



RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION -January 29, 2026

LWVM Observer: Brigitte Lagoutte

Members in attendance: Jaime Bloch, Larry Simpson, Karin Ersnst, Shelly Bedrosian, Chris Kennedy, Peter James. Rosanna Ferrante (Chair) was absent.

The minutes of the January 12 meeting were approved.

There was a recognition for Peter James, Superintendent of the Park Commission, for his service of 39 years to the Town. Peter is going to retire at the end of January. He was thanked profusely for his work and dedication.

Support for Town's Parks:

Kathy Bradford, Charlene Tyler, Paul Green, Brigitte Lagoutte were present to introduce the Commission to the newly founded group Friends of the Parks of Marblehead led by Larry Simpson. The group would like to improve the quality and the environment of the parks by adding a variety of native plants and shrubs in order to encourage biodiversity (biological diversity), the interconnection of life on earth between all living organisms, insects, animals and plants. Consequently, this will reduce maintenance as the grass areas will be reduced while leaving intact the current spaces allocated for recreation. Native plants generally don't need to be watered as some non-native plants do. The group will also do some fundraising: garden tours, native plants sale and private donations. They want to engage the community and to have an educational role as well. The Commission was positively receptive to the group and will support their projects. The group needs time to design and organize the new areas and will meet again with the Commission at a future date when they are ready with their plans to become a non-profit organization and design the areas of

planting. Their first target will be the Glabicky Park at the entrance of Marblehead on Route 114.

This is the beginning of a nice and productive partnership which will improve the quality of our parks.

Department projects:

- The ramp access at Stramski Park is almost done.
- The Riverhead beach leases will be released soon to allow the rental businesses to function during the warm season.
- The Rec. Commission is also starting to work on their programming of activities for the coming season

Memorial Policy Discussion:

The Memorial Policy booklet is still being reviewed. The person honored must have been a Marblehead resident for at least 25 years. Other aspects of the policy are being revised.

Recreation and Parks update:

- Jaime is underway with programming for the spring season.
- On January 23, there was a gathering at the Marblehead Community Center for the retirement celebration of Peter James who has kept our parks running for 39 years!

Correspondence:

There was a request for a wedding ceremony taking place at Chandler Hovey Park for July 11. It was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.