



## OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Commission: January 19, 2021 via Zoom  
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

Present were Derek Norcross, Jerry Tucker, Linda Rice Collins, Matt Martin and Assistant Superintendent, Jaime Bloch. Superintendent, Peter James, was not present due to illness.

### **New Business**

Jerry brought up the issue of the bikers' jumps being removed at the Lead Mills. Rec and Park has supported the bikers in their efforts to find a place for a pump track and jumps, but it's against the law to build them on conservation land and presents a liability for the town. The newspaper article made the Rec and Parks Dept. look like the bad guys for taking down the jumps. This was ordered by the Conservation Commission. Other sites being considered include Reynolds woods, Beacon and Green and Tioga Way, but they all have some problems.

### **Requests**

- The Marblehead Conservancy would like to hold their annual meeting, which is usually at the Library, at the Seaside Grandstand. They would only have 12 to 15 people present to elect new members. The meeting would only last about 15 minutes. This was approved by the Board to be coordinated with possible youth or high school baseball games.
- Kathleen Collins of the Girl Scouts requested and was approved to use the Community Center parking lot on January 30 and February 6 from 10 to 3 for a drive-by cookie booth.

### **Recreation Programs**

Jaime reported on ongoing winter programs being held at Gatchell's. Planning is progressing for spring and summer programs and hiring past staff for sailing and playground programs. On February 27 there will be mini-golf at Green Street. February 5 she is hoping to have a drive-in movie night (with FM transmitters). There are 37 decorated snowless snowmen to be found at various parks and playgrounds.

## **Facilities**

Work is continuing at the Stramski house (inside demolition). Materials for the handicap accessible deck have gone out to bid to three lumber companies.

## **Anderson Bequest**

The Committee to study the ice rink has formulated a questionnaire to be sent to all Marblehead households. Members of the Board felt that the questions were skewed toward ice hockey and the rink, and they formulated other questions not so skewed to hockey.

## **Tree Committee under Sustainable Marblehead**

There is \$18,000 in a tree fund which could also be used for landscaping at 10 Humphrey as well as trees. The tree warden and other town boards would be involved.

## **User Fee**

There was a discussion of a possible user fee for youth sports to raise money for capital improvements—preliminary ideas for who would pay, and how much.

## **Website**

Chip brought up the need for a dedicated website for the Department, telling what the Department does with drone shots of our parks, beaches, Now there is just a link from the town website to the recreation programs. Commissioners will look into costs and how this might be done and report back at the next meeting.

The Department employee descriptions haven't been revised in 20 years, and this position has different responsibilities now. It was suggested that this description be revised and brought before the Compensation Review Board to upgrade the rank. It was suggested that, in the future, each position description be reviewed one by one.

## **Pickleball Courts**

A neighbor of the pickle ball courts spoke of the very loud noise created by pickle ball's hard ball and hard racket. The Board will look into some kind of acoustic shield and possibly limiting hours. A future meeting will include discussions with tennis and pickle ball players.