MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

**Regular Monthly Meeting, May 4, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

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

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Jim entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6th meeting. Josh made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6th minutes and a unanimous vote followed.

Jim welcomed our community members.

Mike Heylan, Falmouth, MA, executive director of Raynham. He is attending in regards to the South School. The basement is in bad shape and the water heater went again. It needs some work. He was able to speak to Bob but they can’t have any events in the basement as of right now due to lack of handicapped accessibility as well as no bathrooms etc. A possible option could be to keep it the way that it is and have the Raynham channel take control of the building. Bob said that could be possible. Something to consider, is how we can fix the basement. There’s about $60,000 in an account to fix the basement, it could be a way to get things done, and start utilizing the space. At this point in time, he said not sure what the other options are for the building.

Tim said without access to the ADA it’s a challenge. Tim asked if Mike does any upgrades, will Park and Rec have any issues with having to make it compliant downstairs.

Mike said they can make upgrades and they are still in compliance. They have to be able to maneuver around the building. They are doing everything they can to accommodate for everyone. He hopes it will be a good step forward for the community. The space can be used for a lot of stuff.

Tim said it’s a valuable space that can enhance programming.

Mike said there’s a lot of room to move things around and add to the programs such as games, exercise equipment, etc. which could be advantageous for events such as “Mommy and Me” or Girl Scouts so parents can drop their children off and go do something in the meantime. The biggest thing now, is we can’t do anything with the space because of the lack of handicapped accessibility.

Jim asked if we could put a chair lift inside.

Mike said we cannot. Bob said that they would have to dig out the side of the building and put a ramp down with a landing. Then you’d have to install the bathrooms down there as well. The other issue is that even if there are stairlifts on one side, you can’t go across the big room in the middle to go to the bathroom because that’s not the town’s space. It’s been a year now and they should do something about the space. He has spoken to Tim multiple times about this and it’s just a slow process. He just hates to see to what it was from being a school, to nothing, to building it back up, and now, to nothing again so we’ll see what we can do. Mike concluded and thanked the commission.

Jim called for old business.

**Old Business (3):**

1. *Gymkhana Building*

Tim provided a copy of the letter from Bob Iafrate from last week’s meeting. After the long discussion last meeting we are in the process of trying to determine what will happen to the building. It isn’t in legal terms with what we are going to do yet.

Jim asked if the deed has been finalized.

Tim answered according to the town attorney it’s set that it’s recreation and if anything, that interferes with recreation cannot happen.

Chris said it doesn’t look like it was recommended by Mr. Iafrate that the building be taken offline or anything to that matter not that there is any serious programing due to the COVID restrictions however, the horse folks have been beginning their season.

Tim assured they only use the indoors for bathrooms.

Chris said there is nothing that interferes with any current liability issues.

Jim asked if there was any recommendation by the selectmen.

Tim said they made a motion for us to meet with the building committee but there has been no word yet.

Chris said his initial comments and recommendations was that the building be used as a shared space which he wouldn’t object to. One thing he did want to look at is the bleachers that are over there he believes are the same ones as football, with the steel structure and wood planks that probably would need to be removed.

Tim said him and Norm were looking at that a few weeks ago.

Jim said they’d probably need to pull them.

Chris said for the time being we can just turn them over and mark them off with some yellow tape.

1. *Raynham State Forrest*

Tim said following up on Jim’s report last meeting, Norm is working on it they’re just finishing the fields, he also spoke to the state that takes care of Massasoit State Park who help us out from time to time, they are going to come later on this or next week to take some of those trees down that are hanging over.

Jim asked if they’re has been any talk about the back side where they built all the houses.

Tim agreed and said there really hasn’t been much talk about it, we can possibly put some burners back there.

Chris added maybe we can move the trail back because the property line is the trail. If we move it in, people who do use that trail won’t appear right in the backyard.

1. *Summer Playground Program*

Summer program is up, it has been a challenge with the transition of CDC guidelines constantly being updated for the summer transition, but sign-ups are going well. We are able to do field trips this year. Every field trip requires we be the only ones there. Due to the regulations they don’t want any groups or programs mixing in the general public or other town programs. We have 5/7 weeks field trips set. We still gave a few more but they are in good shape.

Chris asked if they are restricted on the number of campers.

Tim answered no as long as we keep each cohort to 25 or less. They do want us outside than inside. There is a lot more space at Laliberte and all of the field space so it’s in good shape.

Chris asked if they are allowed to take their masks off.

Tim said CDC states that as of right now masks have to stay on but things are changing very quickly and in time that could change.

Chris moved on to new business.

**New Business Items (3):**

1. *Spring Field Use Permit Applications (6)*

-Shoveltown Baseball

Tim said they are looking for a backup field if they don’t have space in Easton. They provided some dates, there is some conflict but they’re willing to move some times. Tim has been talking to Doug Louis who’s willing to work with us. They may need all of the games or they may need one game. RYBSA isn’t playing on that field so there are no conflicts other than the over the hill baseball league but they play early. It’s a total of 6 possible dates but they may only have to use one date. Tim recommended that if they play a game they do a 4-hour minimum.

Chris made a motion to approve the Shoveltown Baseball Field Permit for the use of McKenny Field for six games.

-RYBSA

Tim said Cal Ripken and Regional Tournament are looking for a permit for July 16th-July 24th all day for that entire week. In the past we have charged $550 but right now, our rate is $600.

Chris made a motion to approve the RYBSA’s field permit for the Cal Ripken regional tournament at the Merrill School Baseball fields for a fee of $600. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

-RYBSA MONTI Tournament

15th annual Monti Tournament July 29th -August 2nd all day every day for those four days. The last time they did this was in 2019 and there was no fee charged for the tournament. Chris made a motion to approve the 15th annual Monti Tournament for July 29th-August 2nd at the Merrill School Baseball fields with no fee. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

-RYBSA Softball Tournament

Tim said that this is the state tournament for softball. They’re looking for July 8th – July 11th all day at the fields.

Jim asked if they can serve at the concession stand this year.

Tim said that they can serve they just have to be careful how they serve. A couple years ago the charge was $550 but it would be $600 this year.

Jim asked if the Cal Ripken will go up to the 50-70 this year.

Tim said the fence is up, it looks great, and it’s eight feet high.

Chris made a motion to approve the RYBSA’s State Softball Tournament at the Merrill School Baseball fields #1-#7 for a charge of $600. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

-SEMMC

Tim said this is a non-profit group looking for an outdoor location to host their meeting next week for two and a half hours at the gazebo. Essentially, it’s a show and tell with the group, they will bring their own chairs to sit outside. Raynham is a central location for that group. There will be up to 30 people there out of that group.

Chris said as long as they’re not all going under the gazebo in inclement weather.

Tim mentioned that they are out of East Bridgewater and have some Raynham members but they’re are from all over.

Chris made a motion to approve the South Eastern Massachusetts Mineral Club meeting at the gazebo for a fee of $100. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

-Raynham Youth Lacrosse

Tim said they are looking for a one-day permit for an end of season Lacrosse Jamboree at Borden Colony with two to four teams. Soccer goes until the 20th he spoke to Jim who said the following weekend will be fine, nobody is scheduled for the 26th. Tim said for ten hours that would be $350. Chris made a motion to approve the Raynham Youth Lacrosse Jamboree for June 26th for a fee of $350. Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Childcare Administrative Job Posting*

Tim announced that Sarah Gluck recently gave her notice. Her last day will be Friday the 14th. Tim posted within the union. For over a week there were no applicants so as of last Friday it went live publicly. Interviews started this past week. The hope is to get someone in before summer so they can get some experience and help at the beginning of the upcoming season and help Heather with the summer program.

Chris called for commissioner reports.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Josh:** Was wondering if Raynham would ever host fireworks for the Fourth of July. A lot of neighboring towns host them so maybe the town could look into it.

Tim said when his father was on the commission, it was brought up 20 years ago but at the time it was too expensive along with insurance issues. If that’s something the town wants to consider for the future, Tim said he’s not sure what the protocols are or what it entails but he can look into it.

Jim and Chris agreed it would be worth researching.

Tim responded he can look into it.

**Chris:** Happy and excited to meet with the building committee and moving forward with the process.

**Jim:** Nothing to report.

**Staff Reports:**

**Tim announced the following:**

-There has been a change with the Griffiths field fence which is now in play on May 17th. We were recommended by the finance committee, which was originally off but it was put back on. There are some other projects coming as well. Mark Arcardipane is coming to stain the gazebo within the next couple weeks, also working on the office and whatever there is left over can be out towards any renovations for the Gymkhana.

**-**Merrill school license was officially renewed by the state. The certification is good for the next two years so essentially until the 2022-2023 school year.

-Down the street the first base dugout on McKenny field, the shingles were falling off so that was replaced.

-Mark will also be donating some of his time towards painting the dugouts for us.

-Wants to thank Norm and the Highway for replacing the Park and Rec sign that got destroyed by a previous windstorm.

-Going back to May 17th, there’s a couple things going back on the warrant for the meeting at RMS.

Chris mentioned there is discussion of not being able to use the auditorium.

Tim said it’s to space out more for the Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting.

-Tim reached out to several playground companies in regards to the Monti playground and has received on quote back. Still waiting for two other companies and once they hear back Tim will reach out to the Monti group, set up that meeting, and go over some options.

Chris asked if they started fundraising yet.

Tim said they are waiting to hear first. He has a list of people who helped with the original one. Paul will be taking care of fundraising and spearheading the area for the statue for Jared.

-Lastly, Tim wanted to thank Sarah Gluck for the 3+ years at Park and Rec and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

**Sammi:** Nothing to report.

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary