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

**Regular Monthly Meeting, October 3, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

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

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m. Chris made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5th meeting. Jim seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Jim called for old business.

**Old Business (2):**

1. *McKenney Field Fence*

Tim provided a copy of the contract with City Works. Once the commission approves and signs the contract, then Tim can send it in and get the project going. It will take about four to six weeks to get the fence in. The town is taking down the fence and disposing of it. The total cost of materials came to $63,202 for the McKenney fence.

Chris asked if there are any specific dates.

Tim said the goal is to get it done by the end of the calendar year but with the way that the weather has been, they may need a little more time to get things going.

Riley entered the meeting.

Tim updated Riley on the McKenney Field Fence discussion.

Riley asked when the project is supposed to take place.

Tim said hopefully by the end of the year with addition time if the snow affects the work.

Chris asked if there is any schedule of disbursement of funds.

Tim said no.

Chris made a motion to approve the contract with City Works fence. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Raynham Giants/Jay Messler*

Tim provided an update on the Raynham Giants. He said that the project is still moving forward but it has been delayed. They were very appreciative of the donation that had been approved and thanked the department. They are now working through the process of getting the project done. It is on their agenda and Tim will keep the commission informed.

Chris said that it makes sense it has been delayed, they have to pull permits, and thanked them for making sure it gets done right.

Tim said that it will look nice when it’s completed.

The chairman called for new business.

**New Business (3):**

1. *Lions Club Liquor License*

The Lions Club is looking for two one-day liquor licenses. One for Sunday November 5th and Sunday November 19th. There are no conflicts. It’s the end of the season for Raynham soccer which will be across the street.

Chris made a motion to send a recommendation to the Board of Selectman to approve the one-day liquor licenses for the Lion’s Club Sunday November 5th and Sunday November 19th. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *New Bench*

Tim had received an email from a man who would like to donate a bench in honor of his father who had passed away. Tim said that it is something that is frequently up for discussion. He mentioned that he would potentially like to put it near the Raynham Middle School track or tennis court but they may have to wait to accept the bench to wait and see what’s going on with the shared use path. If it is accepted, in the past it has been discussed with all due respect, because this is a common inquiry and there is only so much space around town.

Chris said that it’s just a matter of location.

Jim mentioned that this has come up before.

Chris said that it’s not a permanent structure or adding a permanent structure.

Tim said that he thinks that it would be great to put one down by the track. There’s only two or three around that whole area.

Riley asked what kind of bench.

Tim said that they didn’t specify.

Riley said usually they don’t have a back on it.

Tim said that it would be the typical flat bench but they would ask that it is a model with a back. If the commission is okay with it, they can set up a time for when school is not in session to do the installation.

Chris said that once a location is discussed to send a letter to the school committee.

1. *Fall Field Use Permit Applications (2)*

*LaLiberte Parent Organization*

The LaLiberte Parent Organization is looking for a one-day permit for Friday for their LaLiberte Fun Run. They have done this in the past. They are looking to make three smaller tracks on Bettencourt Field to keep traction down on the field. Tim has spoken to them again to make sure that they don’t put stakes in the ground. The Raynham Giants also still have some of their season left so they don’t want the fields too run down. In the past, they have been charged no fee.

Chris made a motion to approve the LaLiberte Parents Organization field use permit for the Bettencourt Football Field on Friday October 6, 2023 from 6:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. for their LaLiberte Fun Run for no fee. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

*Rock Hard Racing*

They did not do their October race this year due to conflicts. They are looking for a one-day permit for Saturday the 18th all day. There are however, some conflicts. Due to the amount of rain this past season, soccer has been pushed back all the way to that weekend. The rain has made a massive impact. It’s a big event that takes up all of the parking. The other issue is that they always have alcohol served from trucks they bring in which wouldn’t work when people are drinking on the property with another event going on. Tim spoke to Mike after he heard back from Raynham Youth Soccer. Unfortunately, there are no other dates to hold this event. If they hold the event, it will be busy, along with youth sports on the property. It’s a great event. They always clean up. They do a wonderful job. It’s just a matter of working around the conflict because it made it very difficult.

Chris recommended that they potentially push it back for the weekend after.

Tim mentioned that they have done it that weekend in the past. Last year, they had made the switch to the weekend they asked for this year because it was so dry. This year however, with the rain, everything is pushed back. Tim can ask if they can go for that date but the 18th has too many conflicts.

Chris recommended that they maybe do Sunday the 19th. If soccer is scheduled that day, they will have a lot of people there. Chris asked what time.

Tim said that they begin with tryouts in the morning and travel games in the afternoon. The town soccer will be done by that point. Last year, they were charged for eight hours for $280. It’s a one-day event.

Chris made a motion to approve Rock Hard Racing permit for the Reid Softball Field, Borden Colony Cross Country, and parking for their cycling event pending a different date between Sunday November 19th and Saturday November 25th for a fee of $280. Riley seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Riley Menconi:** Riley had said that he had been approached by a few people that are very happy that the kids were able to cool off at Park and Recreation the first week of school. There have been a few toasty days getting back to school.

**Chris Shaw:** Will add on to the staff reports.

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

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Tim reported the following:**

-Tim said that it was reported to him that there was some hunting going on during Cross Country practice. It is town property so hunting is allowed. The town is going to be looking into how they can coordinate the hunting not happening during events due to regulations or risk with having the runners out there. Tim spoke to B-R and B.P. today to let them know and see if they could possibly get the runners some safety pennies out there.

Riley asked clarification of where this happened.

Tim said it’s around the back trail. Not in the grove area but the tree line. They are working on it. Everybody is aware. There is a meeting tomorrow at B-R around 4:15p.m. so they are very well aware of what’s going on. The teams actually loved running out there this year. They’re out there five days a week. looks great. All four people going out hunting have to make sure that there is still a safe environment.

Chris said that the only way to stop the hunting from being there may be to have it posted. Anywhere you drive past state, town, or municipal land, woods, or forest, where they don’t want somebody in that area, they have to post it. It has to be posted every seventy-five feet. It can’t be higher than ten feet off of the ground etc. There is a list of parameters around posting for no hunting. It seems like a tough task.

Tim said that Greg is looking into if they can even post. Everybody deserves the right to hunt, it’s apart of our culture, it’s what people do but they just have to make sure that it’s done in a way that doesn’t put anybody at any type of risk.

Chris said that it’s state owned land so they may need to get involved.

Jim said that they should put up some kind of post.

Tim said that there’s a lot of questions up in the air as to by-laws, permits, and how that would work with the Environmental Police.

-Tim said that he spent a lot of time looking for files in regards to the Public Safety building and the multipurpose field. He said that he didn’t have a lot of luck. He had only found a file that had a couple of lines of notes that mentioned if it was easier to move the fields or change the lines. There was no real detail. He went through the files several different times. It didn’t really give them the information that they were looking for.

Chris asked what year.

Tim said 2008. It goes way back.

Chris said that people who were involved back then may be a useful source for information.

Riley suggested Liz.

Chris said Liz would be an excellent source of information as well as Norm or somebody who was on grounds. Tom possibly. There used to be a map.

Tim said that there used to be a map. It showed how it comes across. The airplane field was technically agricultural land. Where the scoreboard is at the Mary Lou Arruda field was also agricultural land.

Chris said she had identified it at the time. They decided that they were going to replace the tractor pull area and replace that recreational area to be identified as agricultural land. He’s not sure if another map was ever created.

Tim said nothing that he has seen. He couldn’t find anything.

Chris asked who brought that up.

Tim wasn’t sure. He knew of a Public Safety meeting where it could’ve been brought up.

Chris said perhaps the Selectmen Meeting notes. At the same time, he had sent a request to Greg in regards to the building.

Riley said that there’s been a lot of talk. Nothing that they haven’t discussed.

Chris asked what’s been discussed.

Riley said that they discussed moving locations and things like that.

Tim asked for clarification as to moving the buildings location.

Chris asked what it has to do with conservation.

Riley said that they have to make sure that the land is suitable for it to go there.

Chris asked if that was for the A.C.O. building.

Riley said for the Public Safety building.

Chris said he was talking about the Animal Control building and how the Park and Recreation Department is supposed to have access to it. He can certainly understand how the Conservation Commission’s involvement with the Public Safety building. He’s talking about the Animal Control Office / Park and Recreation meeting space because they have Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up and they want to make sure that Santa Clause can sit in a covered area.

Tim said that he stops in there once a week just to make sure that everything is okay. He said that how it was seen the last time that the commission was in there, hasn’t changed. They still have to find out what the building is.

Jim said that it is still a Park and Recreation building, they made a concession to have it as a shared space that was a mess. At this point, where it’s not being used for Animal Control, so there is no threat that someone is going to come in contact with an animal or illness. That being said, why can it not be used.

Chris said that the department has a key to the building, so it could be used.

Tim added that they will definitely use it for the event. It’s on Saturday December 2nd which is two months from now.

Chris said that when they do have the event, they’ll put some caution tape up and make sure that people stay out of the area and strictly the bathroom.

Tim agreed.

Chris read that they did hired an additional part-time A.C.O. but soon after being hired, she quit, so they’re looking for another part-time A.C.O.

Tim said that he thinks they are closing in on that.

-Tim continued with more updates. The West Nile virus and E.E.E. levels haven’t changed so they’re in good shape there.

-Tim attended the Selectmen’s meeting who asked him to give a report on September 19th. They appreciate everything that the Park and Recreation department is doing.

-The Fall Town Meeting date has been changed to Monday November 13th. It was supposed to be late October but it got pushed back.

-Basketball sign-ups will be beginning next week. The flyers are all in and they’ll be getting those disbursed to the schools this week.

-The Trunk-Or-Treat event will be on Thursday October 26th at 6:30p.m.

-The Christmas Tree Lighting is set for December 2nd starting at 3:00p.m.

-Tim concluded by thanking the staff as always, Sammi, Heather, and Bethany. Also, a thanks to Norm, Mike, Shawn, and all of the guys who had to work under tough conditions this year with all of the rain but they’ve done a wonderful job keeping the fields and common areas looking good.

Riley 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