

Recreation & Parks

February 4, 2025, 6:00 PM

Community Center

Attendance: Matt Martin, Linda Rice-Collins, Karin Ernst, Shelly Bedrossian. Rossana Ferrante joined at 6:19 PM.

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Move to approve the minutes from January 8th. Seconded. All present in favor.

Dog Park Flier Payment

- Motion to approve payment for the dog park flier. Seconded. All present in favor.

Brian Wheeler - Festival of Arts (Crocker Park)

- We are replicating what we did in 2024; the dates change, but the days are the same. Price points for details: we try to get two officers in the park per night. 6-10 and 7-11 to ensure coverage. The park will be needed 6-10. We will have overnight security.
- Adjustments made to volume as the night goes on.
- Bathrooms are all set.
- Motion to accept the plan for the Marblehead Festival of Arts, Tuesday, July 1st to Sunday, July 6th. Seconded. All present in favor. The motion passes.

Matt Friedman - Festival of Arts (Puppy Parade)

- New idea for an event - name TBA (Doggy Parade, Tails of the Town?) - it will be a dog-friendly event in a field, such as the edges of the Seaside field or lower Village. Proposed date of Sunday, July 6, 10-3 (11-2, with time to set up and break down).
- Dogs must be licensed and on leash. Additional waiver for the event for the dogs. Dogs will be tagged or given an item so they can be identified and we will know the owner has signed a waiver.
- Paid vendors, contests (costume, lookalike, etc.).
- Discussion: the location should be in a place where everyone can see it. The number of dogs could be limited with online registrations, then move to a larger, less visible location next year if it proves popular. Power is needed. Seaside is not ideal because a lot of money is spent on maintaining the field. Green Street is prone to flooding. Coffin is already fenced on three sides and vendors could use the parking lot - it is now town-managed and would need to go before the selectboard. Karin recommended going to Betsy to run it by her next.

Department Project Discussion and Prioritizing Projects

- **Vine Street:** Pete will place items on MuniBid (old town equipment), then dispose of untaken items. We have the green light to remove the boat.
- **ADA grant:** the town received a grant for the beach for \$92,028. It must be spent by June 30. It would go toward MobiMats, handicap accessibility to the bathrooms, lowering thresholds and

floorwork, and accessible access from the disabled parking spaces to the pavilion. Pete will meet with the building commissioner to go over it so he can get a clear scope.

- **New maintenance craftsman/mechanic hire:** started yesterday.
- **Basketball courts:** meeting Thursday morning at 9:00 AM with Tom McGovern.
- **Cleaning service:** the contract must be approved by the select-board at the February 12 meeting. Pete has paperwork from Kyle outlining what is needed and will prepare it for early next week.
- **Stramski:** the plumbing teacher is coming back; he has reached out to the plumbing inspector and has been issued a permit. The inspector will be out next week. We are waiting for an electrical teacher to be assigned. Carpentry will probably be in the fall. Current estimate for finishing is summer 2026.
- **SUP:** town council still needs to review and complete the DocuSign. Karin will touch base to see where we're at with it.
- **Job descriptions:** Create a Superintendent of Recreation position. Pete's last day will be January 30th, 2026. It would not need to go before town meeting and would give Jaime and Pete time to go over the responsibilities. It would go before the compensation committee.
 - Motion to create the Superintendent of Recreation job description. Seconded. All in favor. The motion passes.
- **Fountain Park:** Becky will bring up the plan to the Director of Community and Planning. Discussion: the building inspector will call DigSafe. Is there a rule that you don't pay any invoices until the job is done? It says payment is due 30 days from invoice date.
- **Bocce Courts:** is the town able to do part of the project? Matt believes the costs with the bid do not make sense. In the future we should get a quote first and have discussions prior.

Gatchell's Field Lights: Jon Lawler, president of Marblehead Youth Baseball

- The lights are past their useful life. We're finding that when one of the fixtures go, we can't find replacement parts. Before we have a catastrophic failure, we're trying to be proactive and get together a plan to replace the fixtures. We have pricing for the football field as well. Standard Electric came for a site visit to take measurements and make recommendations. The goal is to replace all fixtures. There are 13 fixtures on Rogers (21,000), 28 on Putnam (42,000). The football lights are separate (15) (25,000). Another 10,000 needs to be raised; about 95,000 for the whole park.
- Is there an option for remotely turning the lights on and off? Part of the additional 10,000 would go toward replacing the timer.
- The lights will be kept one for one.
- Will be kicking off a capital campaign. Did a site walk with Pete, noted some dugout and fencing improvements that could be made. We are looking at converting Putnam to a 40-60 field. It is possible to do this in-house.
- Has football agreed to fundraise their part? They do not currently have the money. Karin asked if we do this piecemeal? Pete recommended doing it all at once.
- Potentially it could be done for opening day or some point during the season 2026.
- Check to see the legal process - does it need to go out to bid?
- Next steps: we need a scope of work.
- Want to include fencing - repairs around Putnam and the Triple A field. As separate projects under 10,000, they would not need to go out to bid. We will get clarification.

- Rec & Park has limited money to spend before June 30 due to the cap on the revolving fund.
- Karin thanked MYB for their work on the project.

Park Updates (Pete)

- Rolling stock meeting: put in for another 52" electric mower. We also need a 36" walk-behind mower.
- Capital improvements: asked for money to put toward Seaside basketball court.
- Community center: painting the hallway, dining room.
- We received a letter from the bank for our next Shattuck request.

Reynolds Update

- Tomorrow Shelly will be meeting with the town planner. The goal is to get him up to speed on the project and provide an overview. They are interested in the \$500k park grant.
- Spoke with Chris Huntress today to ask if the numbers are on point; he said yes. We will probably go with Option C, the synthetic turf field, asphalt rink, ADA-compliant bathrooms, sports lighting (4.1 million).
- Potential funding sources: combination of public, private donations, grants.
- Chris will go with us before ConCom.

Recreation Update - Jaime

- Summer 2025 opened yesterday. We are a few thousand dollars ahead for the first two days, even with missing a week.
- We will not go with the 3 month programming next year.
- Jaime is making a big push for the sailing director position.
- Balance forwards have not happened as of yet. They do not have a timeframe.

Correspondence

- Pete's retirement: January 30 2026.

Farmers Co-Op added to the docket for next meeting

Next meeting will be February 18, 6:15 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn