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

**Regular Monthly Meeting, March 7, 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 6:03p.m. Chris made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7th meeting. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Tim introduced Bethany Tolley, the new Childcare Administrator. She started with the department yesterday. She has an extensive background in childcare and is familiar with E.C.C. She had a wonderful interview and she’s doing a great job. Only her second day in, she’s really taking the reins.

Bethany thanked the commission. She says that she has a couple of years of E.E.C. experience so she hit the ground running. She’s enjoying the program so far. She is excited and looking forward to working with Park and Rec.

Chris asked if she is from Raynham.

Bethany said that she has lived here her entire life.

Chris said that he is happy that they can accommodate to a town resident.

Bethany said thank you.

Chris explained that people who work for the town that they live in sometimes have more of a sense of ownership to the position and a sense of wanting to excel.

Bethany said that she is very excited to help this program grow. She likes that there is a Before and After school program that’s so accessible to everybody in Raynham because it’s so important to have a place for kids to go and have recreational experiences before and after school.

Chris spoke on the commission’s behalf welcoming Bethany one last time and said that they are looking forward to watching her grow in the position.

Bethany concluded by thanking the commission.

Josh called for old business.

**Old Business (4):**

1. *Town Fields*

Tim mentioned a previous conversation about the water band that is possibly going into effect at the spring and summer. He spoke to the Water Department about some kind of exception. He was told that he would have to go before them and discuss the possibility.

Chris said that it would potentially be best for Mr. Sturtevant to present that to the Water Department since he and his crew manage the fields.

1. *Eagle Scout Project*

Tim updated the commission on the Eagle Scout Project. The troop is all set to do the project and are looking at early-to-mid April. They received final approval from their commission to clean up the trails.

1. *Raynham State Forrest*

Tim heard back from the state. They said that they’re going to send their new foreman out to take pictures and he is sending them off to a tree crew to get in there and get those trees down. Tim had a company lined up to go in there and take those down if the state ends up not making it in time. Those trees need to be taken down.

1. *Bristol Plymouth*

Norm and Tim are going to meet with Mark this week to go over their final schedule for the spring. Some good news is that they’re going to have their campus fields a little bit longer than expected so they’ll get some practice time over there. All lacrosse practices are going to happen at Martin Middle School so Arruda will only be used for games itself, so that’ll help preserve those fields especially early on in the season so it’s looking good over there. They’re excited.

The chairman called for new business.

**New Business (2):**

1. *New Childcare Administrator – Bethany Tolley*

Moved to beginning of the meeting.

1. *Spring Field Use Permit Applications*

*Norton High School*

Tim said that Norton High School has an engineering class that’s getting ready for a big national final for a rocket launch. They would like to use about fifteen minutes for the next four Saturdays just to practice a launch. They provided an example as to what they’ll be launching. It’s made of paper and light material. When it goes up, it comes down with a parachute.

Josh asked if it would be in the parking lot by the coral.

Tim said yes as long as they’re back there and it’s far enough away from the offspring nest then he doesn’t see a problem.

Chris made a motion to accept the Norton Highschool permit application. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Merrill ECPO*

Looking for their usual permit for their annual Fun Run on Friday April 14th on the Bettencourt Field. They have been approved for this in the past. The one thing that they asked upon approval is that they don’t put any stakes in the ground if they put anything up and also, that they always move the track around so that they don’t matt down the grass.

Jim asked why they don’t use the track.

Tim said because its right outside of Merrill so they can just go right outside.

Jim made a motion to approve the Merrill ECPO permit application for Friday April 14th for no fee. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Merrill ECPO*

Looking to host their annual block party for Friday June 9th in the back of the Merrill school. Tim spoke to chad and agreed to have a night off from baseball to allow them to host that night. Besides that, they don’t have any big things. They do have bounce houses which they can do on the outfield of Burke again, as long as they use sand bags instead of putting stakes in the ground because of the wires out there and as long as they clean up the mess after pony rides.

Chris made a motion to accept the Merrill ECPO permit application for Friday June 9th. Jim seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Raynham Flag Football*

Looking for their usual permit for the season on Sundays from 12:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. starting on April 30th – June 11th. Soccer is not using the multipurpose field on Sundays so that is available and they have been approved in the past with no fee.

Jim made a motion to approve the Raynham Flag Football field use application for no fee.

*Raynham Youth Lacrosse*

Looking for their annual spring permit for Tuesday – Thursday nights at RMS for practice and Sundays at Borden Colony from 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. Bristol Plymouth is only using the field now for games so they can just have them just go and play their games at Arruda and there will be no conflict.

Jim made a motion to approve the Raynham Youth Lacrosse permit application for Tuesday – Thursday nights at RMS and Borden Colony from 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Chris Shaw:** Chris attended the A.C.O. building study committee this week. He said that initially what they are trying to accomplish is creating policies and procedures of how the facility will be run. Members of the group are going to try to get some of that by-law information from different towns so that they can customize it to accommodate our town. It was a productive meeting. Everybody is on the same page about doing it the right way as it should have been done in the first place. It’s water under the bridge now but after the money that was spent and the building was repurposed for the time being, it’s a good product and hopefully when they can come up with the wording for by-laws for procedures and policies for the building. At some point in time, they are going to try to reinstate the initial use of the building before it was reversed. Tonight, the Board of Selectman meeting has an agenda item to research the appointment of another full-time A.C.O. in response to the person who wasn’t so happy to work for the town of Raynham. Chris will be attending. The goal is to hold off on hiring someone full-time until they make arrangements to get the building use reinstated.

**Jim Brow:** Jim said that he loves the idea of the Eagle Scout Project working on the Raynham State Forrest. He would like to expand that in the future to possibly around the cross-country track. He’s been to places around Bridgewater, the old preserve, the pond, and they’ve got some really good places. Maybe the boy scouts could do something similar in regards to benches etc. There’s so much land here, it’s prime to have walking trails and things of that nature.

**Josh Daisy:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Sammi distributed copies of the Annual Report. If there are any additional things that the commission would like added to let her know.

Chris quickly added to his previous report that he would like to continue the conversation in regards to the dog park. He hears from people in town using the Borden Colony fields to recreate their dogs which isn’t allowed but its also a problem for many other reasons. It’s something that they need to start getting going again. There is also word that people would like access to the Taunton River. There is a couple of spots, one specifically, near the East Taunton line in a neat little rustic neighborhood. He believes that there is some land that the town owns that they could possibly look at. It didn’t look like there is a ton of work needed. It looks like there is some type of a ramp there. He just wanted to bring it up because he has seen it on social media. It could be a possibility.

**Tim reported the following:**

-The town is allowing a two percent increase on all expenses. Tim built that into the budget as he has shown on the copies he provided. Everything is pretty much standard moving forward from the budget. No major changes. The commission took a few minutes to review the budget and Tim asked if there were any questions.

Chris said no and that it looks great.

-Tim said that basketball just wrapped up. It was a great season and it was great to be back after three years. He looks forward to keep building that.

-They have the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 1st.

-Summer registration will begin in April and it will be eight weeks of summer-fun planned.

Josh entertained a motion to transition into executive session at 6:28 p.m. for contract negotiation roll call. At the end of executive session, the meeting will be adjourned.

Josh re-opened the meeting. Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary