

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH – VICE CHAIRMAN

PAUL GIBBONS - PRESENT

STEVEN BANNON

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ELIZA CRESCENTINI

THOMAS NORTON

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of November 14, 2011

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 4-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent

Mr. Sokul noted that the parks have been cleaned up for winter. The DPW has been working on the list from Laura Martin. Most will be done in the spring. The water fixture at Memorial Field will have to be replaced and the one in Housatonic will have to be dug up and brought out to the main and brought back in. This would be a whole new service. This will be discussed more in the spring. Mr. Sokul said he and Mr. Norton took a walk around the basketball court in Housatonic. LB Corp was contacted to see what the cost would be to remove the curbing and a little piece of sidewalk behind one of the hoops. This would be taken out and the area re-graded so it is a little more level and the drainage works better. Mr. Sokul said he is waiting for LB to get back with the costs. The Fire District will need to put a new service in at Grove Street. They will be replacing the main on the street and then they will put new service into the park. Shelves are going to be built over the winter for the skate park shed. Also benches and picnic tables are being built and repaired. Some of the hoops in Housatonic will need to be readjusted.

Ms. Smith noted that the committee needs to nominate a new alternate member to represent Parks and Recreation for the Master Plan Committee as Christine Ward was the alternate.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Park Exercise Equipment – the equipment needs to be ordered as it is part of the FY 12 budget. The swing set has been ordered. In order for the equipment not to come at the wrong time of the year, John Larue is holding the purchase order till December 31 and then it will be shipped in March. That will be paid out of Parks Improvements. The CIP – FY 12 we were going to spend \$12,000 to replace wood chips at Grove Street and Housatonic. When the swing set is received, the area will be graded and wood chips will be installed. \$10,000 has been set aside for the construction of the fitness trail. \$8,500 has been set aside for the addition of infield mix for Memorial Field and the Little League Field. That covers the \$35,500. That leaves \$10,000 to supplement the exercise equipment because more was going to be purchased.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Offender Procedure – Ms. Martin noted that she has contacted other towns and done research on line and found that nobody has anything in place. Ms. Smith advised that a letter be sent to Kevin O'Donnell to contact Town Council before any action is taken on this subject to see what can be done. Mr. Bannon said he would contact Mr. O'Donnell.

B. FY 2013 Budget – Mr. Gibbons asked Ms. Martin if she anticipated any large increase in the managing of the summer programs, etc. She noted it would be up to the Parks Commissioners to decide if the staffing should begin earlier in the day or if an extra lifeguard should be on staff. The Budget amount is \$55,000 with \$45,000 spent so far. Mr. Gibbons noted that everything should be part of the scope of services instead of adding amendments. The RFP is on Mr. Sokul's desk for review and comment. It was noted that the \$7,153.13 encumbered in the budget is the management portion of the budget from January through June 30th. Mr. Sokul and Ms. Martin are going to meet and review the RFP. The budget has been left at \$55,000.

FY13 – Replace the fence at Grove Street for \$10,000, \$10,000 to extend the waterline at Olympian Meadows, \$10,000 for the various parks and senior center for adult exercise equipment, \$10,000 to replace equipment at the various parks and \$10,000 for instillation of climbing rock equipment at the Town Hall. The rest of the budget includes repairs and maintenance for \$3,000. Park Improvements, at \$45,000, Recreation Programs for \$1,200 to purchase supplies, Park Supplies \$3,000, Lake Management \$2,500 for the instillation and removal of the weed fabric. Waste Management was lowered to \$4,000 from \$5,000.

FY14 – FY 15 - \$50,000 for accessibility and public water and public bathrooms at Memorial Field.

It was noted that there is about \$14,000 left to spend on capital for FY 12. We will have to decide what we want to spend it on. \$10,000 could be spent for Housatonic and \$4,000 for Olympian Meadows. Mr. Gibbons suggested going to some of the websites and locate equipment on the bid list. Mr. Gibbons suggested taking the list that Ms. Ward researched and visiting the sites to see what would be appropriate.

Housatonic Playground - Ms. Smith suggested that Mr. Norton contact The Newsletter to advertise that the Parks and Recreation are looking for suggestions for equipment for the Housatonic Playground. Ms. Crescentini said she would have Berkshire South send out a broadcast e-mail as well as putting a clipboard up to collect suggestions.

The next meeting in January – Ms. Smith said she would contact Eileen Mooney with the following information to be posted in the Newsletter: The Great Barrington Park and Recreation Commission is going to hold its monthly meeting in the community room at the Housatonic Community Center on January 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. to solicit input from residents as to what type of park improvements they would like to see at the park.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Wichmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary