

Recreation & Parks

August 27, 2025, 6:00 PM

Community Center

Attendance: Rossana Ferrante, Karin Ernst, Chris Kennedy, Shelly Bedrossian. Larry Simpson was not in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve, pending a correction of the spelling of Erin's name. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.

Procurement Updates

- Reynolds Field Refurbishment Project:
 - Allison is working on getting two interviews set up for Friday the 19th. Carla is working on getting the room at Abbot Hall.
 - The meeting will be posted as a public meeting. Brendan has a list of collaborative suggestions. Rossana & Shelly thought an ad hoc Recreation & Parks Select Board liaison would be beneficial. This is on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.
 - A series of five community listening sessions will be held prior to the 9/19 interviews. They will be posted as public meetings.
 - Long term goal: starting a monthly newsletter with updates and volunteer needs, community engagement sessions.
 - We will talk with the procurement officer to understand the correct procedure to follow regarding community donations.
- Gatchell's:
 - The contract is out for signatures.
 - The light department has been down this week continuing their work.
 - Greg Chane called today; they're ready to hang lights tomorrow. They will start on the football side first, then the minor league field, then the major league fields.
 - They have put up new poles on the football side and one pole behind the minor league field where the timer needed to be replaced.
 - There was a metal pipe from a chain link fence sticking out. The crew dug down and ground it off, then covered it.
- Stramski's:
 - Insulation is done. The inspection for the insulation is set up for 9:30 tomorrow.
 - Sheet rock will be hung next Tuesday.
 - We will see if Essex Tech can take on the handicap railing.
 - We will need raised pavement to make it ADA compliant. Bob Donovan will give us a quote.
- Hamond Nature Center:
 - Stairs: the bid package has been sent out to four landscapers.
- Fountain Park Plans:

- The building commissioner looked at the plans and said they look good to him.
- Old Burial Hill:
 - The Old Burial Hill oversight committee has concerns about how the grass is being cut. They would like it to be cut with push mowers or trimmed, but the time spent there is limited.

Riverhead/BOH Discussion

- We proposed signage language to the Board of Health to be discussed and voted upon at the BoH meeting on September 9th:
 - *Welcome to Riverhead Beach. Please note, swimming is not designated at this location and the water is not tested under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health bathing beach regulations. Riverhead Beach is a great spot for low-immersion activities, like paddleboarding and kayaking. The calm, protected waters make it an enjoyable place for recreation and community programs.*
- If there is programming in that space, there will be a waiver of liability and a note that this is a non-bathing beach.
- The town website's list of beaches does not say whether they are bathing or non-bathing beaches. We need to find out which beaches are bathing beaches vs. non-bathing beaches from the Board of Health and update the website accordingly.
- Discussion: the language should be on the bid documents so future vendors are aware and we are 100% transparent.

Park Updates (Pete)

- The big mower has been repaired and is working well.
- A 52" electric mower is being delivered tomorrow.
- We are wrapping up at the beach - staffing for Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.
 - Pete will bring in numbers comparing past beach numbers to the first meeting in October.
 - Discussion about kayak rental signage; currently there is a sign that is out when staff is present. We can look up new systems for next year.

Recreation Update (Jaime)

- We recommend Kyle Cambece to take the park maintenance/groundskeeper full-time position, to start on Wednesday. Motion to approve. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.
- The Whaler was vandalized; the gas line had been cut. The boat is critical to the running of our programs and we will have the Harbormaster's crew look at it.
- All summer programs are done except for yoga.
 - Jaime will bring in numbers for the next meeting.
- Fall will start on Sunday, September 7th with our junior soccer league. Numbers for fall look good.
- In November we will start summer planning to be loaded in January and opened on the first Monday in February.
- Rossana and Karin will be presenting the proposed reorganization of the three positions at the Compensation Committee tomorrow.

Correspondence

- Jenny Sheridan requests the use of Devereux Beach on Sunday October 5 from 7 to 10:30 AM for the Run for the Fun 5K. Move to approve pending Select Board approval, police detail approval, and insurance naming the Town of Marblehead as additionally insured. Move to approve. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Ashley Steves requests permission to place three single porta-johns along the fenceline at Devereux Beach, to be delivered on September 20th and picked up on September 22nd for the Wicked Half Marathon. Move to approve at \$100 per porta-john. Seconded, all present in favor. The motion passes.
- Sarah Riffel requests to reserve part of the area under the long pavilion at Devereux Beach on Sunday, September 28th from 9 AM to 2 PM, for a gathering of family and friends in support of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute Jimmy Fund Walk. Approximately 60 attendees. Move to approve. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - Discussion about developing a decision-making matrix to ensure fair and consistent practices when applying fees.
- Brendan Callahan of the Department of Community Development and Planning has let us know they are seeking municipal expressions of interest for adaptive re-use opportunities for the former Coffin School. Submissions should include preliminary concepts, estimated costs, and anticipated community benefits. Submissions are due on September 26th.
 - Dog park proposal for a portion of the property, Pete recommends keeping the playground area and notes the equipment is still in good condition. We will fill out the form and be more specific about the space wanted for the dog park. Jaime recommends an upgrade.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th, at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn