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

**Regular Monthly Meeting, February 6, 2024 6:00 p.m.**

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

**In attendance:** Commissioner Chris Shaw, Commissioner Riley Menconi, Director Tim McRae, and Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary Samantha Sturtevant.

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m. Chris entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2nd meeting. Riley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2nd meeting. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Organization Representatives/ Town Officials/ Community Members**

Jay Messler Vice President of Raynham Giants Football and Ryan Schleicher introduced themselves. Passed around pictures across from the football shack. There is currently a giant tree that stands right next to the electrical. Jay would like to propose taking down the tree and putting the storage area there. One reason being, it’s starting to pull up the assault and another reason being that it is close to the electrical. Jay feels that it is a great spot to put the storage unit. He passed around photos of the area to the commission and explained the exact measurements to distinguish the amount of room they will have for the storage.

Ryan explained that the current storage space that they have is full of equipment and they can barely walk through the space.

Chris asked if they were referring to a Conex container. He recalled the town outlawed them about fifteen easier in regards to containers being used as storage facilities.

Ryan pointed out that there is one currently at field six. He wasn’t sure if that container was grandfathered in based on when that policy was instated.

Chris said that he thinks it was before that policy was put in place.

Jay can look into the policies in regards to using containers for storage with Bob.

Chris figured that would be a good idea before they plan too far into it just to be sure. He has no problem with it and thinks that it’s a great idea.

Jay said that Ryan had mentioned maybe even getting it painted with the sports style graffiti with the Raynham Giants logo on it.

Chris asked if they still have a slightly used baseball/softball equipment bin that the kids can use.

Ryan said that they usually put one out.

Chris said that he has a bunch of softball pants in good condition that he can bring over when the time comes.

Tim asked how the commission would like to proceed if the Conex container were to be approved after the research.

Chris said that he would approve and give permission for that storage container. The only precaution would be communicating to the school what is going on. The principals are understandably protective of the property for multiple reasons. They may just want to reach out to the school board, Ryan Powers, and see what his thoughts are on that.

Tim said that when the time comes, he can also reach out to both sets of principals to help out.

Ryan clarified that the commission has the overriding authority and they want to make sure that it’s done the right way.

Chris said that to the best of his knowledge, technically, the town owns the land and the buildings of the school district. The school district leases them from the town which means that during normal school business hours, they have authority or control of the property during the school day. The playground and play area is used out there so it’s better to communicate to them just in case.

Tim said that he can provide them the dates of the construction. He can also help answer any questions that they may have.

Ryan presented a thank you card to the commission in regards to the bleachers. They truly appreciate the support of the organization and the project.

Tim and Chris both said that they look great.

It was great to see the work done. It’ll be even more great to see all of the visitors utilizing it.

Chris said that he is very happy that they were able to do this project.

Jay mentioned that they have more projects lined up. They are planning to repair the football shack. There is a lot deuterating.

Ryan mentioned that during the most recent sleet storm that they had, the water was just pouring in.

Jay is thinking that work on the siding and the roof would be the best way to go.

Jay and Ryan concluded by thanking the commission.

Chris called for old business.

**Old Business (3):**

1. *McKenney Field Fence*

Tim let the commission know that he spoke to the company again last week. They are looking at early March. There has been consistent dry weather so hopefully the field is firming up. Tim checked the field which has already improved just over the past few days. As long as there are no major snow storms, it could be up as soon as March.

1. *Eagle Scout Project*

Tim announced that the rock at Johnson’s Pond has been completed. Tim provided a picture for the commission.

Chris noticed that you can clearly read the names.

Tim pointed out an Eagle carved on there as well that hasn’t been clear enough to notice but is now in better conditioned after being very carefully polished. It took him about four weekends of work. He had stopped in today so Tim could sign some final paperwork for him. Wayne did a terrific job and the department greatly appreciates what he did. He was out there Sunday in the cold working under a small tent and it was great to see all of his hard work that he put into the project.

1. *Youth Basketball Program Update*

Tim said that basketball is on its fifth week. things are going great so far. They have three more weeks to go. There will not be any basketball on Saturday February 24th due to February Vacation. Tim said he greatly appreciates Heather for all that she does for the program and Sammi for helping out. Tim wanted to remind families that the coaches and referees are volunteers and that they need to respect them on and off of the court. He would like to reiterate that there is a code of conduct and this instructional program is for the kids to learn and have fun. Tim also extended a thank you to the referees from Taunton High School and the nice program that they are offering there. The kids are doing a wonderful job, working hard, and may lead to future relationships with other leagues as well.

Chris called for new business.

**New Business (3):**

1. *Jay Messler Giants/Lacrosse*

Moved to beginning of the meeting.

1. *Summer Playground Program*

Tim said that planning has begun for the summer playground program. They are currently running ideas as well as brainstorming to keep things fresh and tweak some things here and there. Tim mentioned that they have been brainstorming to make a schedule change or try different field trips. They have considered starting or ending earlier or possibly doing half-days on Fridays. When Tim first started it was 8:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. but has since been altered to 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. Tim asked the commissions thoughts.

Riley asked if they would still do the half-day program.

Tim said that they would still run the half-day program as is.

Riley asked how many spots are open in the afternoon.

Tim said for the half-day there are about thirty spots and the full-day about ninety spots. This past summer the program as well as the waiting list were completely full.

Chris asked what it would take to move more kids from the waitlist and into the program.

Tim said that it would take more space. They could probably fit a few more into the program however, this past summer the program was at capacity. The daycare room upstairs on a hot day with a full room of campers gets very hot. On Tuesday afternoons they typically have movie afternoons with a big projector screen from FunFlicks, on Wednesdays the campers go swimming, and every Thursday, there is a full-day field trip. There are shows and other events coming in every single week but they are trying to come up with new ideas to keep it fresh because eventually, it gets stagnant for the campers. The only thing that they are waiting on is the official start date. They are currently looking at Monday June 24th but again, it all depends if there’s going to be some kind of snowstorm that may cause a delay in the seasons start times.

Riley asked when the last day of school is this year.

Tim said that it is Friday June 14th which is early. It will give them time to prepare for the program. Between Juneteenth and if there were to be three potential snow days, the days off would ultimately push the program start date to the Thursday of the following week. One or two snow days wouldn’t make that difference but all it takes is one storm to push the dates back if there are a multitude of snow days. Those are just some ideas that are up in the air.

Chris shared this thoughts about revising the hours and stressed the importance of communication.

Tim said that it would be a general email blast that would go out if that were the case. It may stay 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. but they are trying to look at all options. Week one through three are pretty good. The second half of camp is when the tired and staff begin to get tired. They are meeting with Ryan next week to solidify the dates. It also depends on the number of available staff that they have and making sure that everything they need is there.

1. *Spring Field Use Permit Applications (11)*

*-Bridgewater Raynham Girls Youth Lacrosse*

Looking for game days April 1, 2024 – June 16, 2024 from 8:30a.m. – 4:00p.m. on Sundays only for home games at the Bettencourt Football Field. It was approved last year for a fee of $600.00.

Chris made a motion to approve the Bridgewater Raynham Girls Youth Lacrosse permit for a fee of $600.00. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*- Bridgewater Raynham Girls Youth Lacrosse*

Looking for their practices April 1, 2024 – June 16, 2024 from 8:30a.m. – 4:00p.m. Monday – Friday at the Legion Soccer Field.

Chris made a motion to approve the Bridgewater Raynham Girls Youth Lacrosse permit for a fee of $600.00. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*- Bridgewater Raynham Girls Youth Lacrosse*

For a Wednesday night practice for their first through fourth grade teams April 1, 2024 – June 16, 2024 from 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. at the Bettencourt Football Field. Tim has already spoken to them to take the nets off of the fields after every game. When the nets sit there, they wear away the grass. Tim asked lacrosse if they are going to chain the nets outside of the fence. They had said that they moved them off last year, kids brought them back on the field, so if they take them off of the fields, to chain them so they don’t have to worry about them being moved back on the field during those days. The other issue that has been previously discussed, is if they are doing practices on Fridays or doing games on Sundays, they will need parents outlining the back in case the ball fly’s back there. People are typically watching baseball and softball games on fields four and five. The other thing is, Tim isn’t sure if they are going to play on Easter weekend, but if they do end up playing, then they will probably have to bring porta-potties in because the water will not be turned on until about the first or second week of the season. Other than that, there are no other issues.

Chris made a motion to approve the Bridgewater Raynham Girls Youth Lacrosse permit for a fee of $600.00. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-Raynham Youth Lacrosse*

Looking for their usual spring permit. April 1, 2024 – June 1, 2024 from 4:30p.m. – 7:00p.m. Tuesday – Thursday at R.M.S. Football field and Sundays 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. at Borden Colony for home games only. Tim has not set up the fields yet for the spring. It will most likely be at Mary Lou Arruda Field that they have lacrosse set up on. Last year it was approved for no fee.

Chris made a motion to approve the Raynham Youth Lacrosse permit for April 1, 2024 – June 1, 2024 from 4:30p.m. – 7:00p.m. Tuesday – Thursday at R.M.S. Football field and Sundays 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. at Borden Colony for home games only. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-R.Y.B.S.A.*

Looking for their second annual Paul Monte Softball Tournament. They did both last year together but this year they are doing them separately. The first one would be June 21, 2024 – June 23, 2024 from 8:00a.m. – 9:00p.m. at the Merrill Baseball Fields 1-7. It was approved last year for no fee.

Riley made a motion to approve the R.Y.B.S.A permit June 21, 2024 – June 23, 2024 from 8:00a.m. – 9:00p.m. at the Merrill Baseball Fields 1-7 for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-R.Y.B.S.A.*

Holding their Ten-Year-Old State Tournament starting June 28, 2024 – July 5, 2024 from 3:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. (June 28 – June 30, 2024 from 8:00a.m. – 8:00p.m.) at the Merrill School Baseball Fields 1-7. In the past there has been a charge for state and regional tournaments. In the past they were charged a season fee for $600.00 because they are looking for an additional week.

Chris said that 10:00p.m. is late.

Tim said that they always put 10:00p.m. but it always ends earlier.

Chris made a motion to approve the R.Y.B.S.A permit for June 28, 2024 – July 5, 2024 from 3:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. (June 28 – June 30, 2024 from 8:00a.m. – 8:00p.m.) at the Merrill School Baseball Fields 1-7 for a fee of $600.00. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-R.Y.B.S.A.*

Holding their Jared Monte Tournament from July 26, 2024 – July 28, 2024 from 8:00a.m. – 8:00p.m. at the Merrill Baseball Fields 1-7. Last year they were charged no fee.

Chris made a motion to approve the R.Y.B.S.A. permit as stated. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-Over the Hills Soccer League*

Looking for their annual spring permit starting April 7, 2024 – June 23, 2024 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. on Sundays at Borden Colony. Tim said that they will most likely be at the Burke Field for 11v11. Last spring, they were charged a fee of $600.00.

Chris made a motion to approve the Over the Hills Soccer League permit as stated. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-Raynham Youth Soccer*

Looking for their annual spring permit from March 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024 Monday – Friday from 3:00p.m. – 9:00p.m., Saturdays 7:00a.m. – 8:00p.m., and Sundays from 7:00a.m. – 7;00p.m. at the Borden Colony Fields (Sundays 7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m. 9v9 field, and 7:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. at the 11v11 field). Tim mentioned to them that the fields aren’t open until around April 1, 2024 so they are aware. Tim said that they will have to do their games at the 11v11 field for the afternoons being that the Over the Hills Soccer League plays their games in the morning on Sundays. If the lacrosse field is created, that would be the Mary Lou Arruda Field and Tim would break up the other three soccer fields for Flag Football when they do their permit. Other than that, there are no conflicts. Last year they were approved for no fee.

Chris approved the Raynham Youth Soccer permit as stated. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-Mass Rough Riders*

Looking for their annual permit to use the Horse Ring/Gymkhana Building and the Gazebo field April 1, 2024 – November 17, 2024 Saturdays and Sundays which they typically do from 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. Chris asked if they accidently marked the Borden Colony Multi-Purpose field.

Tim said yes. They are also aware that they cannot drive on marked off areas of the field. In the past they have been charged a fee of $600.00.

Chris asked if they will have access to a bathroom or if they will have to bring a porta-potty.

Tim said that the bathroom has been completed. So, they will have access to a bathroom. It looks good. The Christmas Tree Lighting supplies still has to be taken out but they can go through the door to get in there. They didn’t want to remove it while the construction was going on. Tim said that he will remind them that they have to clean it.

Chris made a motion to approve the Mass Rough Riders permit Horse Ring/Gymkhana Building and the Gazebo field April 1, 2024 – November 17, 2024 Saturdays and Sundays which they typically do from 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. for a fee of $600.00.00. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*-Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School*

B.P. is returning this year. This may be the last season because they may be looking at a location elsewhere in Taunton. Looking for a permit from March 18, 2024 – May 27, 2024 Monday – Friday from 3:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. at the Mary Lou Arruda Field and McKenney Babe Ruth Field. They did list the Borden Colony Cross Country for their long-distance runners but they no longer need that at this time. They’re going to be using Taunton High for that. If that extra field is created for lacrosse, that could just be dedicated for B.P. to have their games there only and Raynham Youth Lacrosse would have their games there on those designated Sundays as they did last year. They lined the fields last year but sometimes they go out there too often and paint too much which was starting to wear away the grass. Tim suggested that they let the paint fade a little before they go back out there and the paint gets too heavy and too thick. They do know that they will have to make due close to the first for the first couple of weeks for practices before games start. Hopefully the McKenney Field fence will be up before they start. Tim reminded them that they need to rake the fields more when they play their games. If they don’t rake it when they play, that’s when things start popping through. Last year they charged $600.00.00 per field so they are looking at a fee of $1,800.00 for three fields.

Chris made a motion to approve the Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School as stated. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Riley Menconi:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Chris Shaw:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Sammi referred back to the conversation at the beginning of the meeting in regards to the Conex storage container. She mentioned that if the it is approved and they need someone to paint the sports mural, she has a contact for that kind of work that they would like done.

**Tim reported the following:**

-Tim said that the budget season is approaching. He is just waiting for the budget sheets to come in. It is due Monday February 26th. Once those are in, he will spend the next couple of weeks working on the budget. As for capitol items, they will have to come up with a ten-year master plan for departments. He will be submitting that by Monday March 4th. The tennis court, pickleball court, fence project, and potentially a new vehicle due to the catalytic converter stolen having issues. There is no exact date set yet for Town Meeting but once he finds out then he will update the commission.

-Tim spoke to the historical society in regards to the back-concession stand. It is not a historical building so it can be knocked down as previously discussed last meeting.

-The small light pole that fell on field one, inside the dugout, T.M.L.P. came to clean it up.

-February Vacation Club is coming up in a couple of weeks. Heather is doing a wonderful job. The program and the waitlist are completely full.

-The bathroom has been completed at the Gymkhana building.

-Tim mentioned that he is a part of a few other committees in Raynham and announced that is working on putting a survey together to send out to the families of Raynham to see what their concerns are and how the town can help educate their kids on drug and alcohol abuse. Tim is also on the bi-weekly call shelter group. He has been getting updates and will keep the commission updated as well.

-Just a friendly reminder that the next meeting is Tuesday March 5th is the presidential primary. The meeting will remain at the Senior Center.

-Lastly, a new sub pump has been installed at the office so Tim doesn’t have to go down every few hours to pump the water out of the basement. It’s been working great.

Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary