

Town of Raynham, Massachusetts

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Park & Rec Commission Meeting 2/2/2016

MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION Regular Monthly Meeting, Feb. 2, 2016, 6:00 p.m. South School, 305 South Street East, Raynham, MA

In Attendance: Chairman Chris Shaw, Commissioner Jim Brow, Commissioner Jim Sullivan, Director Elizabeth Francis, and Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary SJ Blanchard.

Chairman Chris Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Jim B. made a motion to approve as printed the minutes of the Jan. 5, 2016 meeting. Jim S. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

In attendance was Tony Arruda of 84 Tremont Street, Rehoboth, MA. He currently holds two leases for separate parcels of agricultural acreage at Borden Colony, and each lease was drawn up separately with different end dates. The first is for seven acres with a lease term running from June 12, 2012 through Dec. 30, 2016; and the second is for an additional 7.5 acres with a lease term that began in April 2013 and running through Dec. 30, 2017. Arruda is hoping that the town will consolidate these two leases into one. In addition, he is hoping to gain an additional 5 to 6 acres from an adjacent parcel located to the rear of McKenney Field. Currently, this adjacent parcel lacks sufficient drainage and its weeds encroach upon his hay crop. He is looking to clean it up, add drainage, and if it still proves to be too wet for haying, he will keep it mowed. Currently, the Department contracts out the mowing of unused agricultural land, as required by the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on the land. Liz noted that the state reviewed the APR land here at Borden Colony in December 2014 and at that time, it was pleased with the land use. She also stated that she has spoken to the fire chief about the possibility of doing a controlled burn of the vegetation in the areas where it is too difficult to get mowers into due to ruts and brush.

Jim S. made a motion that the commission support Arruda's plans for the property; Jim B. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. Liz suggested that Arruda put together a proposal to encompass all of his leased parcels into one lease and submit it, along with a letter of support from the commission, to the Board of Selectmen

Liz asked commissioners to table the discussion and vote on 2016 participant / program fee increases. She said that she is currently in the midst of doing the department's FY2017 budget and that she'd have a better idea of where the fees need to be at next month's meeting. Jim B. made a motion to table the matter until the March meeting. Jim S. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Liz reported on the following:

- Jeremy Melesky of the Raynham Giants has forwarded the Randall Electric bill for the lights at Bettencourt Field, with the hope that the town will be able to reimburse the league for a portion of the \$1,480 expense. The repairs were necessitated by usual wear and tear and age and not as a result of abuse. Jim B. noted that the cracked box in the ground was not repaired and Liz said that she has contacted Randall Electric and told them that it needs to be addressed. She went on to

say that the department does have money from field rentals in the budget which is earmarked for repairs such as this and that she would be comfortable with paying half of the bill. The Chairman indicated that he, too, would support splitting the bill 50/50 with the Giants. It was noted that Raynham Lacrosse did not contribute towards this expense. Jim B. abstained from voting on the matter because he is a Giants board member. Jim S. made a motion that the Department pay half of the bill; Chris seconded the motion and Chris and Jim S. voted in favor of it.

- She was contacted last week by B-R maintenance head Al Baroncelli who said that there is a problem with the motor which raises and lowers a basketball hoop in the RMS gym. The hoop is currently in the “down” position and is usable and a vendor has indicated that the cost of replacing the motor would be \$3,898. B-R Supt. Derek Swenson is requesting that the Department contribute towards the replacement cost. Currently, the Department pays a custodial fee to the school district for each hour that we use the gym for our youth basketball program. In addition, the Department paid for half of last year’s RMS track repairs, as well as half of the costs associated with remediating the irrigation problems there. Liz pointed out that the gym has a very specific audience, that other travelling teams use it as well, and that we are not responsible for raising and lowering the hoops ourselves for our use. In addition, the Department provided portable hoops at the LaLiberte School and they are also used by the students there. The Department also covers the costs of surface chips at the playground, among other things. Jim S. opined that the cost of repairs to the motor for the basketball hoops is not our responsibility and Jim B. concurred.

The following spring field-use permit requests were acted on:

- Raynham Youth Lacrosse requests the use of the Arruda, RMS, and Legion soccer fields, the Borden Colony multi-purpose, South School and RMS upper fields for games and practices between April 1 and June 30, 2016. Weekend use would be between 8 a.m. and dusk and weekday use would be from 5 p.m. to dusk. Liz noted that her plan is to switch age groups and the direction of play on Borden Colony fields annually rather than resting a field a year. Jim B. made a motion to approve this request; Jim S. seconded and a unanimous vote followed.
- Raynham Youth Soccer submitted a request for the use of all three Borden Colony soccer fields and its multi-purpose field from March 28 through June 30, 2016. Weekend use would be between 8 a.m. and dark and weekday use would be from 4 p.m. to dark. Liz noted that nine teams will be consolidated onto two fields, and the Chairman added that all start dates are to be determined. Jim B. made a motion to approve this request; Jim S. seconded and a unanimous vote followed.
- Ryan Aronoff submitted a request on behalf of the Raynham Masters Over-the-Hill Soccer League for the use of the three Borden Colony soccer fields from 8 to 10 on Sunday mornings between March 27 and June 12, 2016. Jim S. made a motion to approve this request with a fee of \$550; Jim B. seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Commissioners also acted on the following requests, for which no hard copies were submitted:

- RYBSA requests the use of all town diamonds, including fields 1 – 7 at the Merrill complex, as well as the McKenney, Burke, South School and RMS fields. Jim S. made a motion to approve; Jim B. seconded and a unanimous vote followed.
The official use schedule will be forthcoming.
- The East Coast Bulls, a U13 baseball team, requests the use of McKenney field for two seasons, from March 26 – July 30, 2016. Their roster shows that the majority of the players are not Raynham residents. Liz advised that any approval would need to be contingent upon receipt of RYBSA’s schedule, and the Chairman indicated that he would be comfortable voting at this time with said contingency. Jim S. made the motion to grant approval with a 2-season field-use fee of \$1,100, and

contingent upon field availability after receipt of RYBSA's schedule. Jim B. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

- The Mass. Drifters softball program requests the use of fields 1 – 7 at the Merrill complex, as well as the softball field at RMS from 5 to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends from March 15 – Aug. 15, 2016. Jim B. made a motion to approve the request with a 2-season field-use fee of \$1,100, and contingent upon field availability after receipt of RYBSA's schedule. Jim S. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Jim S. asked about the repairs needed at the Reid Field and Liz responded that a gate will be installed at the left side near third base.

The Chairman noted that the freshly-painted walls at the office look good.

SJ noted that after compiling it, she had emailed a draft of the Department's 2015 Annual Report to the Town to each Commissioner. After their review, Jim B. made a motion to accept it for publication in the Annual Report. Jim S. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Liz distributed copies of the Department's December 2015 month-ending accounting report to the Commissioners and she reviewed it with them. She pointed out that spending is in line with where it should be at the half-way point in the fiscal year.

Liz presented a scholarship request for 5 days/week after-school childcare for one child. The family circumstances are that one parent is a veteran, both parents are currently enrolled full-time in college, one is disabled and one has a serious chronic disease. One of the parents works part-time, and the child qualifies for the school's free lunch program. Jim B. made a motion to offer the family a full (100% off the weekly fee of \$80) scholarship through the end of the current school year. Jim S. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
SJ Blanchard
Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

