



OBSERVER REPORT

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 6 pm. Judy and Gene Jacobi Community Center
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

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

Appearances

Palma Bickford of the Tree Committee of Sustainable Marblehead gave a power point presentation about working with the Recreation and Park Department on a project to donate landscaping to various parks in town. There has already been landscaping planted at the Community Center. Future projects include designing and implementing landscaping projects at Chandler Hovey, Gatchell's Green, and the Hamond Nature Center with a combination of financial donations and volunteer labor.

Don Morgan from the Marblehead Conservancy Trails Committee reported on how the Recreation and Parks Department has assisted the Conservancy in maintaining 5 miles of trails (100+ acres), removing invasive plants at the rear of Seaside, Robinson Farm, Turner Woods, and the Lead Mills where they are trying to grow more wildflowers and pollinators, and installing boardwalks in various wetlands. Volunteers do all the work, but Rec and Park donates the use of machinery when necessary. The Commission approved a motion to continue their commitment to assist the Conservancy Trails Committee.

Athletic Field Management

There was discussion of prioritizing the park's athletic fields over the school fields. The school fields will be aerated and fertilized, and seeded, but no extras.

Stramski House

There is now water to the house. Framing at the front entrance needs adjustment. There will be plans for a grand opening in spring.

Reynolds Playground

Peter presented plans for fencing at the Meadow Lane entrance. A motion was made and passed to send a letter to the Selectmen requesting a meeting to discuss the plan for Reynolds Playground.

Parks

Peter got roofing estimates of \$6300 for the Lighthouse bathrooms and \$16,000 for the Nature Center. He will find out if he needs to send out for bids.

Recreation

A motion was approved to appropriate \$36,000 from the Shattuck Fund to purchase new sailboats for the sailing program, and to use the revolving fund to buy up to 9 boats total. Jaime will manage the purchase and costs.

The Sunday ski trip to Bradford for 3rd through 6th graders was a huge success and she hopes to have another one. Planning for summer programs is underway.

Website

There will be a meeting on Monday, January 31 at 5:30 on Zoom to discuss the three proposals for the website

The Recreation and Parks Department cannot accept liability for the biking trails on the West Shore/Green Street property as this property belongs to the School Department.

The Commission members presented Chip with balloons and a card of appreciation for his 20 years of service to the Commission.