MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

**Regular Monthly Meeting, October 6, 2020, 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.

Jim called the meeting to order at 5:57p.m. Josh entertained a motion to approve previous minutes from September 1st. Chris seconded the motion.

**Old Business:**

Jim called for updates regarding the Before & Afterschool Program.

Tim explained that the cohorts are still running. A large number of enrolled members have unenrolled from the program being that the schedule now runs for 2 days a week as opposed to 5. We have been able to reach out to families on the waitlist and continue to encourage those interested in the Before & Afterschool Program to contact the Park and Recreation office.

Tim addressed concern about staffing given the possibility that schools go full remote. If so, that it is to be determined what steps the program will take in regards to staffing.

**New Business Items (6):**

1. *Permits*
2. *F.C. Stars Permit*

A club soccer team has submitted a permit request to use the soccer field for Sundays from 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m. which would be used until the first week of November. 1/3 of the team players are Raynham residents.

Tim stated that many club soccer teams are currently looking for space. Raynham Youth Sports are the priority so considerations will have to be made to ensure there will be no field times overlapping with the Raynham Youth Sports Programs.

Chris made a motion to approve the field use permit. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Girl Scout Troop Bridge Crossing*

Troop 62537 has expressed interest in utilizing the bridge at Johnson’s Pond for a ceremonial “Bridge Crossing”. It is a 12-person event to which the Girl Scouts will walk over the bridge, symbolizing their advancement in their troop.

Concerns included:

-Tim mentioned that parking for 12 people at Johnson’s Pond at 4:00p.m. can be challenging especially on a day with nice weather. Tim suggested that there be carpooling involved.

Chris made a motion to approve Girl Scout Troop 62537 to commence with the Bridge Crossing Project. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Forge River Parkway Basketball Court*

Tim announced that the Town of Raynham had been granted a basketball court and playground under the jurisdiction of Park and Rec. There has been no official deed found therefore, the land is not officially under town ownership. If the town decides to take the necessary steps to locate the deed and inherit the land, further steps will be taken on what that land will be used for. The land is approximately 21,000 square feet. Tim mentioned if we take over it will have to be a capital planning project. Tim suggested that the courts will need work if that is the case.

Chris asked how the attention came about. Tim explained that he received a phone call from Mike King, it was discovered that Park and Rec had been granted the court/playground from previous builders of that neighborhood. It had been found that no taxes were being paid on the land to which the towns ownership was first discovered by Park and Rec. Chris suggested building a dog park at the location. Tim responded by explaining it is too close to the property line. Chris shared a thought, “the more park and rec space the better”. Jim suggested a skateboard park to which Chris commented that one had been taken down in Bridgewater fairly recently due to numerous problems that emerged.

Tim suggested a few ideas such as a new basketball court, a new playground, or a splashpad. Tim also mentioned that no matter what the area will be used for there will be no parking though it will serve for residents in that neighborhood. Josh mentioned on road parking could be a possibility. Josh suggested cutting the playground out to make room for parking. After reviewing map with commissioners, Chris mentioned that fashioning the letter to communicate with the residents of that neighborhood could include asking for their suggestions of what they may have in mind for the location. Jim agreed addressing the possibility that the neighborhood might be currently using the court.

Josh questioned the possibility of removing the playground, relocating the Borden Colony Tennis Courts to the land and pair it with a new basketball court, leaving Borderland with open space for a dog park. Tim commented that it is a possibility.

1. *Dog Park*

Tim announced that the town received a donation for a dog park. An account has been set up to provide opportunity for further donations and an inquiry has been received about donating.

1. *Girl Scout Pantry*

Tim announced that Girl Scout Troop 82256 has launched an idea for a community project for Johnson’s Pond involving the placement of a “Little Free Pantry”. Similar to a “Little Free Library”, residents would be given the opportunity to give and take non-perishable items as needed. Chris said that he loves the idea.

Concerns:

-Tim stated that the Girl Scout Troop would be responsible for maintaining the pantry as well as making sure perishables in the pantry are up to date.

-Jim commented that it may be tough to keep out of reach of children.

-Chris mentioned the towns food pantry may express interest in the project.

Chris made motion to approve Girl Scout Troop 82256 “Little Free Pantry” Josh seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Stephen Berdos Memorial Tree*

Tim reported that a group of coworkers are trying to support someone who has lost a number of family members this past year and would like the commissioners blessing to plant a memorial tree for them.

Concerns:

-Tim stated that the target budget is $100 however, it is hard to find a durable tree without mildly increasing said budget.

-Chris questioned whether or not the Foreman of the Highway Department would be able to delegate time and work towards maintaining the tree.

Chris made a motion to approve the planting of the Stephen Berdos Memorial Tree. Josh seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reported the following:**

-Josh and Jim had no current reports.

-Chris announced that he is glad the school year program is open without a hitch. That though, through the crazy year, aside from current issues, we’re “cool as a cucumber” and maintaining the program. Tim commented he is trying to keep the list full.

Chris asked how the Junior High group is going.

Tim responded that numbers are down due to regulations.

**Staff Reports:**

Sammi:

Expressed her excitement for joining the Park and Rec Department and looks forward to working with everyone further on.

Tim announced the following:

-Highway Department Foreman, Norman Sturtevant was hoping to over seed the fields due to no

irrigation and lack of rain.

-The Highway Department will be clearing through the Raynham State Forrest most likely by the

end of the season.

-Tim said he’s getting quotes for fencing for the Griffith Soccer Field. It has not yet been

determined when it will be done this year.

-The soccer program is going great.

-The Raynham Giants are honoring the 8th graders who were not able to play this year.

-After speaking with Jonathan Benner, there will be a new botchy court and cornhole most likely installed in the spring. Friendly reminder that those interested must bring their own botchy balls and cornhole bags.

-Spoke to Tony Arruda to hay the fields and will be done over the next few weeks.

-After speaking with the health agent, due to COVID, there will be no “Trunk-or-Treat”.

-As for the upcoming winter season, we are keeping the Christmas Tree lighting in mind until the time comes to decide whether or not COVID regulations will call for a remote tree lighting.

Josh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary