

Recreation & Parks

May 26, 2026, 4:30 PM

Community Center

Attendance: Rossana Ferrante, Karin Ernst, Larry Simpson, Shelly Bedrossian (virtual). Chris Kennedy was not in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the April 21st and May 12th minutes; seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.

Public Comment

- A resident shared concerns related to public access on Cove Lane and referenced no trespassing signage near a bench overlooking the water, and wanted to know if the bench was a memorial bench.
 - Discussion about whether the matter falls under Rec & Parks jurisdiction and noted uncertainty regarding ownership.
 - The department maintains a list of memorial benches and will review records to determine if it is a Rec & Park bench.

Appearance: Marblehead Pickleball

- The league requests that the Commission consider expanding or adjusting summer reservation hours at MVMS. Discussion about balancing community access and neighbors' concerns.

Stramski Property Discussion

- The commissioners shared ideas for potential uses for the property.
 - Lease or Partnership Model: leasing the building to an outside operator, yacht club, or nonprofit partner that could maintain and operate the facility while generating lease revenue for the Town.
 - Social Club: a small waterfront social or community club model supported through memberships, volunteer oversight, and event rentals. This would minimize Rec & Parks operational involvement.
 - Cafe: limited food service, similar to the cafe at the Y, such as coffee, prepared foods, and vending machines.
 - Facility Rental: the property could be used for functions, gatherings, rentals, wellness programming, or passive recreational opportunities compatible with the site.
- Discussion: the common thread is that there is a social aspect. The lease idea ensures a stream of income with minimal operational involvement from the department.

Float Storage & Beach Fee Discussion

- According to minutes in 2020, the float storage fee was increased gradually - after hitting 2.75 in FY23, it would freeze at that price for 5 years (FY28). Jaime: we should have a number one year in advance so people can budget for it. By August 1st, we should settle on what the FY28 price will be.
- Beach fees: Jaime proposes that to stay in line with town finance, we go cashless at the beach this summer and use the Square payment system. Fees for residents would be \$16 (M-Th), \$22 (Fri-Sun). Non-residents would go to \$27 (M-Th), \$32 (Fri-Sun).
 - On Mondays to Thursdays, 100% of the fee goes to the general fund. On Fridays to Sundays and holidays, the department retains 75% and the town gets 25%.
 - Non-resident fees were raised two years ago.
 - Discussion of the facility sticker and potential for future solutions (for example, a license plate reader).
 - Motion to go cashless at the beach starting 2026 as soon as the beach opens, with the fees as outlined. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.

Seaside Park Encroachment

- Discussion: there is encroachment from Bubier Road and we should determine if we need a survey. In the interest of time, we will discuss at a later date.

Recreation & Parks Department Update

- Stramski's: we will go to bid for the accessibility ramp. Donovan quoted 25,000. Peter Rice will put together a detailed scope of work. Plumbing and HVAC should be done this week. The inspection will be done next week. We are hoping to get the students back this fall; they are done on June 17. Electrical classes are planning on coming back in the fall to do finished electrical. The Harbormaster has started work on the pier. A structural engineer looked at it and approved the fix.
- Gatchell's lighting: the visors are on and timers are installed. Jaime and Brad have a class tomorrow to go over using the app.
- Beach update: we are doing Linpack in the parking lot. The MobiMats are installed. We will take down the old signs and hang up new ones. The houses are out and jersey barriers are in place. The new Gator is coming tomorrow. We are in the process of finding the right volleyball poles and sleeves. Scheduling is tentatively done. Brad reached out to Don Morgan at the Conservancy to see if they could use the old boardwalks.
- Hobbs fence: we will go with Patriot Fence. They will come from June 15th onward and get the fence looking brand new.
- Vine Street: we got rid of one dumpster and are filling another.

Correspondence

- Michael Giardi wrote a letter saying Seaside looked and played great on Sunday for the Senior Day game against Danvers. He thanked Brad and Jaime, who noted that Greg Snow did a lot of work on it and shared the email with him.
- Linton Scarlett requests the use of Chandler Hovey for a small wedding ceremony with approximately 45 guests, from 3:30 to 6:30 on June 19th. Non-resident. Motion to approve the permit request, pending fee and proof of insurance. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.

- Katie Ring of 13 Curtis Street requests the use of Devereux's Garfield Pavilion to hold mini-session photo shoots to support the Park on Elm fundraising efforts, from 4:30-7:30 on a Saturday, June 20th. Motion to approve the fundraiser provided all proceeds go to the Park on Elm. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2nd, at Coffin from 4:00 to 4:30 PM. The meeting will then continue at the Community Center at 4:45.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn