

Recreation & Parks

January 22, 2025, 9:30 AM

Community Center

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

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM.

Stramski Update

- Jill at Essex Tech is assigning a new electrical teacher; we should hear something this week or next. We are close to a rough expectation, which will then allow plumbing to come in.

Landscape Website

- The sustainable landscape website renews automatically every February and must be cancelled a month before. It came out of Rec & Park's pocket fully last year, half and half the year before, and fully from our pocket the year before that. Our only donation request was for Chandler Hovey.
- Karin talked to Pal about it and said we're not getting any traction; she agreed and we will cancel it.

Leash Law Discussion

- Betsy and Shelly attended the Board of Health meeting. Dr. Massaro made a motion to support the amendments of all three (13-5, 13-9, and 13-11), with the contingency that they remain largely the same. They asked once we have the decisions at this meeting, we send them to their meeting to be finalized.
- **13-5:** no changes other than those we discussed; 12 feet and an increase in fees.
- **13-9:** no changes other than an increase in fees.
- **13-11:** after the meeting, Betsy, Shelly, Jaime, and Pete met to go over the language and correct the names.
 - The current by-law is titled "Seasonal Prohibition of Dogs From Certain Areas." Remove the word "seasonal" and call it "Prohibition of Dogs From Certain Areas" for increased clarity.
 - Add Memorial Park.
 - Change the last line to "dogs may be unleashed at town-designated dog parks and areas labelled as such by the Recreation & Parks Department" to allow flexibility.
- Discussion: what departments would have the authority to designate an area appropriate for off-leash use - Rec & Parks, maybe Board of Health? Matt is concerned that it's too much and it comes down to common sense and is the dog officer's purview. Shelly is concerned about dog waste in areas children play in, and dog waste bag litter. The initial goal was to have a handicap-accessible place for people to bring their dogs. Rossana brought up that it is a town by-law, not a Rec & Park by-law, and needs to stay broad. General agreement that dogs should be kept off the actual fields but owners should be allowed to have the dog leashed at the side while watching games. Jaime pointed out that there can be specific Rec & Park

policies that do not have to be included in the by-laws (i.e. no pets on the tennis and pickleball courts).

Operations Manual/Mission Statement

- Agreement that it looks good.
- Added 2025 date to mark that it was looked at.

Matt Friedman/Dog Festival

- Matt Friedman is interested in holding a festival for dogs on July 6th.
- He has insurance lined up and will have high school students for clean-up and a police detail.
- Not voting on it yet - just giving a heads-up and asked Matt to call and get on the agenda for a future meeting.
- Linda recalled that a similar event has been done previously at the driveway at the back of Seaside.

Park Updates:

- **Hiring:** Motion to hire Willis Iannarelli for the maintenance craftsman/mechanic position. Seconded. All in favor.
- **Cleaning Company Update:** In order for the select board to hear it, we need to give them the paperwork, contract, and justification as to why we chose that company. It will go to the February 12th agenda.
- **Fountain Park:** The initial estimate for a survey and site plan is \$7100. Structural work is a separate fee. Rossana asked the firm to put together a formal proposal.

Bocce Quotes

- Due to prevailing wage, the docket came in much higher than anticipated - from \$100,000 to over \$200,000.
- Lisa Hooper will talk to Pete about the next idea.
- Matt wanted to know if the town could level the area to save on labor costs.

Recreation Update - Jaime

- This is the first time we're doing long sessions - we are going from January to March. Some programs will re-launch in February. The longer session has been great for karate, but smaller chunks will be kept at a smaller scale.
- We will launch open summer on Monday, February 3rd at 11 AM. We sent out a sneak peak.
- Jaime is in the process of doing interviews and hires. At the moment, adult sailing is not on the list; it probably will be offered, but not until a director is in place.
- Revolving fund numbers: Finance department has not done balance forward from FY24 to FY25. We should not discuss revolving fund without accurate numbers.

Reynolds Field Discussion

- Thatcher told Matt that after talking with the council that, based on verbiage, he doesn't think it would fly to give money to the Y in that location.
- We move forward with Chris Huntress, turf that location's softball fields.

- Discussion about giving a donation with restrictions that it would be used in a 3 to 4 year period and if it wasn't used, we would then take the money back. If it didn't work, we could use the money for Plan C: re-do the rink, refrigerated open ice roof, modular turf.
- Regardless of moving forward at Green Street, we need a re-do of coring and appropriate survey to the way he wants it so he can submit it for construction drawings. Linda brought up that the survey should be both turf and grass in case ConCom denies it. Also, will it need the 100-year storm.

Dog Leash Update

- Motion that Rec & Park supports updated the bylaws for 13-5 (Running at large) and 13-9 (Disposal of fecal matter) as presented. Rec & Park will not be supporting the updated 13-11. Seconded.
 - **Discussion:** Could we say 3-11 in the current form with just the fee increase or should we leave it alone completely until we are ready.
 - All in favor, the motion passes.

Correspondence

- Lisa Spinelli is requesting a permit for a pickleball fundraising tournament to support the Marblehead Counseling Center. Estimated attendees: 144 people. Saturday & Sunday, May 3rd-4th at the Veterans Middle School courts.
 - Move to approve pending insurance. Seconded. All in favor.
- Sloane Matthews requests the use of Chandler Hovey for a wedding ceremony on Saturday, July 12th, from 9 to 12.
 - Move to approve pending insurance. Seconded. All in favor.
- Yearly letter for the select board vote to continue the revolving fund.

Next meeting will be February 4th, 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn