



OBSERVER REPORT

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION: January 7, 2021, 5:30 pm
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by Chip Osborne. Linda Rice-Collins, Matt Martin, Derek Norcross, Jerry Tucker, Peter James, Superintendent, and Jaime Bloch, Assistant Superintendent were present. The minutes from the last regular meeting and the Sports Committee meeting were approved.

New Business

In collaboration with his family, a bench will be installed at Piper Field to honor Robert Till, a former Rec. and Park Commissioner and longtime football chains person. The exact style of the bench and location will be decided together, and it will be paid for by the Rec and Parks Department

Hydrations Stations

Jenny Morton, representing Sustainable Marblehead, asked that Peter price out the cost of 4 or 5 hydration stations to be installed at Chandler Hovey, Seaside, Devereux Beach, Gatchell's, and possibly Stramski's, and present it at the next meeting. There is \$15,000 available from the Shattuck Fund for cost and installation. They could be installed in spring when the restrooms are reopened.

Stank Up Paddleboards (SUP)

East Coast Standup Paddle Boarding has accepted the offer of the contract for \$4000 and will work with Jaime on programs with the Recreation and Parks Dept.

Facilities

Winter projects include fixing the guardrail and boardwalk repairs at Devereux Beach, painting trash barrels, painting inside the Community Center, and work inside the Stramski house. They will be able to build the back deck at the house, saving about \$25,000 in labor.

The Conservation Commission is grateful for the work Rec and Park did at the Lead Mills, clearing and grading.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the School Department will be discussed with the Superintendent and School Committee and Todd Bloodgood, head of grounds about the responsibilities of each department for use and maintenance of the athletic fields including equipment for maintaining the turf fields.

For next year, Peter has asked for a new truck (due 2 years ago), a 16-foot utility trailer, and a riding mower.

Recreation Programs

Jaime reported that fall programs were successful. She's going light on winter programs using only staff members. She is working on spring and summer programs with flexibility in mind, using online registration. She is hoping to have sailing, playground and tennis in the summer and hire staff.

There will be a special family event on February 27 or March 6—mini-golf at Green Street with hot chocolate and “cookie monster” treats.

Chip talked with Finance Committee Chairman, Ben Berman. The financial outlook for next year is not great but not dire—level funding but no cuts.

The consultant's report regarding the Anderson bequest use for an ice rink will be presented at a public meeting. After that, hopefully, the Rec and Park proposal can be considered by Jason Silva and the Selectmen.

At a meeting later in the month, a time will be allotted to invite interested parties to discuss tennis vs. pickle ball courts at Seaside.

Correspondence

A group has asked to use the Community Center parking lot on January 23 and 24 for a food drive from 10 - 2 with trunks open, covid compliant. It was passed pending Board of Health approval.

Judith Black's offer of two donated bike racks was accepted for placement at Stramski's—one at the top and one at the bottom.

A digital sign for the high school was approved, to be sited on Rec and Park property at the corner by the Community Center. Hopefully, the Commission could use it also.