**MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Regular Monthly Meeting, April 12, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

**Gymkhana Building, King Phillip St, Raynham, MA**

**In attendance:** Chairman Josh Daisy, Commissioner Chris Shaw, Commissioner Jim Brow, Director Tim McRae, and Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary Samantha Sturtevant.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:06p.m. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7th meeting. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Josh called for old business.

**Old Business (3):**

1. *Town Fields*

Tim reached out to the Water Department in regards to meeting with them. Norm and Tim are going to go to their meeting. Unfortunately, their may agenda is already full so they are not able to get in until June. Norm and Tim are going on Monday June 12th to work on trying to get some type of waiver for the department so they can get the fields watered down at the complex. Other than that, Norm is finishing up the baseball fields and they’re good to go.

Chris asked if the Highway Department is getting help from Bristol Plymouth.

Tim said that they’ve been helping by dragging out some of the fields and taking care of the lining on the Arruda field but other than that Norm and the guys have been maintaining the fields.

1. *Raynham State Forrest*

The state came out and cut down some trees out front. They missed one big one in the back corner. Tim reached out to them again to try to have them come back and get that one down and to also cut one more tree that’s across the trail. They took out some of the dead trees there which was nice. The Eagle Scouts will be going out there this Saturday and next Saturday to do their clean-up.

Jim said that he was out there a week ago walking his dog and when he was coming out of the trail, there was a guy walking out there with his teenage son. He thinks it was the eagle scouts planning out their work which was nice to see.

1. *Bristol Plymouth*

The only time Tim had to cancel so far was March 31st due to the rain because he didn’t want the field torn up the first game of the season. Other than that, so far so good, they have been great.

Chris said that he had received some positive feedback from some of the parents in town who have kids who go to Bristol Plymouth and they are overly appreciative of the opportunity so they did the right thing.

The chairman called for new business.

**New Business (2):**

1. *Eagle Scout Project*

Tim reached out to another Eagle Scout Troop for a project. This Eagle Scout is interested in putting more flagpoles around town. He’s interested in putting flagpoles by the gazebo. There are already three flagpoles on Borden Colony at this time, the question is whether or not they want more. Tim doesn’t mean any disrespect but at what point is there two many flagpoles in one area.

Jim agreed that it loses its effect. He asked if there are areas identified that need them.

Tim mapped out where there are currently flagpoles standing on Borden Colony.

Jim loves the idea but he’s not sure if there is a need for more in that area,

Chris asked if there is currently an American Flag raised on each of the three poles.

Tim answered that there is currently only one American Flag raised on one of the three poles.

Chris is just concerned about the flag etiquette. When it’s raining out, is it coming down, is it illuminated at night, are they lowering it for inappropriate reasons etc. If he was leaning towards voting for another flagpole there, the concern would be the flag etiquette. If he wants to put a flagpole there and he would have to be willing to come hang it and raise it.

Tim said that he will relay the feedback. He will speak with him and see if he is willing to go to those lengths.

1. *Spring Field Use Permit Applications (4)*

*Randall F. Karson*

Looking for his annual permit for the men’s adult baseball league he is a part of that plays during the week. They only need ten games this year and they’re not playing on weekends, either Tuesdays and Thursdays starting in late May. Last year they were approved for a fee of $600.

Jim made a motion to approve Randall F. Karson’s permit for McKenney Babe Ruth Field starting May 9, 2023 through September 14, 2023 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. for a total of ten games. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Raynham Giants Football*

Looking to start on august 1st. Monday – Friday practice and Sunday for home games, using Borden Colony softball outfield, the Merrill Baseball fields, Bettencourt, and Mill Street. Last year they were approved for no fee.

Jim said that he’s assuming there are two permit applications with August 1st it’s just going to overlap.

Tim said that they will probably get that second permit application in sometime in July.

Chris made a motion to approve the Raynham Giants Football field permit application for Borden Colony Softball Field, Merrill Baseball Fields, Bettencourt Football Field, and the Legion Soccer Field on Mill Street starting August 1, 2023 – November 23, 2023 Monday – Friday from 5:30p.m. – 8:00p.m. for practice and 4 home games on Sundays from 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. for no fee. Jim seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Special Olympics Track and Field*

They are starting a track and field team and are looking to use the Raynham Middle School track for a few weeks starting on April 23rd on Sundays. They have been approved in the past for no fee.

Jim made a motion to approve the Special Olympics Track and Field permit application to use the Raynham Middle School track starting April 23, 2023 – June 18, 2023 on Sundays from 5:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*R.A.V.E.*

Looking to use the gazebo on the day of the Memorial Day Parade after their ceremony from 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. IN the past years, they have been approved for no fee.

Chris made a motion to approve the R.A.V.E. permit application for the gazebo on Saturday May 27, 2023 from 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. Jim seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Jim Brow:** There’s been some concerns about cancellations. He had tried explaining to the individual that they try to maintain the fields and try to give them a heads-up before they cancel so that it’s not last minute. He welcomed them to attend a meeting if they had some further discussion around this. Jim said that he was in the same boat back in the day but being in the position he is in now, he now realizes how much it costs to keep the fields the way they are. If they have any concerns they are welcome to come to the meeting.

Tim said that with that situation, he was in contact with the lead president. They both in agreement with the storm coming in especially it only being April 1st. It poured so bad that they had to move the Easter Egg Hunt event inside on Saturday April 1st.

Jim said that they had concerns in regards to paying the referees. However, he doesn’t remember what happens if they don’t end up refereeing a game.

Chris said it all depends on the relationship they have. Each organization has their own bylaws that they agree upon. Would they rather pay a couple of refs for not refereeing one game or would they rather pay to have the fields resurfaced?

Jim said that it’s a tough balance especially this time of year. They used to have the same problems with baseball.

**Chris Shaw:** Chris thanked Josh for his work as a member of the Commission over the years. He is super impressed with not only his position but as a human being. He talks around Town to people and they recognize him as a young person being a hard worker and getting his life started. To volunteer his time to come out and do this, he should be commended. He sets an example.

Jim said that he was involved with sports for a long time and then he got involved with the commission years ago. It’s good to see younger generations get involved with the community and town politics. It’s encouraging to see. He thinks that a lot of folks think things like this just happen, that fields are second to none, and not all folks understand that it takes getting involved. Seeing young people get involved is great to see and it holds the line.

**Josh Daisy:** Thanked Jim, Chris, Tim, Sammi, and the entire staff. It’s been fun.

**Staff Reports:**

**Tim reported the following:**

-Tim met with the Finance Committee. everything went well that night. He received an email that all expenses have been now flatlined. Tim made some adjustments to the account so they will have the same budget numbers from fiscal year 2023 as they will for fiscal year 2024.

-T.M.L.P. did an awesome job replacing the light poles. They replaced the football field lights and field four so they are in good shape.

-Fertilizing will begin next week. Merrill Complex will be Monday, Borderland will be Tuesday, and the rest of the small areas on Wednesday.

-The soccer concession stand is going to be painted.

-Flyers have been released today for the Summer Playground Program so they’re good to go.

-Tim concluded by thanking Josh.

Chris added that the town is going to be having some financial difficulties. He thinks that they need to start preparing and looking at that budget line item by line item to whittle down some areas because its only a matter of time. They really have to pay attention to spending and maybe look at some areas. He thinks that regardless of what’s going on with this board in the future, they can get in front of this and maybe lead by example when it comes to some of the other departments in town. They can whittle down the budget to do our part. He thinks its appropriate when discussing the budget, that everybody is aware of how much of a difficulty that they will be in over the next couple of years.

**Sammi:** Sammi congratulated Abigail for winning the jellybean contest. She guessed 1360 and the total was 1412. Lastly, she extended a thank you to Josh.

Josh entertained a motion to adjourn. Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary