

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARBLEHEAD
OBSERVER CORPS

Meeting of Recreation and Park Commission, Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4 pm on zoom
LWV Observer, Kay Rieper

All members were present: Chip Osborne, Chairman, Linda Rice Collins, Matt Martin, Derek Norcross, Jerry Tucker, Peter James, Superintendent, Jaime Bloch, Assistant Superintendent.

After the minutes were approved, there was a discussion about the State holding to the April 25 date for nomination papers to be handed in. This presents a problem for getting them from the town clerk, and more importantly, getting signatures with social distancing.

The removal of a sailboat stranded on the beach was discussed. The owner does not have proof of ownership, so until this is sorted out, the boat may be moved to another place owned by Rec and Park.

There was a discussion of maintenance work. A lot of brush has been cleared from Stramski's, Vine Street, and the softball field at Veteran's. Work is going on at Gatchell's, Village, and Seaside. At present, four men are working one day, and three the next so that distancing will be maintained. Fertilizer will go down in a few weeks.

Peter has been monitoring properties for social distancing. The basketball courts have been roped off. If necessary, the hoops will be removed. He has held off on hiring seasonal workers. The first priority is cutting the grass on the athletic fields ahead of the parks.

Jaime reported on programs. Refunds or credits for programs were given for canceled classes. Several longtime, valued instructors were paid for the part of their programs that were canceled. Also she is helping promote instructors' activities and classes online. She has hired three social distance monitors to walk around town and remind people about social distancing. These are currently town workers who have had their hours lowered. They will have yellow tee shirts, and will call the police if necessary and not enforce themselves. She is working with the Board of Health concerning summer programs. The Board approved the hiring of three new counselors — one for tennis, one for the playground, and one lifeguard—assuming the programs take place.

Jaime proposed a fundraiser to help fund programs for families in need. She will have kids submit pictures of their favorite activities, and then she will choose one of two and make t-shirts which will be sold to raise money. The Board approved this idea.

The Board has approved a level funded budget. Town Meeting is now scheduled for June 29 for budgets with a quorum of 30, and later for other business.

The work at Fort Sewall should start in a week or two, Rec. and Park will not have to maintain it until next fall.

The next meeting will be in two weeks at 4:30.