

Recreation & Parks

November 26, 2024, 6:00 PM

Community Center

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the previous minutes. All in favor.

Jack Attridge of the Rotary Club - New Sign for Gatchell's Green

- Discussion about the new sign's content (graphic and wording).
 - Current design shows the old blue town seal on the left and the Hannah on the right.
 - Karin likes the current wording - Jack said we don't have the same graphic but we could probably get something close.
 - Matt suggested updating things and trying something more modern.
 - Sign should be updated, but keep the "birthplace of the American Navy."
 - Jack will reach out to Peter Schalck for a mock-up.
- It will be lit from the ground up. Lights will be flush to the ground so as not to interfere with mowing.

Kayak/Pram Rack Discussion

- Brendan O'Grady - 9 Old Salem Road - wanted to discuss kayak/pram rack space.
 - Mr. O'Grady noted there are limited large kayak rack spaces available.
 - Discussion about rack usage - currently, pram spaces at Stramski's and longer kayak spaces at Riverhead do sell out. Other spaces do not.
- For 2025, eligibility will be locked in by vessel type.
- Motion to build over the winter at least one long board section at Riverhead, with an opportunity for a second, space permitting, and one unit for a pram at Stramski's. All in favor.

Outdoor Racket Court Follow-up

- Jaime ordered new signs for Seaside courts E & F.
- Wind screens
 - We own screens at the Raimo Zone that are no longer needed. We could move them to Seaside and test them on one side.
- Open Play
 - Shelly noted that if there were a lock on the fence at Vets, and we knew we could prevent people from playing after a certain time on a consistent basis, Open Play could go until 6 because it would really end at 6. Then more people would be able to access Open Play.
 - Discussion: Could we try moving open play to Seaside in the winter? Then we could develop a solid plan for April.

- From now until the courts close due to weather, have C & D open play, 7 days a week, from 4 PM onward until March 1st.
 - Motion to use courts C & D at Seaside open play from 4 to close, from Sunday, December 8th until mid-March (weather depending), 7 days a week. All in favor.
- Tennis players
 - Need 1.5 hours of reservation time.
 - Jaime: We can put them on separate calendars. Because the tennis courts are not as heavily used as the pickle ball courts, having some gap space between reservations should not be an issue.

Parks Update - Pete

- Benches: need a separate line item meeting.
- Bud Orne: question about a sign. There is no sign there, we will work on it. Small slide has been ordered.
- Castle Rock: on hold, waiting to see what the Neck Association's plans are.
- Chandler Hovey
 - The pavilion will probably need to come down before we can put a new one up. It will need to be made handicap accessible.
 - Ground in front of the telescope has had rocks added to combat erosion. Linda noted that there was further deterioration after the rocks were added.
 - Wall deteriorating in front of the fence looking toward Beverly. Donovan added rocks.
 - Graffiti on the rocks in front of the lighthouse is difficult to remove. Will try using a pressure washer.
 - Inner harbor pavilion - two bad posts and a few missing shingles.
 - Cut back around the sign but left ornamental grass alone, and trimmed around the bathrooms.
- Crocker Park
 - Wall in front of the pavilion - repaired several cracks. Broken corner needs mortar.
 - Railings paint needs a touch-up.
 - Gazebo needs to be pressure washed and the paint touched up.
 - Bathroom doors need paint.
- Devereux Beach
 - Tire swing put up. Missing parallel bars.
 - Boardwalks need maintenance. Will follow up on town grants for handicap accessible mats.
 - Sidewalk - hole in front of the pavilion from run-off needs Linpac.
- Hamond Nature Center: need to replace stairs and railings.
- Hobbs: top of the fencing needs to be reattached.
- Boilers: have been installed. The plumbing inspector was in on Monday and okayed everything.
- Cleaning services: by February 1st we should have a cleaning company five nights a week.
- Baseball/softball field edging is complete, the fields should be ready to use in the spring.
- The flag at the lighthouse was donated by a resident. It will come down on Pearl Harbor day due to winter weather.

- Matt asked Pete to call Atlantic Paving and ask what it would cost to grind up and re-pave the basketball court at Seaside.

Recreation Update - Jaime

- The department has been offering a no school day program at Clifton Lutheran and running after school programs as well. The staff has done an excellent job. Food service department provided lunches.
- November/December session just launched.
- Reached out for summer programs and are actively entering for summer.
- Basketball and soccer leagues are up and running.
- Hopes to discuss the independent recreation contractor manual at a future meeting.
- Dog Park
 - Linda and Jaime put together the dog park letter.
 - Jaime made a flier with a QR Code and a Wufoo for Friends of the Dog Park donations.
 - Met with Robin Michaud to discuss having dog park info on the back of the mailings.
- The harbormaster's clerk donated two metal benches to the dog park.

Correspondence

- Teresa Collins - expressed interest in a memorial at Memorial Park to recognize women from Marblehead who have served.

Next meeting date: December 10th, 6 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:24.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn