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

**Regular Monthly Meeting, August 2, 2022 6:00 p.m.**

**Raynham Senior Center, 2215 King Phillip St, Raynham, MA**

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:57p.m. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12th meeting. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Josh called for old business.

**Old Business (1):**

1. *Chris Laviolette*

Chris was going to come in tonight to follow-up with the conversation they had a few weeks ago about the childcare account. Tim said that he will talk to him and they can reschedule.

The chairman called for new business.

**New Business (2):**

1. *McKenney Field*

Tim said that it’s been about seven or eight years since they have had the infield redone. Every year the infield mix builds up the base lines so when a ground ball hits, it shoots right up. They are in the process of getting quotes to see what the cost of the infield will be as well as raise the pitcher’s mound. Tim said that he is also working on getting bids to raise the fence.

Josh asked if it needs to be raised or replaced.

Tim said that since the fence is thirty years old they will replace the whole thing. It will be a capitol plan that will have to go to the fall town meeting once he gets the bids in. Tim said that with something like that, he will have to advertise out to get three written bids, take the best price as long as they have the qualifications that they need.

1. *Little Free Library*

Girl Scouts are looking to put up a Little Free Library. There is one currently at Johnson’s Pond. Tim hasn’t received the details yet but they are looking to put one at Borden Colony or at the Basketball Court. Tim said that there are pros and cons to both. There are one or two of those already in town so it’s a question as to if we want another one or not. Another thing to consider is the location so we don’t risk vandalization.

Jim asked how often the one at Johnson’s Pond gets used.

Tim said that it’s hard to tell. Some days it’s completely full, other days not so much. It’s hard to tell because a couple have popped up as well as little pantries. It’s a good project to do but we don’t want to have too many out there to the point where there is so many that they don’t get used as much or some may minimally get used.

Josh asked if there was a recycling bin they have done before.

Tim said that it may have been the Boy Scouts. It’s something that when they do bring the project proposal, they really have to figure out if it’s something that they want because there are already a couple out there.

Jim said that it’s nice to do but if they’re doing it just to do it as a project choice then it might not serve its purpose.

Tim said that in his opinion, a better place to put it would be somewhere on Borden Colony because there is already so much going on at the schools. There has been some vandalizing with the concession stand so there are those things to consider.

1. *Fall Field-Use Permit Application’s*

*Scholarship Request Form*

Tim said that he had received a request for a scholarship for the Before and Afterschool Program. After reviewing the documents, Tim recommends a scholarship for this family.

After Jim and Josh reviewed the Scholarship Request Form, Jim asked what it would entail.

Tim said that he recommends a full scholarship.

Jim made a motion to accept the Scholarship Request Form as a full scholarship.

*Bridgewater-Raynham Special Olympics*

Tim said that last month they approved soccer for the Special Olympics. This month, they are asking for football. They are looking for Sundays 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m. at the Raynham Middle School football field and once they’re done then soccer will pick right up. There are no conflicts with them. Tim would just like to remind them to make sure that their trash is picked up. They did not charge a fee for soccer.

Jim made a motion to approve the Bridgewater-Raynham Special Olympics permit for the Raynham Middle School Football field on Sundays from 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m. for no fee. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Fearless One Sports Academy*

They are looking for a one-season permit to run practices and drills for softball. The field that would work for Thursday nights and Sunday mornings would be the Raynham Middle School softball field because they do still have some Men’s softball groups going on at Borden Colony and Reid Field. Besides that, there are no conflicts except on Thursdays, they may have to start a little later if the soccer teams at the school run late.

Jim made a motion to approve the Fearless One Sports Academy permit for Mondays and Thursday nights for a fee of $600. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Jim Brow:** Jim asked for any update on the Raynham State Forrest. It looks like they did some work.

Tim said that they had started and then they stopped. Tim has been communicating with them. He said that he was down there a couple of weeks ago. The initial trail isn’t bad but once he approached the loop he noticed the problem.

Jim said that it looked like they had already started from the residential side.

Tim said that coming from the other way there is a tree leaning.

Jim said that there are a bunch of trees leaning.

Tim said that he will reach out to them again. As he mentioned last time, they had a position change but he will continue to communicate with them to get that work completed.

**Josh Daisy:** Josh said that he drove by Johnson’s Pond and saw the Boy Scouts out there. The board looks very nice.

Tim said that they already put up the main part of the informational board that they’re going to have and there’s four more little ones that’s going to have what’s in Johnson’s Pond and information about the plant life which will be nice.

Josh said that a benefit to having it there is that it’s always busy so a lot of people will see it.

Jim asked if the walking trails behind Pleasant Street belong to anyone or if they just happen to be there.

Tim said that those are just there.

Jim said that’s pretty cool.

Tim said that maybe in the future they can get some more cross-country trails and walking trails going on. That can be something that they look into in the future.

Josh said that he was walking around Borden Colony before the meeting and noticed the fence around the horse arena. They have talked about painting it in the past but it’s in pretty rough shape and asked if it is a part of the project over there.

Tim said that it’s not a part of the project. Tim agreed that the wood is so old.

Josh said that it’s a shame because the building is looking really nice so maybe that’s something that they can look into.

Tim said that he spoke to Marc Arcadipane and he had said the same thing. Tim said that he will look at the cost and they’ll go from there.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Nothing to report at this time.

Jim mentioned that he has been liking all of the Facebook photos from the Summer Program.

Sammi said that a lot of people have been liking them. There are a lot of campers in the photos and if the parents choose not to have their children’s picture taken then they sign a form in the beginning of the summer.

**Tim reported the following:**

-Tim spoke to the Water Department yesterday and they said that Park and Recreation has to limit how but they water down at the Merrill Complex. They have watered quite a bit but it could be a rough fall if they don’t get water on that football field. Tim also addressed the complaints about the water out at Borden Colony. He had checked with the Water Department and confirmed that it is from two private wells Tim wanted to clarify that there has been a misunderstanding and they are not using water involved with the house restrictions.

-Tim wanted to mention the dog park now that the meeting is a possibility now that COVID restrictions are back to somewhat normal. He would like to possibly set up a meeting mid-October with the residents in the neighborhood around Reid Field.

Josh mentioned that he was in Plainville and they had just built a nice one.

Tim said that he has had a lot of people who volunteer to help and he is stressing that it is important that they come to this meeting because they need to voice their opinion. Their voices are important as well.

-Tim said that interviews have started for Before and After school Program positions. If there is anyone is interested he said to please reach out to Emma or Tim.

-The yearly delivery of playground mulch is coming in two weeks. The Highway Department will be spreading that for them and getting it ready for the school year. Tim thanked them for all that they have been doing with their various projects around town now that they have more staff than they have had in the past.

-Heather is working on Fall programing. That information will be coming out in early September once school is back in session.

-Tim extended a congratulations to R.Y.B.S.A. for a very successful and very busy Monte tournament this past weekend.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary