

Recreation & Parks

June 2, 2026, 4:00 PM

Coffin School

Attendance: Rossana Ferrante, Karin Ernst, Larry Simpson, Shelly Bedrossian, Chris Kennedy.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM.

Coffin School Property Site Visit

- Purpose of the visit: to better understand the project as a whole, as a commission. The commission does not have power to approve or deny anything. It will look at the current property and consider what it may put in as a recommendation.
- The department is interested in establishing a dog park on the property. The current park on Tioga Way has accessibility challenges.
 - This plan would not require a lot of work because the ledge on the site would not impact its use as a dog park.
 - Dog parks are recommended to be anywhere from a quarter of an acre or larger. The dog park on Tioga Way is under a quarter of an acre. The department's proposed area on the Coffin site is around half an acre.
- Discussion of utilities: currently there are no utilities in the building. Water could be restored, but would require a seasonal trench to get it out to the park area.
- Discussion of playing field usage: it is predominantly used for flag football practices and soccer. It is not level enough for games right now.
- Priorities: water vs. fence. At the start, it may be more important to prioritize fencing over water.
- Discussion: how will the park be maintained, what will visitors do with dog waste? The Friends of Marblehead Dog Park are responsible for maintaining and emptying out the dog waste.
- Having separate sections for big and small dogs would be ideal.
- Hours: the park would close at sunset. There would not be lights.
- In the RFI for the site, the dog park was among the ideas presented, but the temporary use of the site as a dog park has not been talked about at the Select Board yet. If the Rec & Park Commission agrees, we would create a formal request to temporarily use the space.
- Community Gardens: Larry and Jim discussed the idea of establishing a community garden on the site. The gardens on Stramski are maintained by ElderAct; Bud Orne still has plots available; the gardens on Everett Paine are underserved and may be too shady for use.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2nd, at the Community Center at 4:45 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn