

Recreation & Parks

August 12, 2025, 6:00 PM

Community Center

Corrected

Attendance: Rossana Ferrante, Karin Ernst, Chris Kennedy, Shelly Bedrossian. Larry Simpson arrived at 6:39.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, pending clarification on the June 2nd and May 13th minutes that Chris was present but not for approving the minutes, and Larry was not present. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.

Lisa Spinale: Marblehead Pickleball (Lisa Spinale, Tony Mongiello, Kate Dinsmore, Anne Tassel)

- The group formed last year; they hold events and activities to promote the sport of pickleball.
- Current issues:
 - Court issues: Dip, cross-fence coming apart between A&B and C&D at Seaside. Pete will take a look at the fence.
 - The group's priority is an AED. Discussion: how to secure it, but keep it easy and quick to access.
 - Request for metal signs at Vets, similar to the signs at Seaside. Jaime will take care of it.
 - Request to power-wash the courts; they are slippery with dirt. We will look into it from a maintenance standpoint.
 - Concern about gravel and broken asphalt getting on shoes and tracking onto the court.
- Positives: There is high engagement. The reservation system seems to be working well. The lights are a positive addition.
- League ideas for next year: move to eight weeks with one playoff week to make things simpler. Instead of Monday and Tuesday night, it would just be Monday; is it possible to add a half hour on Monday nights? Discussion: now that the gates are locked at night to prevent playing after hours, it seems reasonable.
 - Tournament: Can a rain date be added for the tournament? Discussion: Rossana suggests that the eight day period be used to book if weather does not look promising. Shelly mentioned that the commission tries to balance what is fair for the general public and what is fair for the league.
- Resurfacing courts 2 and 5 at Vets. Discussion: the courts belong to the school. The Rec & Park department needs to ask to do things there, but they do not provide money. Fund-raising is the best avenue.

Parks Scope and Resources Discussion

- Rossana and Karin met with Dan and Erin; discussed how departments cover their needs, what equipment is used. How can departments work more efficiently with the resources and equipment we have? We will be working on this in the future.

Budget Review on Active Projects

- 300,000 pool
 - Seaside basketball court: Shelly had a meeting with Tom McGovern last week. The plan needs to be restructured. Nothing will happen until Q1 2026 at the earliest. 13,000 committed from revolving.
 - Stramski: Just spent 10,000 for insulation, 75,000 total.
 - Fountain Park: 9,600 for stairs (Shattuck).
 - Devereux Beach: ADA grant.
 - Hamond Nature Center: open for bid. 15,000 committed for the switchback and stairs (Shattuck).
 - Gatchell's: 28,000 for lighting. Jaime recommends adding Gatchell's bathrooms to the list for renovations to improve accessibility and ease of cleaning.
 - Dog park: 500.
 - Community center: Jaime proposes bringing back the removable divider between the game room and corner room and replacing the flooring with something softer to make it more flexible for programming. An MOU with the COA will be needed.

Memorial Bench Policy Discussion

- Karin and Larry: provided a written revision of policy based on previous discussion.
 - Karin: how to reconcile that the first person will pay for the bench and subsequent people will pay less. Chris recommends that everyone pays the same amount. There are a variety of options beyond the bench (step, tree, etc.).
 - Current language is that memorials are only purchasable by residents for other residents, only. Larry brought up a concern that the person purchasing should not have to be a resident. The language will be changed so anyone can purchase one in memory of a Marblehead resident.
 - Chris believes there should be public notice if all contacts are unreachable before a memorial is retired. Shelly added that there should be a requirement for five contacts (email addresses/phone numbers) with applications.
- Bench styles: currently we buy benches from DuMor. Discussion: as we phase out benches we should keep a consistent style. Pete will bring a book to the next meeting to show the options.
- Discussion: how long do we promise to maintain the bench? Possibility of having a scholarship to help provide benches for residents who have served the town.

Park Updates (Pete)

- Pete talked with the fire chief about the radio box at Stramski's. They want the company the FD uses to install it; Pete will meet with them next Wednesday.
- Jersey barriers were ordered and delivered yesterday. Pete will work with Andrew on getting them moved from the transfer station to the beach.
- Portable speedbumps have been ordered.

- Wide area mower: one of the decks stopped working again. It went back to MTE today for diagnostics. Fortunately grass is growing slowly enough that we can keep up with it.
- Painting athletic fields for high school has started. They will move on to field hockey at Seaside, soccer and football at Village, field hockey behind Vets.
- Pete will meet with the new procurement officer, Allison, to talk about Hamond Nature Center.
- Project Updates (Shelly)
 - Lights at Middle Village: 15 extra hours of practice time per week.
 - Reynolds: bids opened Monday. 3 people bid; one of them is already too high; the other two seem reasonable and there is one frontrunner. Shelly reached out to Brendan Callahan and Alex; will ask for help with interviews. Alex originally thought they could help with consulting on who we pick, community engagement. Shelly would like Adam Corbeil involved (recreation director in Cambridge).
 - Green Street: Shelly has been responding to neighbor concerns.

Recreation Update (Jaime)

- Summer is winding down; we are in week 8. Our numbers are a little off from losing a week at the beginning and the end being a little short.
- We will be back to looking for a sailing director for 2026.
- We will re-vamp the tennis program (potentially layering in different structures, adding a walkover option to the playground like the other clinics).
- Registration for fall is open and running.
- Brad and Jaime have been interviewing for the park maintenance groundskeeper position. Six interviews this week; they've held four already. The plan is to present a candidate at the next commission meeting.
- We are using new software for field allocations; it is now all online. We have booked out every allocation for the entire fall season.

Public Comment

- Amy McHugh: Amy notices a lot of inter-departmental collaboration from her position as head of DPW. She appreciated hearing about MOUs being utilized and feels they should be used more often between departments. Amy expressed concern that departments were going to be pushed together without a full understanding of the scope of their work.
 - The Select Board created an initiative six to nine months ago to meet with all the departments to understand how the town runs. Everyone should get together to figure out what is needed to run before discussing how to run it.

Correspondence

- MaryAnn Schultz requests the use of Crocker Park on Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 1 to 2:30 PM for a "first look" wedding event for her daughter's wedding, with an estimated 30 attendees. Chris left at 7:56.
 - Motion to approve pending insurance and fees. Seconded. All present in favor.
- Langdon Mitchell of the Corinthian Yacht Club is looking for information regarding the possibility of storing six 23' Sonar sailboats on trailers at Devereux or Riverhead from May through October.
 - Motion to deny due to lack of space. All present voted to deny.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 27, at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn