



**South Kingstown Recreation Commission
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, August 17, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

South Kingstown Town Beach
719 Matunuck Beach Road, Matunuck, RI

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Will Litvin at 6:42pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Will Litvin, Matthew Fraza, Joanne Blessing

Absent: John Hanson

Staff Present: Jeff Banks, Terry Murphy, Lenka Capek

Absent:

Guests: Deputy Town Manager, Luke Murray

C. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Fraza and seconded by Commissioner Blessing to approve The minutes of the July 20, 2026 meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

D. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

E. Monthly Financial Report

1. Monthly Financial Report - July 2026

Director Murphy reported on the monthly financials for August, 2026. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Commission Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Fraza. Motion passed 3-0.

F. Old Business

1. Old Mountain Field Capital Improvement Project Status

Director reported that the project timeline remains on track to be completed in October. Park activities have experienced minimal, if any, disruption. A ribbon cutting event will be scheduled to celebrate the completion of this significant project.

2. Neighborhood Guild Capital Improvement Project - Status Report

The Neighborhood Guild project is complete.

G. New Business

1. Election of South Kingstown Recreation Commission Officers for 2026-2027

The commission established a new slate of leadership as follows: John Hanson was elected as Chair, Matthew Fraza was elected as Vice Chair, Joanne Blessing was elected as Secretary and Will Litvin was elected as Treasurer. The motion to approve this slate was made by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Fraza, passing 3-0.

2. Presentation on School Department Athletic Field Reconstruction, Entry Drive and Parking at Curtis Corner - — Project Details and Timeline

The commission received a detailed presentation from Deputy Town Manager Murray on the CCMS athletic field reconstruction, including plans for new lighting, parking, and potential "add alternates" for pavement versus grass parking.

3. Report on Saugatucket Park Lighting and Site Furnishings for Tri Pond Park and Bike Path Between Comfort Station and Route 108 Crossing in Peace Dale — Funding through American Rescue Plan Act

Deputy Town Manager Murray provided information about proposed amenities for Saugatucket Park, Tri Pond Park, and the Bike path.

Project Scope: The town is reallocating ARPA funds, originally intended for a facade improvement program, to install new lighting at *Saugatucket Park*.

- Design: The project involves installing 23 period-style, colonial-look fixtures.
- Implementation: A two-pronged approach is being used: the town is purchasing the lights directly through a state price agreement, while a separate contractor will be hired via a performance-based bid to handle the electrical work, wiring, and footings.
- Site Furnishings for Tri Pond / Peace Dale Area):
- Status of Funds: Following successful installations of benches and trash receptacles on *Main Street*, *Saugatucket Park*, and the *Riverwalk*, approximately \$50,000 in ARPA funds remains to be allocated.
- Future Plans: The next phase targets the *Peace Dale* area, specifically the dam and reservoir surroundings.

Proposed Improvements: The plan includes adding four or five picnic tables to the dam area.

4. Request from Wess Dodge for consideration of waiver of camp refund policy

The commission discussed a camp registration refund request by Wess Dodge. After discussion and determining that the partial cancellation would not negatively impact their programming, the commission moved to grant a 75% refund as a one-time exemption. Motion made by commissioner Fraza and seconded by Commissioner Litvin. Motion passed 2-1. Fraza – aye, Litvin-aye, Blessing - nay

H. DIVISION REPORTS

1. Recreation Division: Supt. Capek reported on July programs and Town Beach operations noting that Camp registration saw strong numbers, with **1,896 total registrations** throughout July and a successful counselor-in-training program.

2. Parks Division: Supt. Banks reported on July projects and overall work activity of the parks Division noting that Staff have been active with safety improvements at the *Nancy Brown playground*, maintenance at the *Wakefield Riverwalk*, and ongoing grooming at the Town Beach

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

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the The Neighborhood Guild.

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:09pm by Commissioner Fraza and seconded by Commissioner Blessing. Motion passed 3-0.