

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARBLEHEAD OBSERVER CORPS

Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission
Tuesday, June 2, 202, 4:30 on Zoom
LWV Observer, Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Chip Osborne.
All members were present.
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Board will be meeting each Tuesday for the next four weeks about the budget and Covid 19 issues.

The budget has not yet been approved by the Finance Committee. Chip will meet with their liaison soon.

Trash Barrels

The removal of the trash barrels was discussed. It will cost \$5000 to get compliant lids for the 100 or so trash barrels. This money could come out of the \$1.6 million the town has received in federal and state grants for Covid 19 relief. This money is for two fiscal years. The carry in, carry out policy has been working ok so far. Most towns do not have trash barrels at beaches and parks.

Beach Operations

Jaime Bloch, assistant superintendent, discussed beach operations under Phase I and Phase II. It was decided that there will be no lifeguards this summer for their safety. A press release is currently being prepared to be pro-active in explaining to the town about the limitations and expectations for this summer caused by the Covid 19 restrictions. The beaches officially open June 25. When the Rec and Park representative meets with Jason Silve, Becky Cutting, and a representative from the Neck Run, the trash options, among other things, will be discussed. So far the carry in carry out has been working pretty well with the beach monitored in the morning for trash.

Peter James, Superintendent, has talked with a company that will clean the bathrooms at Devereux Beach, Chandler Hovey and Crocker Park for \$600

a week. This includes several minor cleanups each day and a deep cleaning once a week. He felt this was a good deal.

Beach Occupancy

At present, in Phase I, there must be 12 feet between groups on the beach and no ball sports. During Phase II (which may begin next week), groups can be 6 feet apart and ball sports are allowed. The police department will not enforce Covid 19 rules. Chip mentioned that at one time there was a park policeman to enforce such rules. Possibly the Covid 19 money could pay for this.

Parking

The three lots at Devereux Beach can hold 410 cars. This number is being cut in half to limit the number of people on the beach. It was suggested that both parking lots by the beach be for town residents only. There will be cash transactions (under guidelines) if residents don't have a sticker. Out of town people will be able to park in the Riverhead lot. Many beaches do not have any parking for non-residents.

Peter discussed his current staffing. Only one worker can be in a truck, and workers cannot drive their own cars to a site. The workforce is split so that if one person gets sick, it won't cause the whole staff to have to quarantine for 14 days.

Linda Rice Collins congratulated Peter and Jaime for the excellent job they have been doing. There has been a lot of criticism by townspeople on social media who do not understand the limitations under which they are working. They are keeping up with the fields as best they can. There is no money to outsource mowing for now. It was suggested that perhaps some landscapers could adopt a field for a while. Hopefully the upcoming press release will help explain what is happening.

Jack Attridge attended the meeting and offered to hold a state of the town on Facebook on the All Marblehead website to update the town on what is going on in the Rec and Parks department.