

Town of Raynham, Massachusetts

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Park & Rec Commission Minutes 1/5/2016

MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION Regular Monthly Meeting, Jan. 5, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Raynham Senior Center, 2215 King Philip Street, 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 6:04 p.m. Jim B. made a motion to approve as printed the minutes of the Dec. 1, 2015 meeting. Jim S. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Liz reported on the following:

- Relative to the walking trail at the Raynham State Forest located off Locust Street, Liz has received an email forwarded to her by State Rep. Angelo D’Emilia. The email provided information regarding grants available through the state’s Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In reviewing the specific grant application requirements, Liz noticed that many times, the property owner must sign off on the grant application; however, it isn’t clear what is required in the case of state (DCR) ownership. She has been in touch with representatives from the Energy & Environmental Affairs Dept. and was told that they’d touch base with the DCR people and see if there are any opportunities available through them. D’Emilia has said that he would do what he can on his end if she applies for any state grants.

Highway Dept. workers have cut back the brush and moved it off the trails. Currently, there is room to park about 5 or 6 cars adjacent to Locust Street; this space needs gravel. Highway Foreman Tom Bullock plans to put in boulders in an attempt to keep ATVs out of the wooded area. Additional funds are needed for signage, trash receptacles, parking improvements, and for some labor reimbursement. Liz said that walking the loop’s perimeter currently takes about 10 minutes.

Locust Street resident Kerry Koslowski has informed Liz via email that neighbors are impressed with the improvements being made.

- RYBSA hasn’t definitively let Liz know whether or not the routine field maintenance has been completed; and she has not yet heard back from the organization relative to their proposed changes.

With an eye towards upcoming spring field-use assignments, Liz is suggesting that the recently re-sodded Bettencourt Field be given a year’s rest from lacrosse play and having lacrosse use the Burke soccer field in 2016, return to play at Bettencourt in 2017, then go to the Arruda soccer field in 2017 and continue to switch off fields annually. Liz also said that she will ask lacrosse to consider using the field at the South School for practices and weekend games, rather than using the field at RMS. This will

alleviate the stress of heavy use during a short period of time on the same fields. She added that while the South School field space is somewhat less than regulation size for the elder lacrosse players, it is sufficient for U9 practices.

Liz advised the Commission that in light of the state's Jan. 1, 2016 minimum wage increase from \$9/hr. to \$10/hr., consideration needs to be given to rate increases for the childcare and summer playground programs. She urged that the rate hikes be sufficient enough to also encompass next January's minimum wage increase to \$11/hr. These significant cost increases to program staffing will result in implementing some changes to staffing patterns and other cost-saving measures, such as instituting less expensive playground program field trips. However, the costs of running the school-year childcare programs are more fixed. New rates will need to be set by late March or early April for next fall's childcare programs, and by late April or early May for this summer's playground program in order to provide timely notice to the parents.

Raynham Channel director Mike Heylin, whose offices recently moved to the South School, has offered the use of the conference room there for Commission meetings. Starting with the Feb. 2, 2016 meeting, monthly Park & Rec Commission meetings will take place at the South School, located at 305 South Street East, Raynham.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SJ Blanchard

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary