

March 24, 2026, 5:30 PM Community Center

Attendance: Karin Ernst, Shelly Bedrossian, Larry Simpson, Chris Kennedy. Rossana Ferrante arrived at 5:55.

Meeting called to order at 5:33 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the February 17th minutes; seconded. All present in favor.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Appearance: Marblehead High School (Carnival)

- Marblehead High Student Council leaders Quinn Harris and Carys Moran requested the use of the Devereux Beach parking lot for this year's Junior Carnival, May 7th through 12th.
- Motion to approve use of the parking lot for the carnival, pending proof of insurance. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.

Appearance: Green Street Bike Park

- Chris Field and Rick Smyers of They Ride request to install more permanent structures to support the programming at the site: a garden shed for trail maintenance (wheelbarrows, shovels, first aid, water, etc.); a permanently installed bike tool stand donated by Dan Shuman of Marblehead Cycle; and two benches built by his woodshop students at Tower. He also requests a Porta-John for program participants.
 - The proposed shed is 10'x8' and it would be locked.
 - Discussion about Porta-John placement and ensuring it works on the site aesthetically.
 - Programming will take place the week of April 12th and there will be full weeks in the summer and fall.
- The five year deadline for reviewing the use of the park is coming up in 2027.

Budget Discussion

- Aleesha and Thatcher went over the budget on Feb 19. We were approved for everything we had requested. We have had two meetings with FinCom liaisons the following week.
- In November we were asked to present a level-funded budget; from there we have had cuts.
 - Some changes have to do with department reorganization.
 - Originally the 45,000 difference in the budget was achieved by zeroing out landscape materials, which is not possible. The proposed solution is to go down one groundskeeper. It would be conditional on Recreation & Parks removing

trash barrels and moving to carry-in/carry-out (other than when supported by a fee, such as the beach, Festival of Arts, and during programming).

- Discussion about solutions to continue to provide trash barrels for the town. Possible trash contractor and asking businesses to sponsor a barrel near their location?
- Water & Sewer: it was decided last year that departments needed to budget their utility needs. We are currently almost at 27,000. In the future we will need to ask for more.
- Discussion: With a potential override, what would we need to provide good service for the town? Karin's example: we could budget a certain amount each year to go toward fences, and every year address x amount of fences with that budget.
- Discussion of revenue. Jaime explained the float storage fees, and timing of the rack space system. Fees and permits will most likely see an increase this year.

Reynolds Project Update

- Design efficiencies: Shelly has been working on potential design efficiencies. One option is to eliminate the support building and CHA will extend the roof of the main building so the zamboni can be kept in the building.
- Chillers: The options are air cooled chiller, split chiller, or geothermal chiller. During the meeting with Electric Light and CHA, the geothermal option is off the table because the heat is not enough. The heat could instead be used to heat under the parking lot, sidewalk, and field. Air cooling is the least expensive and has similar maintenance, but is very loud. The split air system has been recommended and agreed upon. It fits within the budget and can go in the zamboni house, leading to a noise reduction.
- Solar: 12,000 sqft roof with half of it south-facing. It may not be worth the extra cost, but is worth looking into.
- Noise: a 10' fence on the north and east side is recommended, lined with an Acoustifence cloth.
- Lime Street: In the meeting with Amy, Shelly brought up that Lime Street is not a public road, it is owned by Lime Street Realty. If it were made a public way, the town would plow and maintain it, which would also allow the installation of a sidewalk. This would create a tax savings for the owner; we will look into this as an option.
- Artificial turf: it would cost approximately 45,000/yr to water a grass field. The field cannot be rented at a fee that would cover the cost. Artificial turf may be the most feasible option. We would frame the procurement process to ensure we are only purchasing materials known to be safe. The recommended products are Green Fields Iron Turf synthetic turf product, Brock infield product, and Brock Powerbase resilient shock pad.
- Discussion about possibilities of watering a natural grass field. Larry recommended a type of extremely hardy grass with very low water needs and will get the name of it to Shelly.

Board of Health Grant

- The BoH wants to apply for a state grant of \$50,000/yr for two years for a recreational youth center idea. There is no location or details needed at this point; it just needs

departmental support. They have written a draft copy; it's due the 31st of March and they want to know if they can write us in as a supporting department.

Department Projects Update

- Stramski:
 - The first floor has been painted. Flooring and trimwork are done. We are working on HVAC and waiting for a few more items from Home Depot. Plumbing parts are still coming in. Waiting for a PO for the ramp railing. The basement doorframe and two front doors need to be re-done. Essex Tech will be done after May, after finishing the HVAC and plumbing.
 - Brad met with Rossana, Jon Fobert, and Peter Rice; all three trees will need to come out in order to install the ramp. We are getting quotes to have them taken out and stumps left in. Jon sent a draft letter to bring to the Select Board to request the tree removal. Excavation would be necessary to install the ramp.
 - Discussion: it does not make sense to pay to remove the trees until we have a quote for excavation, which would need to go through procurement. Put the project on hold for now. Get an unofficial quote to get a ballpark number so we will know what to expect when the project resumes.

Recreation & Park Updates (Jaime)

- Brad presented his vision for the department, based on his 20 years of working in the parks.
 - Our parks should be a place where we choose to spend time.
 - We should focus on the basics: clean spaces, playable fields, functional buildings.
 - Communication matters between the department and the public; we should be approachable and responsible.
 - Seasonal maintenance should be proactive rather than reactive and we should try to stay ahead of wear and tear.
 - Our athletic fields should be something we take pride in; teams from other towns should be excited to come play here. He envisions us hosting tournaments in different sports.
 - Other improvements: Updating play structures, providing shade trees at Crocker Park, re-doing the Seaside infield, utilization of the Stramski pier, adding color to the parks' plantings.
- Review of jobs: there are 7 total (5 at present). They do everything together if needed, but groups have their own responsibilities.
 - The **foreman** oversees everything; every project goes through him, and he has the most knowledge of the properties.
 - The **turf specialist** is in charge of aerating, fertilizing, seeding, and hole filling. He maintains the baseball fields and manages irrigation and is the main tractor operator.

- The **mechanic/craftsman** handles all mechanical fixes for equipment. He maintains all the flags, takes care of the bathrooms, takes care of all carpentry-related projects. This is a role that wears many hats.
 - **Groundskeepers** cut the grass and handle general cleanup, trash, and field painting.
- Jaime has asked Tom to post the seasonal position starting now.
 - Pickleball will buy an AED with a three year maintenance plan for Seaside. It will be installed on the side of the tennis shed. Access will be granted by calling 911 and receiving the code from the operator. In the winter it will be stored at the police station. They will walk the property with the company to ensure we have the proper signage.
 - Make-A-Wish will be using Chandler Hovey and Seaside for an event in town.
 - We would like to set up GaGa pits for the summer for Gatchell's and Stramski's.
 - We have a signed lease and MOU with SUP East Coast Style.
 - Discussion about having a line item in the future for legal fees.
 - The Sweetheart Dance is this Friday night from 6:30-8:30. The event is sold out with a waitlist, and the building is at firecode capacity.

Friends of the Parks update

- Larry spoke to Brendan and ConCom about who owns Glabicky. It is our property. The group planned a native plant sale before Father's Day.
- Larry also reached out to a member of the Conservancy to do an analysis of the pollinators that were present prior to an upgrade, and then another analysis after. He will put together a proposal and bring it to the next meeting.

Correspondence

- Lisa Nahatis requests the use of Chandler Hovey park for Lighthouse Worship Service on Sundays from 8 to 9 AM, approximately 60 attendees, from June 21st to September 6th.
 - Move to approve, pending insurance. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Nicholas Parente requests the use of the Riverhead parking lot for Marblehead Cruise In on the second Tuesday of the month from 6 to 9 PM (May through October).
 - Move to approve, pending insurance. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes
- The Rotary Club requests the use of Seaside Park for their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 5th, from 1 to 2 PM, with approximately 100 attendees.
 - Move to approve, pending insurance. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Sue McNamara of Grace Community Church requests the use of Devereux Beach and Riverhead parking lot for Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5th, from 5:45 to 6:45 AM, for approximately 50 attendees.

- Move to approve, pending insurance. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Max Cushman requests the use of Chandler Hovey Park for a wedding on Saturday, September 5th, from 3 to 6 PM, for approximately 150 attendees.
 - Move to approve, pending insurance. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Gretchen Szczesny inquired about a bench to honor family members. The request was not for a specific location. The board will look into available locations.

Shelly's Reynolds presentation is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 6 PM.
The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14th at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn