



South Kingstown Recreation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 20, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

Senior Center

25 St. Dominic Road, Wakefield, RI

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commission Vice Chair, John Hanson, at 6:34pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present:, John Hanson, Will Litvin, Joanne Blessing

Absent: Sean Johnson, Matthew Fraza

Staff Present: Rex Eberly, Terry Murphy,

Absent:

Guests: Dorothy Hill, Austin Lusignan

C. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Litvin to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

D. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Email from SK Little League President, M. Preivity Inviting Recreation Commission to SKLL Opening Day Ceremony
2. Email from J. Campbell re: Nature Programs and Related Grants
3. Dorothy of SK Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee provided an update to the Commission regarding items that the committee is working on. Assisting surveying of bike path crossings and confirming RIDOT improvements and recommendations for safety improvements, signage.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Litvin to add Special Use Rental Request for Saugatucket park for Renaissance Faire on August 29-30, to the agenda for discussion. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blessing. Motion passed 3-0. Item is noted under New Business Item #3.

E. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

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

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Old Mountain Field – Capital Project Status

Director Murphy reported that project is well under with demolition complete; utility lines are in, and that area will be restored in coming weeks. The contractor has begun digging the foundation for the building. Staff, engineering consultants and contractors meet regularly to keep the project on track. It is anticipated that substantial completion will be in October 2026. Sports league

schedules have not been impacted. A generator will temporarily power the press box, scoreboard and field lights. Bleacher seating has been relocated on both sides of the field.

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

Director explained the purpose of the policy and noted that edits were made since last meeting; and this policy applies to only individuals who are classified as “post-supervision” which means they have completed their probation. This policy in no way supersedes the law. It does, however, give the department the ability to manage when situations arise where there is concern about individuals in facilities where youth programs are taking place. Director indicated that she had also spoken with the Chief of Police about this policy. Motion was made by Commissioner Blessing to continue this item to the next meeting; motion was seconded by Commissioner Litvin Motion passed 3-0.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Saugatucket Park Improvement Project: Pedestrian Lighting, Electrical and Water Service Upgrade — Authorized Funding Through American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

Director Murphy and Deputy Director Eberly reported that additional ARPA funds have been allocated to continue planned improvements at Saugatucket park that involve period lighting, electrical upgrades and water service. This project must be completed by year-end due to ARPA funding expiration date of December 31, 2026. Discussion took place regarding potential expansion of park to former elementary school site, and if the plans will take future expansion into account.

2. Report on Additional American Rescue Plan Act-Funded Projects: Main Street Comfort Station, Nancy Brown Playground, and Lake Avenue ROW Dinghy/Kayak Storage

Director reported that the Town Council authorized re-allocation of ARPA funds to cover costs for exterior painting of the Main Street Comfort Station, upgrades to the Nancy Brown Playground at the former Wakefield Elementary School and development of the Lake Avenue ROW to accommodate a Dinghy/Kayak storage rack; and for improved public access.

[the following item was added to the agenda, by unanimous vote, for discussion]

3. Facility Request from Contemporary Theatre Co. for Special Use Rental of Saugatucket Park on August 28, 29, 30 for Renaissance Faire Event

Austin Lusignan presented information about the Contemporary Theater Co.’s request to use Saugatucket Park for a Renaissance Faire event on Saturday/Sunday, August 28-29. The event will involve entertainment, demonstrations, and food vendors. There will be a ticket fee charged; however, members of the public seeking to access the park for other purposes will not be turned away. Public safety will involve a security detail, EMS and crowd control. The required certificate of insurance listing the Town as additional insured will be supplied to the Town. There will be a small encampment with a campfire. A shuttle bus will also be used to transport people from other public lots. This item will be placed on the May agenda for Commission consideration.

H. DIVISION REPORTS

Reports on March Parks and Recreation Division activities were presented by Deputy Director Eberly and Superintendent Lenka Capek.

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, May 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:51pm by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Litvin. Motion passed 3-0.