

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTINE WARD

KAREN SMITH

STEVEN BANNON – NOT PRESENT

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ELIZA CRESCENTINI

THOMAS NORTON – NOT PRESENT

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of May 23, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Ward to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 4-0-1 – Ms. Smith Abstained

B. Minutes of June 13, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

2. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. None

3. **PARK CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent. Mr. Sokul advised that the work on the warning track at Memorial Field has been completed. The tubing for the top of the fence at Olympian Meadows will be installed this week. The mulch at Housatonic Playground will be put in next week too. The chain link fence at Housatonic Playground along Meadow Street needs to be repaired and will also be done. Mr. Sokul said the lights at the skate park at Memorial Field are owned by National Grid. The Town leases them. National Grid will be coming in to check them. Plumbers have been hired to fix the leak at the fountain at the Skate Park. Trees were planted at the park behind Town Hall. The area was loamed and seeded. The DPW will water it. Ms. Smith said a letter needs to be sent to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager that a fund should be established by people or organizations that donate to the parks clarifying who is responsible for maintenance.

The specs for the fitness equipment are being rewritten and will be sent out to obtain quotes. The original specs were withdrawn.
Ms. Smith said she would like a general count of how many people are using the new park.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Residents of Grove Street attended the meeting regarding Grove Street Park. They had questions on the Fence and slide. They asked if removing the slide caused the swing set to be compromised. Mr. Sokul said he will check the poles and concrete. The rocking toy located at the park is loose and needs to be secured. Also the fence at the basketball court needs to be replaced. It was noted that the Commissioners have been working on an assessment of the parks. There are 2 pieces of equipment proposed to be installed at Grove Street Park both for adults and kids. One is a fitness piece and the other is a climber. This equipment would link Grove Street Park to Park Street Park. Mr. Sokul said he was waiting for feedback on the replacement of the fence. He previously received a quote for \$1,600.00. He noted he would check with the vendor to be sure it is still good.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to replace the fence on the creek side of the Basketball Court at Grove Street Park for \$1,600.00.

SECOND: Ms. Crescentini

VOTE: 5-0

It was decided to begin the next meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the Mason Library. The Board will then meet at Grove Street Park at 6:00 p.m. for an informational meeting to gather a consensus of what the neighborhood would like at the park.

PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Southern Berkshire Youth Football Parks Usage Request to use Olympian Meadows from the beginning of August through November 2011 three times per week from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The request was not acted on because nobody from the organization attended the meeting. It will be included on the agenda for the August 8th meeting.

B. The Garden, Bill Whittaker for a Parks usage Request to use the Skate Park at Memorial Field for the 10th annual Shred 4 Keenan and Shred 4 Colm Skateboard Contest, Saturday, August 27, 2011 from noon to 6:00 p.m. This was not acted on because nobody from the organization attended the meeting. It will be included on the agenda for the August 8th meeting.

C. Berkshire Yoga for a Parks usage Request to use Memorial Field (by tree line, near skate park) every Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. beginning July 24, 2011 through September 25, 2011 for an ongoing yoga class. Ms. Anne M. Alquist was present to explain her request. Ms. Alquist advised that after consideration, she would like to change her request to use the park behind the Town Hall near the gazebo. She noted that the classes are free but donations are accepted.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve this usage and to forward the approval to the Town Manager for consideration and advice on future requests.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER:

A. Laura Martin

Ms. Martin advised 22 children are signed up for the July swimming lesson session. It was suggested that Ms. Martin put a picture of the swim lesson sessions in the newspaper. She noted that there have been about 20 children per day at the Housatonic Park. The children refer to the staff as the "Green People" because they wear green shirts. Lake Mansfield has been mobbed. Ms. Martin said that there was a situation at Lake Mansfield where a parent insisted that their child be allowed to use the arm floats even after the lifeguard advised that they were not allowed and not regulation lifesaving equipment. The lifeguard advised them if they can't obey the rules then they had to leave. So they left. Ms. Martin advised that the coordinator hired for the skate park has been injured so she is working on hiring someone else. It was noted that the skate park averaged 449 people for the month of June. Ms. Martin advised that smoking has become an issue at the skate park. Ms. Smith advised that the building is owned by Railroad Street Youth but the property belongs to the Town. After discussion, it was decided to order 10 no smoking signs and put them up at the various parks. The Housatonic Playground was weeded and sand was brought to Lake Mansfield.

MOTION: Ms. Smith that the Park and Recreation Commission notify the Railroad Street Youth Project that the Schneider Youth Building may be under their purview but the outside grounds are not and there is no smoking allowed on Town property. Any smoking needs to be across the street as we are trying to maintain a nonsmoking entity within the park.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

VOTE: 5-0

Mr. Gibbons noted he would write the letter to Railroad Street Youth.

Ms. Crescentini advised that she e-mailed Chief Walsh about setting up a meeting with the task force on drug issues.

With a motion from Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Ward, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary