motion to approve. All in favor.

Next meeting date: November 12th.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM**

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Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn