

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTINE WARD

KAREN SMITH

STEVEN BANNON

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ALSO PRESENT: JOE SOKUL, DPW SUPERINTENDENT

The meeting of the Parks Commissioners was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve the minutes of October 12, 2010.

SECOND: Ms. Smith

VOTE: 4-0

2 **SCULPTURE NOW – 2011 OUTDOOR SCULPTURE EXHIBITION**

A. Ann Jon – Executive Director

Ms. Jon advised that they have done the sculptures in three towns in the past. She explained that they are proposing to place sculptures on public and private sites on Main Street and Bridge Street. These sites may include the lawn areas of the Mason Library, Parrish Park, William Stanley Park, Searle's/Bryant complex and others. The exhibition would open on June 1, 2011 and close on October 31, 2011. The number of sculptures would be approximately 14 to 20. She advised that she has been in contact with Mr. McCormick and Mr. Sokul and there is no conflict with the 250th Anniversary Celebration. Ms. Jon said she was advised not to place sculptures on the Town Hall property. Ms. Ward suggested that she put the information regarding the exhibit at the kiosk in front of the Chamber of Commerce Building and at Berkshire Bank on Main Street.

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve the Sculpture Now request.

SECOND: Ms. Smith

VOTE: 4-0

3. **PARK CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. **Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent**

Mr. Sokul advised that they have one employee out because of illness. Mr. Avery is trying to keep up with the leaf cleanup. The restrooms were closed at the Little League field. The work on the outfield at Memorial Field is still on the list. The lights at Memorial Field are the Town's lights and Doug Wilbur will have to be called to change the bulbs. Mr. Sokul said he would have that taken care of by next month.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Commemorative Tree for Caley Larkin.** A request was received by the Town Manager from the Chamber of Commerce in regard to planting a small flowering tree at the new playground to be constructed behind Town Hall. The Chamber would be purchasing the tree and a small commemorative plaque to be placed in the area of the tree saying "In memory of Caley Larkin".

MOTION: Ms. Smith that we accept the gift of the commemorative tree from the Chamber of Commerce.

SECOND: Mr. Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

5. **UPDATES FROM BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER:**

A. **Laura Martin, Aquatics Director – re: Summer Programs Report.**

Ms. Martin explained that the summer programming was very successful. She suggested changing the Housatonic Playground hours from noon to 6:00 p.m. It was suggested to amend the report to include the hours of operation and the number of staff involved. It was noted in the report that the police would drive through but not exit the cruiser. Mr. Gibbons suggested inviting Chief Walsh through the Town Manager's office in March of 2011 to discuss the best way to have police presence at the parks based on the report from Berkshire South. It was suggested to send a copy of the report to the Town Manager with the addition of the number of operating hours and the number of staff.

MEMORIAL FIELD:

Ms. Martin noted in her report that they felt the shed needed to be adjusted because there is a "blind spot" and the doors are not facing the street and could be an attractive nuisance for inappropriate activity. It was noted that the shed is attached to the concrete pad and can't be moved. The suggestion was made of putting a fence up to provide no access behind the shed. The report also indicated that sometimes the baseballs would fly over the fence to the Skate Park and parking lot. It was suggested to put a sandwich board sign up advising to be aware of baseballs. A suggestion was made to purchase more benches for Memorial Field. Ms. Martin also advised that it is slow at the Skate Park after 8:00 p.m.

LAKE MANSFIELD:

Ms. Martin advised there was some confusion over what inflatable water toys are allowed at the lake. The commissioners clarified that only swimming assist devices are allowed, i.e. cuffs, bubbles, etc. The report indicated the need for a cigarette disposal device at the lake parking lot and possibly a bench. The commissioners noted that there is no smoking allowed at the Town parks or Town property. Ms. Martin advised she would have a list of needed equipment for the next meeting. Mr. Sokul advised he would contact the Selectmen's office in regard to the telephone at Lake Mansfield. It was noted that the current telephone does not work well.

6. **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

Ms. Ward advised that she obtained a copy of the Open Space and Recreational Plan from the Town Planner. She presented a copy of pages 73 to 78 which is a description of the parks spaces and open spaces that the Town holds and maintains. The report describes who manages the property along with the acreage. Ms. Ward noted that this will enable the Commission to create a chart of users of the parks, needs assessment, equipment assessment and to develop a 5 year goal plan. Mr. Gibbons advised that he would create a draft spread sheet of categories.

Suggestions were made to consider adult exercise areas, and climbing rocks which are being considered behind the Mason Library in the Children's garden area. Bocce courts and horse shoe pits could be installed at the Senior Center. Mr. Sokul noted he would begin research on parks equipment. Installation costs should be included with the equipment price.

It was noted that a better garbage container should be considered for the skate park and the open garbage container at the boat launch should be changed.

January 2011 meeting – Agenda Item: Capital Expenses and Parks Assessments.

7. **FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET**

The next meeting will be a "workshop" for the 2012 budget. The meeting will be Monday, December 6, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Mason Library. The meeting for December 13, 2010 will be cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary