

Recreation & Parks
September 22, 2025, 4:30 PM
Community Center

Attendance: Rossana Ferrante, Karin Ernst, Chris Kennedy, Shelly Bedrossian (virtual), Larry Simpson

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- No previous minutes to approve.

EOI - Municipal Reuse of Coffin Discussion

- Karin wrote up a submission to request to use the Coffin side yard and parking lot for a temp to perm dog park. The current dog park can't be maintained due to the lack of access; the original park would not be closed, but the Coffin site would give the town a second park that is more accessible. If the proposal is accepted, we would start with community engagement.
- Motion to submit Karin's dog park EOI. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.

Kent Wheeler - Seaside Park

- The field is not level at all and water is not draining properly. It was laser levelled two years ago, but the bigger problem was not addressed. It will need to be reconstructed to allow for drainage.
- Rec & Park initially planned to contribute 15,000.
- Discussion: The first of November would be the latest we could start. We would need a scope of work; Shelly will work on it and get it to Allison to go out to bid. We will need to look into whether additional equipment is needed for maintenance. Would it be possible to use our existing equipment? Would training be included in the cost? Is there an option to have the field serviced by the vendor? Kent will look into sources for additional funding.

Park Updates (Jaime)

- Marblehead Youth Lacrosse has offered a 10x50' net to go over the Bud Orne rink. The current net is 35' high. We can try to put it up to address the holes that are in the current net. Jaime and Brad will take a look at it.
- Jaime provided a handout with project contract and award workflow.
- Hamond Nature Center: the project will go to their contract for 19,000 will go to the Select Board for their signature on it at the Thursday meeting.
 - Check on the cross country schedule to be sure it doesn't conflict with meets.
- Gatchell's: the lights will be on on the football side from 5 to 10 PM every night. The timer is working. We have a change order from Hamm Electric due to issues with new light poles and equipment.
- Fountain Park: Jaime and Rossana met with Becky. Becky drafted a press release that Rossana will review. New granite could potentially cost less than using the existing granite due to the need to cut it. The funding will come from selling the memorial engraving on the

stairs. Chris spoke with Dave Rodgers (Cemetery Commission) to try to get help with Old Burial Hill for October.

- Discussion about the need for an MOU in areas where we cross jurisdictions with other departments.
- Stramski: Essex Tech completed hanging sheetrock today. There will be a drywall tape labor proposal tomorrow. Peter Rice met with Gilbert & Cole on-site to create an interior finish material list. Their quote should be in today or tomorrow. He will talk to the HVAC teacher to create an equipment list.
 - Discussion about the 10,000 cap with a vendor across projects. Anything above that needs to go out to bid.
- Commissioner emails: the town could create a catch-all email address that would then go to each commissioner's individual email. This could provide consistency and keep communications as a matter of public record.

Recreation Update (Jaime)

- We have enough scarecrow commitments that we can go through with the scarecrows stroll.
- Pumpkin decorating and the haunted house are coming up.
- CompCom is on Thursday.
- We need to go out to bid for any independent contractor who makes over 10,000. There are approximately 10-15 of them. Information needs to be filled out by late October/early November, summer programs need to be in by December 15.
- The Board of Health met and did not finalize the language on the sign at Riverhead. Until we have language we cannot go out to bid.
- Marblehead Cares Committee: scheduling/timing of afternoon meetings has been a challenge.
- Chris left the meeting.

Correspondence

- Naomi Riess requests the use of the Crocker Park gazebo on May 31st from 1 to 4 PM for a memorial gathering for family and friends. 25 or fewer attendees.
- Rebecca Scenna requests the use of Devereux Beach on October 12th from 7 AM to 12 PM for the Breast Friends Walk fundraising event. It has been approved by the Select Board and police, and they have secured insurance and will get their own porta-johns. Motion to accept. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.
- Karla Strobel requests a permit to use a corner of the parking lot to sell Cub Scout popcorn before the Marblehead football game on Friday for the Pack 11 Wolf Den of second graders. Motion to approve. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7th, at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn