

# Town of Raynham, Massachusetts

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## Park & Rec Commission Regular Monthly Meeting - Dec. 6, 2016

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

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

Chairman Jim Brow called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Chris S. made a motion to approve the minutes of the Nov. 1, 2016 meeting. Jim B. seconded the motion and the two voted in favor. Jim S. abstained from voting as he had been absent from the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Liz reported that the article requesting \$23,000 in free cash funds to refurbish the town's outdoor basketball courts won voter approval at the Nov. 14 town meeting. Highway Supt. Ed Buckley has included the asphalt amount needed for this project in his regional bid. It is hoped that grounds-crew workers will be able to take down the fencing there over the winter. Including funds raised and set aside prior to the town meeting, there is approximately \$43,000 to \$45,000 available and earmarked for this project.

Liz again met recently with Sel. Joe Pacheco and residents interested in establishing a local dog park. The Board of Selectmen is agreeable to the use of town-owned land located near the Titicut Road sewer department for this purpose. Liz is proposing the construction of expandable walking trails there, with common areas where dogs would be allowed off-leash. The Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation has a 20/80 matching funds grant, and monetary figures representing the town's site work can be included towards its 20% figure. The current grant cycle deadline is February 1, 2017, so there isn't enough time to pursue funding in this cycle, but she will look into applying for the following year.

Having reviewed copies of the Department's 2016 field-use application with an eye towards any changes for 2017, Commissioners concurred that neither the verbiage nor the fees would be changed for the upcoming year. Liz noted that while the field-use fees charged by other towns vary significantly, as well as the collection methods utilized, she feels that our rates are reasonable and that we aren't hurting for additional income. Jim S. made a motion to change only the dates on the application; Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

The following meeting dates were established for the first six months of 2017: Jan. 3; Feb. 7; March 7; April 4; May 2; and June 6. All meeting dates fall on Tuesdays, and will begin at 6 p.m.

Jim S. made a motion to have SJ Blanchard author the Department's 2016 annual report to the town. The motion was seconded by Chris S. and a unanimous vote followed.

The Chairman asked whether replacement 50-gallon steel drums had been obtained for use as trash barrels near Bettencourt Field and other areas at the Merrill athletic complex. Liz will follow up on this for the spring.

Chris Shaw suggested that perhaps money could be found in the current budget for new desk chairs at the office, particularly to replace Liz's squeaky chair.

Liz reported on the following:

- The town's building inspector has completed an inspection of the structural integrity of the two-car garage located at the rental property at 2000 King Philip Street; and he deemed it worth saving. It has been noted that the re-siding of this building would be considered a construction project and as such, it must be advertised and bids sought. The work is slated to take place before the end of FY17. Chris Shaw said that he has vinyl-clad windows he'd be willing to donate to replace those broken on the garage; Liz asked that he get her the measurements.
- American Awnings of New Bedford has erected a new awning over a rear door at the South School.
- Practices for the Department's youth basketball league started this week.
- Liz met recently with new RYBSA president Tim Brokmeier and went over policies, timelines, etc. with him.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
*SJ Blanchard*  
Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary