

**PARKS COMMISSIONERS**  
**MASON LIBRARY**  
**231 MAIN STREET**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2012**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**PAUL GIBBONS**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**KATHY PLUNGIS – NOT PRESENT**

**ELIZA CRESCENTINI – NOT PRESENT**

**STEVE BANNON**

**KAREN SMITH**

**CHARLES BOUTELLIER – NOT PRESENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of July 9, 2012

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith to approve.

**SECOND:** Mr. Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent – Mr. Sokul advised that the new Head Grounds Keeper is Clinton Burt. There was damage to the fence at Lake Mansfield and equipment was thrown into the lake. The telephone box was broken off. The signs were taken and the Fire District needs to be contacted to fix the water line. Officer Bartini said that the people were found and charges are being filed. Ms. Smith said that when the charges are made, she would like something that this committee and the Police Department come up with for punishment. She would like to have them do sweat labor. Mr. Gibbons said that the fence at Memorial Field needs to be repainted. It was noted that garbage was also thrown around Railroad Street and Main Street. Mr. Sokul said he is working with American Fence about fixing the fence at Grove Street Park. They thought that a couple of pipes could be put across the area where the balls are going through. On the other side, they did not recommend repairing it. They recommended putting up a new fence. The quote for 120 LF of 10' commercial chain link fence, installing 7 new fence posts with top rail and installing the 2 rows of pipe on the opposite side of the fence is \$3,560.00.

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith to approve the expenditure.

**SECOND:** Mr. Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0

Ms. Smith asked about the fence at Olympian Meadows if it has been repaired. Mr. Sokul said it was repaired last year. Mr. Gibbons said that Clint Burt asked what needed to be done because he couldn't find anything to be done. It was noted to check with Mr. Bouteiller on what his issues are on repairing the fence. Mr. Gibbons noted that Clint and his crew repaired the benches at the girls softball dug out. They did a great job.

3. **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE:**

A. Mr. Rembold did not attend the meeting.

4. **BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER:**

A. Laura Martin – She advised that there is a week and a half left of daily staffing at the parks. Lake Mansfield will be staffed through Labor Day and the skate park will be staffed through Columbus Day. Laura reported that there have been about 200 people a day at the lake. The Housatonic Park has been averaging about 25 a day. Mr. Gibbons advised that Clint Burt has the basketball nets for Memorial Field and the no dog signs. Ms. Smith asked Laura to let Sgt. Bartini know the exact dates the skate park will be open.

5. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Fairview Hospital to use the Bandstand/Green on September 22, 2012 for a fund raiser for Fairview Hospital from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Mr. Bannon recused himself because he is an employee of Fairview Hospital. Mr. Gibbons said he is not in favor of voting an event where alcohol is going to be served. Mr. O'Donnell said they will have to come before the Board of Selectmen for a One-Day Alcohol License. The tent is going up Wednesday or Thursday. Ms. Smith said she had a problem with cording off the parking lot at noon. Mr. Gibbons said our rules are that you need to be present if you want to use one of the parks. No one from Fairview was present.

(Correction)  
received a  
one day  
liquor  
License from  
the Board  
of  
Selectmen.

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith to table voting on the parks usage request until a later meeting.

**SECOND:** Mr. Norton

**VOTE:** 3-0-1 (Mr. Bannon did not vote)

B. Jenna O'Brien to use the Great Barrington Bandstand, Saturday, September 22, 2012 for her wedding ceremony at 5:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote). Jenna advised that she was advised that Fairview had requested to use the space the same day. The commissioners asked if she could change the time to 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Mr. Gibbons said that the hospital people know that they should be present. Mr. O'Donnell said he has seen in the past that if the applicant is not present, the request can be tabled. Ms. O'Brien said that there will be between 70 to 80 guests at the wedding. Ms. O'Brien was advised that the contact for Fairview is Lauren Smith. Mr. Bannon noted that Fairview wants to put the tent up behind the Town Hall. Mr. Bannon said that we need to tell Fairview – no activity during the wedding ceremony.

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith that we approve Ms. O'Brien's request to use the gazebo between 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. and that Carolyn call Lauren Smith in the morning and indicate to her that because there was no representative at the meeting that they are going

to have to shut down any prep from 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. so that the wedding ceremony can go on unimpeded and unencumbered.

**SECOND:** Mr. Norton

**VOTE:** 3-0-1 (Mr. Bannon abstained)

Ms. Smith advised Carolyn to call Lauren Smith about contacting Jenna so they can chat.

C. Hazon to use the Town Hall Bandstand/Green September 2, 212 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a rest area for the Hazon 2012 New York Bike Ride. (Discussion/Vote). Laura Checkow was present to explain their request. She noted there will be no parking issues because people are riding bikes from New York, Connecticut and the Berkshire area. She said they are looking for rest stops along the way. It was noted that there is a portal-let available.

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith to approve.

**SECOND:** Mr. Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Parks Rules – The Rules for Parks and the Clean Parks Program was reviewed. (Copies are attached to these minutes). The only change that was made was for “Rules for Parks” – Parks close at sun down “unless otherwise posted” was added.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bannon to approve the rules as amended.

**SECOND:** Ms. Smith

**VOTE:** 4-0

Mr. Norton noted the need for a creation of a Dog Park. He was advised to obtain the minutes and information that was submitted previously.

The next parks meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. O’Donnell said the Committee should review the C.I.P. before the October meeting.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Kevin O’Donnell – Town Manager – Mr. O’Donnell said he is having Mr. Sokul develop a parks project list and he will send this out to the committee on a monthly basis. It will also designate who is responsible for ordering, Parks or DPW. Sergeant Bartini was present and it is evident there is a greater police presence at all the parks. If situations arise that Ms. Martin doesn’t see the police often enough, she should call Sergeant Bartini, he works the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift. If there is no satisfaction, call the chief. If there is still no satisfaction, she would call Mr. O’Donnell. There is also a bike patrol that works till dusk. He noted the commissioners should move ahead with the C.I.P. He said he saw the e-mail where Mr. Gibbons wants to roll over \$27,000 which was agreed to do. It was noted that this is the last year. There needs to be a definitive plan in place.

Mr. Gibbons noted that he thinks we will have to pay prevailing wage to have the new exercise equipment installed. Mr. Sokul advised that every year we put out a heavy equipment bid for equipment that we don’t have but need to use.

Mr. Sokul said that he can develop a schedule noting the list of projects, list of steps that have to be done, approve it, order, install and completion date.

B. Paul McNeil and Lia Douillet from Railroad Street Youth Project regarding painting the skate park bowl at Memorial Field. Ms. Douillet noted that they have amended their request. They are not going to paint the surface of the bowl and ramps that skaters use as it would make the elements too slippery for use. It was noted that they would like Parks and Recreation to purchase 10 cans of \$10.00 spray paint to paint the sides of the equipment with a mural. The other request was to sandblast or power wash the skate bowl to remove existing slippery paint and graffiti. They also requested a 12 bike rack at the skate park costing approximately \$500.00. Mr. McNeil also requested a cigarette disposal tower at the Bridge Street end of the river Walk to dispose of cigarettes so the grounds aren't being littered. This would be approximately \$200.00.

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith to purchase the 12 bike rack and have Mr. Sokul install the rack in cement or whatever way and determine the location.

**SECOND:** Mr. Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0

Ms. Smith said that if they want to put a mural on the side of the equipment that they need to submit a sketch to her in 2 weeks for approval. She said the mural needs to match the sketch. The Commissioners did not approve the paint expenditure.

Cigarette Disposal Tower: Mr. Sokul advised that he has some towers that can be put at the Bridge Street/River walk area.

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith that Mr. Sokul discusses with Mr. McNeil the secure placement of the cigarette tower.

**SECOND:** Mr. Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0

Mr. McNeil from Railroad Street said there has been a significant increase in police presence at the skate park from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The park is cleaner and there has been a significant decrease in any behavioral issues. People are being more responsible.

CIP will be discussed at the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary