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

**Regular Monthly Meeting, June 6, 2023 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 6:04p.m. Chris entertained a motion to approve the minutes of last month’s meeting. Riley made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2nd meeting. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Chris called for old business.

**Old Business (2):**

1. *Town Fields*

Tim said that the fields did really well this spring. Over the past couple of weeks, with the lack of rain with the exception of tonight, they have been getting worn down. They are getting ready to shut things down over at Borden Colony. B.P. is done, they did a wonderful this year and really enjoyed it. They’d like to come back and discuss the fall. Soccer will be over this weekend so after that they will shut three of the fields down and just leave Griffiths open so they can get them ready for the fall which is a very busy time. All of the water is turned on. The fields at Merrill and LaLiberte are looking good. Bettencourt has been worn down but it will get a decent amount of rest this summer.

Chris asked what wears them down.

Tim said frequent usage with people constantly being out there lately.

Chris asked if lacrosse was out there this year.

Tim said yes. It doesn’t get as much time to recover between the sports year in the fall and the weather doesn’t change in the meantime so come winter time, it dies out.

1. *Summer Playground Program Update*

The Summer Playground Program is completely full. They are at maximum capacity. It’s good that the summer is full but it’s a shame that there isn’t enough space on buses, field trips, etc. for everybody. Heather, Bethany, and Sammi have been working hard getting everything ready so they’ll be good to go for the summer.

Chris called for new business.

**New Business (3):**

1. *Giants/Bettencourt Field*

Tim said that Raynham Giants football has sent in a couple of requests. The first being the Bettencourt fence. There are no gates on any of the walk-through entrances.

Chris said that the town payed for the fence and the department payed for the field so he assumes it was cost related reasons.

Tim said that could’ve been a possibility as well as they could’ve not wanted to risk the field getting locked for gym class etc. They had requested to get gates on the field in order to avoid trash and to preserve the field when teams aren’t using them. the field are used during the summer time. During baseball season kids go out there to warm-up their arms when they’re getting ready to play. Tim said that he understands why they would like to keep the field closed to keep trash out and to preserve the field. However, it’s like that at all of the complexes unfortunately, Tim picks up trash around the basketball courts every morning. Tim asked what Chris thinks about the idea.

Chris said that there’s a gate that controls access to that field to the area. Chris constantly sees cars down that driveway. Its 5/0/50 between baseball and football, possibly, lacrosse. It’s been a while since there has been any voice for concern about it. He’s not sure if any of those parents down there running that organization know the concerns that he has. Chris said he would like to see that gate closed. As far as gates go, trash is going to get out there one way or another.

Tim said if the goal is to keep people off of the field by keeping the gates closed, they cannot lock them because the school needs to get out there.

Chris asked if the yellow chain is still out there from ten/fifteen years ago.

Tim said that the chain is still there. The other issue is that even if they put gates that lock out there, kids are still going to hop the fence. Tim doesn’t see much of a need for it but he wanted to discuss the commissions thoughts on the possibilities.

Chris said that there could be a further discussion with Mr. Messler as well as the share of cost. The way the youth organizations and fields and facilities have been run for as long as he has been involved. It’s a partnership. Sometimes its give and take and sometimes its together.

Tim said that the second request is in regards to the visitor’s bleachers. They had received one quote for the visitor’s bleachers with an estimate of $16,000. 21ft long and 16ft wide.

Chris asked if it has five rows.

Tim said yes. The only place that they could put it would have to be down towards the endzone by the softball field where the flagpole is because on the other side there is the access road.

Chris said that the way he had always looked at it is that he thought they could possibly put a small set maybe not that size but similar in size at each thirty-yard line and the access road would have to be reconfigured a little bit to go around it. He was hoping that would happen years ago. He said that he doesn’t think that $16,000 is that bad for the materials.

Tim continued by saying that they are wondering if they could partner with the department.

Chris asked if they could afford it.

Tim said that they do have some extra funds in the Park Revolving account. The other accounts are typically used for if projects pop up.

Chris said that he would hate to spend the allowance on one project.

Tim said that he can ask jay to come in at the July meeting.

Riley said he agrees because he would like to hear it.

Tim asked Chris if he has any other thoughts.

Chris said that he would like to see something other than the dimensions of that bleacher set to see exactly what they’re looking at. Ultimately, what he would like to see, would be two sets, one at each thirty. Even if its something smaller than that.

Tim said he believes that baseball has three rows of bleachers.

The reason why thirty line is key, if you bring it any closer its going to need to be elevated which adds an enormous cost in materials. So, the thirty-yard line, even the twenty-yard line, on both ends, with a smaller set not elevated then they don’t need the fence around the back.

Tim added that they don’t need the staircase or handrail.

Chris said that if its three stairs or bleachers high, that’s how they can get away with that. Ultimately, what he would like to see is two sets of elevated bleachers at the thirty-yard line that could accommodate forty people each but that’s a lot of money. Just the bleachers on the other side, ten years ago, were forty thousand and that was just the materials it doesn’t count the concrete or any of that. Chris suggested that they have a bigger conversation and they could link those two projects together. They will see what they can do for them and with them.

Tim said that going back to the gates, that’s more of a smaller project. They’ll get some options and see which one has the best price for installing the gate.

1. *King Philip Street Tennis Courts*

Tim provided a copy of the letter for the commission. The tennis courts need to get redone. It’s a big project. Anything from the courts, nets, poles, and fence. There are a few options however, Tim spoke to Ed Buckley couple of times over the past week. A lot of things that happen are going to depend on whether or not they redo the road on King Philip Street. If the Public Safety building ends up there and if they ever redo the road, they need to remember that it’s one thing that could change the configuration of the tennis court. There’s also talk of possibly using a shared-use passage way so that people can ride bikes as a part of these projects.

Riley asked if they are doing that on South Main Street.

Tim said yes but they may do it across Borden Colony so that people have a place to walk and ride their bikes. If that does happen, then that is going to eliminate half of that parking lot. Tim was invited next Tuesday to a video meeting where they will discuss this project. Once Tim attends the meeting he can provide more of an update on what they’re thinking and where they’re going. They could still park out back and tennis can still be played but that court needs to be redone. It’s a big capitol project. Can they fill in cracks that and go from there which has been done in the past? They can. The cracks that are showing are the same ones that were fixed before they’re just bigger and deeper. So, they have to ask themselves if they want to use that money to fill all of those cracks just to redo the whole thing eventually? That’s a big question. When they looked at it the year COVID hit when they had a freezing halt the number was around seven to eight thousand dollars to fix the cracks at that point in time so if they bring inflation into play the it would probably be a little closer to ten thousand. Back when they did it before, it was around five thousand.

Chris asked when they did that.

Tim said that it was back in 2014.

Riley said that its been almost ten years so it would significantly more expensive.

Tim confirmed. The other thing that concerns him over there is just as time goes on with any concrete whether it’s a fence in a backyard or a fence on a field, eventually, that concrete comes up so some of the poles would have to get redone as well for the nets to hold.

Chris said that sometimes people could possibly bring their own nets.

Tim said that they do that for pickleball. The department even has one for people to borrow and return. It’s a definite possibility that people may have to do that for the time being.

Riley asked if it was the same letter that was sent to the Selectmen too.

Tim confirmed. The Selectmen know that it is on the agenda for the commission meeting and Tim let Greg know that they would discuss this. Tim has looked at some grants to help pay for it. he also has a question out to the U.S.T.A. in regards to if they get a grant from them how it will affect pickleball and if they’ll allow pickleball lines on courts that they redo. He is waiting on an answer and is curious as to what that answer is going to be. For some reason, pickleball and tennis do not get along. Tim asked if there are any thoughts to go along with that.

Chris asked for clarification as to what the grant is.

Tim said that they have a facility grant to help upgrade facilities and things like that. Tim’s question was that if they go through their grant, can they also add pickleball lines in, is that a possibility. Before he goes down that line of using the grant, he wants to make sure that they can do both.

Chris added that he might want to research what’s available for grants for pickleball.

Tim agreed.

Rile asked how long the process would take to get these repairs done.

Tim said that it all depends on what the number comes out to because if it turns out to be more than ten-thousand then it would have to go through a whole other process. A rough estimate would be a couple of months.

Chris said that they also still don’t know what’s going to be happening. The better question would be what is the timeline on that.

Tim said that he’s going to find out more about that next Tuesday.

Chris said to table that until they get more information because he would hate to dump ten thousand into filling cracks when two years from now they might add a bike lane through it. they didn’t widen the road but they’re adding a bike lane which is forcing traffic closer to the curb which is more dangerous for the pedestrians.

Tim said that he will find out more about that next week.

Riley made a motion to table tennis courts. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Spring Field Use Permit Applications (9)*

*Fearless One Sports Academy*

Looking for a season permit. They have been using R.M.S. softball field which is the one that Tim had told them would be best for them over the summer. There’s no conflict and they have charged $600 in the past for the spring. Riley made a motion to approve Fearless One Sports Academy field use permit application Starting June 25, 2023 to August 25, 2023. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. and Sunday from 8:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. for a fee of $600. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Colonial Road Runners*

Looking for their annual summer permit. They would like to use the track on Sundays starting from July 16, 2023 – August 13, 2023 from 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. and there is no fee. Riley made a motion to approve the Colonial Road Runners permit for the R.M.S. track from July 16th – August 13th from 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Raynham Youth Lacrosse*

Looking to host a jamboree this upcoming Sunday at R.M.S. for second graders and a kindergarten scrimmage on Monday evening. There is no conflict, they just needed more space so they’re looking to use R.M.S. for their jamboree for second graders and four or five games throughout the day. There is no charge because it is a Raynham Youth Organization. Riley made a motion to approve the Raynham Youth Lacrosse field use permit for the R.M.S. Football/Soccer Field from April 12th – June 12th Tuesdays – Thursdays from 4:30p.m. – 7:00p.m. and Sundays from 9:00a.m.- 3:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

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

Looking for a permit for their annual Monte Tournament. All day every day for the fields on the Merrill Complex. In the past there has been no fee. Riley made a motion to approve the R.Y.B.S.A. permit for the Merrill Baseball Fields from July 27th- July 21st Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 5:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. and weekends from 8:00a.m. – 9:00a.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*LaLiberte Parents Organization*

Looking for a permit for this upcoming Thursday for the LaLiberte field day. Looking to use some of the baseball fields and the Bettencourt field. Also, looking to bring an inflatable obstacle course. They did approve this last year. They specifically recommended no spikes in the ground, sand bags only, and since it’s two days in a row based on the next field permit then it will have to be put in two different spots so the grass doesn’t fry. There has been no fee.

Riley made a motion to approve the LaLiberte Parents Organization field use permit for field day on the Merrill Baseball Fields and the Bettencourt Football Field all day for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*LaLiberte Parents Organization*

Looking for a permit for step up day for the fourth grade. They will be bringing another inflatable as well as some games and activities outside. There has been no fee in the past.

Riley made a motion to approve the LaLiberte Parents Organization field use permit for the Merrill baseball fields and the Bettencourt Football Field on June 9th from 1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Merrill E.C.P.O.*

The Merrill school Parents Organization is looking for a permit for next Wednesday the 14th. they would like to use the Burke outfield for a picnic, bouncy obstacles, and games. Same regulations for the bouncy obstacle course.

Riley made a motion to approve the Merrill E.C.P.O. permit for the Burke Babe Ruth Field on Wednesday June 14th from 11:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Raynham Police*

Looking for the annual speed camp permit at the R.M.S. track.

Riley made a motion to approve the Raynham Police permit for Raynham Speed Camp starting Wednesday July 5th to Thursday August 2nd from 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Raynham Police*

Looking for a permit for their annual Jocks Camp on the Burke Babe Ruth Field from August 7th to August 11th from 4:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

Riley made a motion to approve the Raynham Police field permit for their annual jocks camp for their annual Jocks Camp on the Burke Babe Ruth Field from August 7th to August 11th from 4:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Riley Menconi:** Mr. Dupont was wondering if there is anyway that Park and Recreation could put some sort of message on the billboard about the Monday night Fun Runs.

Chris said he doesn’t see why not.

Tim said that it can be put up for a few weeks before it will have to be switched to the Summer Concert Series.

Sammi said that they can share the post to the Park and Recreation post on Facebook like last year as well.

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

**Jim Brow:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Mentioned that they rented a dumpster for the office for the first time in two years. It was nice to get everything organized and labeled.

**Tim reported the following:**

-The Water Department meeting that Norm and him were supposed to attend on Monday was postponed to Tuesday night at 6:10p.m. over on Pleasant Street. They are really going to push the issue on the fields. A lot of money has been put into it. They don’t want to go backwards and then have to put more money into it all over again. Currently, it’s every other day but those fields get so much sunlight during the summer and can burn really fast. Hell have those updates come next meeting.

-Tim said that the department is trying something new this year. Heather and him are going to partner with a baseball camp this summer called Next Up Academy with Steven P. He played professionally and got drafted with the Cubs. He’s played up at the University of Maine. Very nice guy. There will be drills from 5:00p.m.-12:00. Anybody who preregisters before the 17th has a chance to win two tickets to the Oriels game.

Chris thinks that it’s a great idea to offer a program to kids of all skill levels.

Tim said it’ll be nice to run the drills and get them warmed-up to play games later that night. It’s also a week before the Monte tournament which Tim pushed for so they weren’t at the same time. It’s open to Raynham residents and hopefully those spots will be filled. He also has a camp going on in Abington. They are looking forward to trying something new this summer.

-The Summer Concert Series starts on Tuesday July 11th. There will be four bands performing this year finishing off with Dale and the Duds who were supposed to be finished last year but decided to return for another year. The first day will also be the same day as the next commission meeting because the first Tuesday of the night is July 4th so the next meeting will be Tuesday July 11th.

-Tim concluded by wishing everybody a Happy Fourth of July.

Chris entertained a motion to adjourn. Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary