



South Kingstown Recreation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 16, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

Tri Pond Nature Center
Asa Pond Road, Wakefield, RI

A. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Commission Vice Chair, John Hanson, at 6:41pm

B. **ROLL CALL**

Present:, John Hanson, Will Litvin, Joanne Blessing

Absent: Sean Johnson, Matthew Fraza

Staff Present: Rex Eberly, Terry Murphy,

Absent: Lenka Capek

Guests:

C. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Litvin and seconded by Commissioner Blessing to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

D. **CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

E. **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report for February was presented. A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Litvin . Motion passed 3-0.

F. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Old Mountain Field – Capital Project Status**

Director Murphy reported that contractor is scheduled to mobilize March 17th; to place erosion control measures, construction fencing and begin site work.

2. **FY26-27 Town Operating Budget – Update on Budget Work Session with Town Council**

It was reported that the Town Manager’s proposed operating budgets for Leisure Services were presented to the Town Council on March 10th at a public work session. Total proposed budgets were:

General Fund: \$2,676,994

Guild \$1,117,350

Rec Center: \$890,646

Peace Dale Office Bldng: \$115,093

Senior Services: \$741,478

G. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Report on February Blizzard Operations and Impact; & Recognition of Staff**

Director Murphy reported that all Leisure Services programs and facility operations were suspended for a period of 2.5 days during the blizzard from February 22 through February 24. Over

30” of snow fell in South Kingstown. Parks personnel are to be commended for contributing to the tireless efforts of town staff who were tasked with snow removal and opening up Town facilities.

2. Proposed Policy Regarding Access to Municipal Facilities and Parks by Registered Sex Offenders

Director Murphy presented a draft policy for dealing with individuals who are listed on the state sex offender registry and entering municipal parks and recreation facilities. A motion was made by Commissioner Litvin to continue this item until the April meeting. Motion was seconded by Commission Blessing and passed 3-0.

3. Proposed Letter of Support for Federal Community Project Fund Grant for Support of Town Projects including Marina Park Public Dock and Waterfront Access Improvements

Director Murphy explained that the Town has submitted an application for federal Community project grant funds for a number of projects including the development of Marina park public docks that currently are part of the Ram Point/Grove Point marina lease agreement. The lease on the docks that are located where the Saugatucket River meets Pt. Judith Pond will expire in 2027 and will not be renewed. Funding will allow the Department to construct new municipal docks that will be managed by the Town. A letter of support to the Town’s federal delegates will support this application. A motion to approve submitting a letter of support for the Marina Park public docks project was made by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Litvin. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Leisure Services Departmental Staffing Update

Director reported that interviews are in process for Marketing and community events position. Seasonal staffing recruitment is going well with many beach and Discovery Camp staff returning for the 2026 season. And the Park Superintendent position is posted.

H. DIVISION REPORTS

Reports on February Parks and Recreation Division activities were presented by Deputy Director Eberly and Director Murphy.

A motion to accept the Divisional reports as presented was made by Commissioner Litvin and seconded by Commissioner Blessing. Motion passed 3-0.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:42pm by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Litvin. Motion passed 3-0.