

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTINE WARD

KAREN SMITH

STEVEN BANNON

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ELIZA CRESCENTINI

THOMAS NORTON

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

None

2. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Park Improvements: Outdoor Fitness Equipment:**

Mr. Gibbons noted that he sent out requests to four companies for quotes. Play Land and Outdoor Fitness responded. O'Brien and Sons and Game Time did not respond. It was noted that (Play Land) Dibble's quote is \$1,380.00 plus the average prevailing wage. Outdoor Fitness quote is \$6,500 with installation. After discussion it was noted that it appears Dibble's equipment is just for children. Mr. Gibbons said he used the information from Outdoor Fitness and incorporated that in the quote requests. The Outdoor Fitness quote is good for 60 days.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to order the equipment from Outdoor Fitness and not contract the labor.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

The motion was withdrawn by Ms. Smith

Mr. Gibbons said that he was advised by Mr. O'Donnell that the work would probably get done more quickly if the labor for installation of the equipment was contracted out with the company. It was noted that the warranty issues need to be checked if volunteers do the installation of the equipment. The contract needs to be signed by the Town Manager and Town Accountant.

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to accept the bid from Outdoor Fitness including Alternate One-installation.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

VOTE: 4-2-1 – Ms. Smith abstained.

B. Playground Safety Task Force:

Ms. Crescentini said that she contacted Chief Walsh and Officer Bartini and they are going to obtain information on surveillance cameras. She advised she is waiting to hear back. Ms. Smith asked if there is a way that the park staff can document police visits to Memorial field. Ms. Martin said that she is planning on having the employees write the time, duration and the name of the officer who comes.

C. Olympian Meadows: Review of park conditions: Mr. Sokul said that last year the cleaning of the toilets and the fencing was assigned to the parks facility staff. Mr. Gibbons said apparently when the park was closed last fall the facilities were not locked. This will begin to be taken care of the first week in April in the future. Mr. Gibbons also noted that 100 more feet of covering for the fence has been ordered. Mr. Boutellier advised that there is turf that was dug up during the winter that needs to be replaced and the pot holes need to be filled. Mr. Sokul said the DPW can schedule to check on it on a monthly basis.

D. Summer Programming: Ms. Martin noted that the summer program began full time and the site coordinators are in place. The skatepark staff and Housatonic staff are doing training for anti bullying at Berkshire South. Ms. Martin requested that additional sand be added to the beach area at Lake Mansfield. Mr. Gibbons noted that the board has permission from the Conservation Commission to add sand for 3 years. Mr. Avery said he would bring some sand up to the beach area. It was noted that the small lifeguard chair did not come with an instillation kit and there is no anchor. Mr. Avery said he would look at it to see what could be done. Ms. Ward said she flagged a space for it to be placed. The portable toilet needs to be ordered for Housatonic Playground.

Mr. Gibbons requested that Ms. Martin forward all invoices to him as soon as possible through June 30th.

3. PARK CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent – Mr. Sokul noted that the parks maintenance department is fully staffed. The rain has set mowing back a little. Removing top soil and grading at the Town Hall park area has begun for the new playground equipment. The estimated dedication date is around July 4th.

Outfield and Warning Track at Memorial Field: Mr. Sokul advised that they have permission to purchase airport mix. Mr. Avery said he received a quote from Joe Wilkinson for \$2,528.00. Mr. Avery noted that they will take some airport mix out, grade it, put it back and roll it out. This should be done by July 1, 2011.

Housatonic Playground: the mulch will be rototilled to see what is there and how much need to be added. Mr. Sokul advised that mulch is \$30.00 a yard. Ms. Smith suggested contacting Steve Weining to see if the mulches he carries are appropriate.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to purchase the appropriate amount of airport mix for the ball field and purchase that out of the Parks Improvement Account.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

VOTE: 7-0

MOTION: Ms. Smith to have Mr. Sokul to write up a purchase order for mulch for the Housatonic Playground with the remaining money available in the Parks Improvement budget.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

VOTE: 7-0

Mr. Gibbons noted he would do a transfer from repair/maintenance to Parks Improvements.

Mr. Avery requested that if the Parks Commissioners give people permission to put items in the parks to notify him because it makes it difficult to mow.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
None

PARKS USAGE REQUEST:

A. Great Barrington Millers, Rich Montone of the Berkshire Adult Baseball League to amend the Parks Usage Request approved on April 11, 2011 to use Memorial Field. The new dates are as follows: June 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., June 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., July 10, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., July 31st from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with practices on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. through August 18, 2011. (Discussion/Vote).

Mr. Montone was present to explain the request. Mr. Montone explained that they are not playing the Albany league anymore. They have changed to a Berkshire League so it changes their schedule. Mr. Gibbons noted that the only date there might be a conflict is Summer Solstice if it gets rained out is June 26th. Mr. Bannon noted that July 10th may be a problem because of the 250th parade in Great Barrington.

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

VOTE: 7-0

B. Parks usage Request from Railroad Street Youth Project to use the Basketball Courts and Skate Park at Memorial Field for a Solstice Day Dance Party on June 21, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Mr. Paul M. McNeil was present to explain the request. The times proposed to use the field are from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be one chaperon for each 18 kids. Food will be hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, fruit salad and potato salad. A food permit is being obtained from the Board of Health. Entertainment will be provided by local artists. He said they estimate between 150 and 200 people to attend. It was suggested that the Police be notified of the event.

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

VOTE: 7-0

Next Meeting – July 11, 2011 – Obtain a copy of the Capital Improvement Plan. Appoint board members to be key representatives for each park. Ms. Ward said she would send a copy of the list of the parks to Mr. Gibbons.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary