

Linda Rice Collins

Candidate for the Marblehead Recreation and Park Commission

B.S. University of New Hampshire K-12 Physical Education and Health Teacher

M Ed Boston University Health Education

National Board Teacher Certification - Early - Middle Childhood Physical Education

While teaching I was the Wellness Curriculum Coordinator, Mentor Trainer, Crisis Team Member, Chair of the Health Advisory Committee, and Specialist Team Leader

I am Linda Rice Collins and I am a lifelong resident of Marblehead, appreciating all the town gave to me growing up and would like to give back to the town. I believe I have a lot to offer the town of Marblehead as a Recreation and Parks Commissioner. I am an experienced member of the board having served 24 years. My Education and work experience align with my role as a commissioner. I was a Physical Education teacher for 38 years, I coached a combined 67 seasons for Marblehead High School, I taught an Adult Education Volleyball Class for 18 years, organized the Marblehead Women's Softball League for 26 years, and in college I worked as a Playground Counselor for the Recreation and Park Department here in Marblehead. As a board member I created a Sports Committee, created a field usage schedule, created working punch lists for all areas of our department, worked with Ted Moore to secure parking spaces and working vehicle access to the dog park, created an excel document of all the memorial benches in town and work to be done which led to an incredible idea from Becky Curran to create memorial steps up to Fountain Park, led the work on the pier head, railings and wall repair at Crocker Park, and was on the committee to develop nature programming for the Hamond Nature center, and am currently working with a private citizens on improvements of the fitness trail at Seaside park.

Goals

Programing for all ages

We need to come out of our comfort zone and not focus primarily on preK –grade 4 With my experience as an educator I would like to work with our Recreation head to develop programs such as bike safety and bike riding, Nature programs, Arts and theater, Boot camps utilizing the Fitness trail, Adult programming and finally Team building for all ages. We are still seeing the effects of the Covid shut down. We can all benefit from Team Building – learning to work together again. I have been running Team Building experiences for all ages for the past 43 years.

Transparency of the commission and department –

Commission meetings need to be on zoom and recorded. A full accounting of where the funds are going in both the operating budget and revolving fund needs to occur. How much money do we bring in through our recreation programs, how much do we spend out, how much do we bring in for the Town and for the department in parking at Devereux. How much do we take in fees for floats, rentals, kayak and pram racks for the Town. How much does the office staff and instructors cost in recreation. We need to be thoughtful in what we are charging citizens to use our facilities and participate in our programs. Are our fees being increased too high effecting participation for all of our citizens from the youngest to the oldest? The Revolving Fund is available for projects on properties under the control of the Recreation and Park Department. We need to know this information to strategically plan for the future.

Stramski House

Abbott Hall and the Town House are tremendous assets for the Town and so is the Stramski house. It is the only Town owned facility on the water that can be used by Marblehead residents. We had discussions for 2 years with the Fincom laying out the plan. Together we saw the opportunity to give the citizens of Marblehead a year round facility on the water that meetings, programs, family occasions could occur. We knew it was going to be a long project and it would take years to recoup the money spent. However like Abbott Hall and the Town House it would be here for generations to use. We reached out to the Essex Voc Tech to see if they would take on the project. They agreed saving the Town significant money. When available they come out and work on the house under the guidance of talented teachers. It is a long project but it will be something the Town will be proud when it is completed.

Reynolds Playground

The Board created and voted on a plan for the renovation of Green Street Playground using the Lars Anderson Fund. This plan was shown to Lars Anderson's attorney who felt it was a good use of the funds. Green space at Green Street must not be taken away. We currently do not have enough to meet the growing needs of all the users. The current location of the diamond is situated to have balls hit away from homes and placed away from protected wet zone conservation areas. The plan calls for 2 fields side by side which would rotate by season to avoid wear and tear on the field. A flat open field space is imperative for the safety of the users of the green space. The current location of the hockey rink accomplishes this. The rink is used off season by many other groups when the fields are wet.

Dog Park

I have been working with Board Members of the Dog Park to improve the facility and access. The park needs to be resurfaced and a new gate needs to be installed. A covered area to sit under and a couple of trees would bring shade in the warmer months. I have been working with Ted Moore on parking and working vehicle access.

Seaside Park Fitness Trail

The Fitness Trail at Seaside Park needs work. I have been working with a private citizen who will fund the repairs or replacement of the stations. This is a popular venue used by many in the Town. There is also great potential for programming thru the Recreation Department.

I believe I have the credentials and background to help the board accomplish our many goals. As the wellness curriculum coordinator in my school district I was responsible for the programming of the total wellbeing of the student's physical, intellectual, emotional, social, environmental, occupational, financial, and spiritual selves. I will use this knowledge and experience to help bring new programs for all age groups, work with the users of our properties to find space for all groups, develop strategic plans for the improvement of all our properties, find innovative ways to stretch our budget and push for transparency both financially and at our meetings. I work hard to hear all voices in Marblehead. As a retired teacher I have the time and passion to help the Recreation and Park Commissioners complete our ongoing projects and make our future goals a reality. Please reelect me in June