

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012
5:00P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON

KATHY PLUNGIS

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of February 13, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Norton

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 4-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent

Joe advised that the DPW has been fixing equipment during the winter and have begun cleaning the parks. He said he hasn't been down to see if the shelves have been put in the skate park shed. Toilets – Olympian meadows – Joe suggested removing the toilets and putting porta potties there as they are becoming a maintenance problem. The structure is in disrepair currently. They will either have to be torn down or money will have to be spent on repairing them. Brian Mead, President of Little League said they have been discussing putting some money into the toilets at the field to make them function better or possibly obtaining donations to build new ones. Charlie noted he would like to see an addition to the back of the snack shack and water and sewer brought down there eventually. Joe said he would have to get an estimate for repair of the building and toilets and get back to the committee. It was also noted that the door frame to the soft ball storage shed has shifted. Joe said the DPW was down there last year servicing the toilets 3 times a week. The water needs to be turned on at Olympian Meadows and Memorial Field.

NEXT AGENDA – APRIL – OLYMPIAN MEADOWS BATHROOMS

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A & C: Appointment to Lake Mansfield Task Force and Master Plan Committee.

Paul advised that Christine Ward was Parks representative to the Task Force and Karen Smith was the representative on the Master Plan Committee. Joe noted that the Lake Mansfield Task Force meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall. Kathy Plungis said she would be the representative to the Lake Mansfield Task Force

Committee and Charlie Bouteiller noted he would serve on the Master Plan Committee. Tom Norton said he would serve as Alternate on the Master Plan Committee. It was noted that Charlie will assume the alternate position until Karen needs to leave for her volunteer work. At that time Charlie's appointment will become effective and Tom will assume the alternate position.

B. Discussion of Quorum Paul noted that the quorum is now 4. He was wondering if the board would like to change the quorum to a smaller number if we know members are going to be unavailable. The committee has 7 members currently but one will be away for an extended period of time. Paul said he will check with Kevin O'Donnell about appointing an additional member or an alternate.

D. No Dogs allowed Sign at Giggle Park: A call was received that someone allowed their dog inside the play area and it went to the bathroom there. After discussion, Paul noted he would order a sign advising that no dogs are allowed in the play area.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Chris Rembold, Town Planner – Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Chris said he has been working with the conservation agent in updating the current open space plan. The intention is to work the open space plan into the master plan so they are intergraded documents. Having an updated open space and recreation plan is important for the acquisition of new land or parks and recreation grants. He said it is probably a 10 month process to do it. They have started looking at the current inventory and current conditions. There will be 2 public meetings that have to be held – the first one is Wednesday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m. The location is to be determined. That will be a presentation of all the existing parks and recreation areas that we have plus open space. The meeting will be asking for public input on what people would like to see. The regular Master Plan Committee meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Station.

B. & C. Capital Improvement – Housatonic Park and Adult Exercise Equipment.

Paul said he contacted 5 companies who are on the state bid list in regard to the Adult Exercise Equipment. Paul said Christine Ward had developed a plan for placing equipment at various parks. He it would be better to put the equipment in one park rather than multiple locations. It was noted that we need to spend between \$15,000 and \$18,000 that was carried over. Paul said he would contact Play Corp in Westboro for prices. It was suggested to possibly purchase the following: Sit Up Board, Push Up Bench, Body Curl, Rowing Machine, Elliptical Machine, Cardio walk and benches and a picnic table. . It was agree to place the equipment at South Street Park. Paul said he estimated this equipment totaling about \$20,000. The swing set for Grove Street Park is going to be delivered the first week of April.

5. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST FOR 2012:**

A. Berkshire South Regional Community Center to use the basketball courts at Memorial Field on Saturdays beginning July 7, 2012 through August 11, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is for 3-on-3 Co-ed basketball games for ages 15 and up. It is a tournament with officials and prizes. Adults of all ages are welcome.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteiller to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Plungis

VOTE: 4-0

B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center for the annual fishing derby at Lake Mansfield on June 3, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is for ages 16 and up – there will be a cookout and prizes.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteiller to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Norton

VOTE: 4-0

C. Community Health Programs/Family Network to hold playgroup for children and parents for seven consecutive weeks beginning July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 9, 16, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteiller to approve based on receiving an updated certificate of liability insurance by June 1.

SECOND: Mr. Norton

VOTE: 4-0

D. Great Barrington Land Conservancy – Lake Mansfield Beach Area, Sunday April 29th (Raindate – Sunday May 6th) 9:30 set-up 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the Annual Lake celebration and cleanup day.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteiller to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Plungis

VOTE: 4-0

E. Southern Berkshire Youth Football – Olympian Meadows – 3-4 evenings per week from August through November 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

New liability insurance will be submitted when the information is available.

MOTION: Mr. Norton to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 4-0

F. Great Barrington Little League to use Olympian Meadows beginning April 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012. Dates and times - 4/1-5/31 Monday thru Friday 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday/Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. June 1 through July 31 everyday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Brian Mead noted that a current certificate of liability insurance will be submitted in 2 to 3 weeks.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteiller to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Plungis

VOTE: 4-0

G. Berkshire Co-op Market to use Memorial Field Saturday June 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the annual summer solstice which includes David Grover playing music, food and local vendors. Ms. Kira Smith was present to explain the event. She noted that they would be putting up the tents on the 22nd and cleaning up and removing the tents by Sunday, June 24, 2012 at noon. She was advised to submit a certificate of liability insurance naming the Town of Great Barrington as additional insured.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteller to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Norton

VOTE: 4-0

H. Great Barrington Girls Softball to use Olympian Meadows beginning April 1 through July 1, 2012. Terry Chamberland noted that he would submit a certificate of insurance when he receives it.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteller to approve contingent on the submission of the certificate of insurance.

SECOND: Mr. Norton

VOTE: 4-0

It was noted that there is a dead tree located between the softball field and the bathrooms that needs to be taken down. Joe Sokul said he would look into taking it down.

The Great Barrington Millers were not present. Their request will be included on the April 9th agenda.

Paul advised that a request was received by a town citizen to use the baseball diamond at Memorial Field for a family pickup baseball game on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. It was noted that Babe Ruth doesn't begin until May 1. After discussion, it was decided that they can use the field on that date and to include them on the website calendar. They do not need to submit liability insurance because they are not an organized group.

Tom Norton regarding the plan for the Housatonic Village Common dated December 2004. The Town received a grant to do a visioning for the village of Housatonic. That was back in 2003. There was a Town appointed committee to develop a plan for the village common. This was paid for by individuals in Housatonic and funded by Housatonic the Beautiful. It was a necessary starting point for applying for any grants or funds that the Town of Great Barrington wanted to apply for.

The plan was donated to the Town and Chris Rembold has a copy. Tom advised that the Town received one grant only for infrastructure. The redevelopment of the school and park were not approved. After discussion, it was decided to use the plan as a template, review it to see how it fits now.

Paul noted that there was some damage done to the private structure at the Little League Field. Brian Mead said they have been ripping out the cabinets and counters at the Snack Shack. The appliances were brought to Henry's Electric. They are testing them to see if they need to be replaced. If they need to be replaced, hopefully, there will be some

donations. Paul said there is money appropriated in the capital budget for the purchase of infield mix. He noted that last year \$3,000 was spent for infield mix and Hurricane Irene swept a lot of it away. It was noted that the softball field also needs some mix. Money is also appropriated for Memorial Field. Paul said that infield mix is \$110 a ton. A normal load is between 25 and 27 tons. If we were to get a load for the softball field, one for the little league field and one for Memorial Field that would be 3 loads. The cost for that would be a little more than \$8,000.

MOTION: Mr. Bouteiller to order 3 loads of infield mix.

SECOND: Ms. Plungis

VOTE: 4-0

Paul said he would order the three loads but only have two delivered. One is for the little league field and one is for the softball field. The third one would be delivered to Memorial Field when Babe Ruth and the Millers are ready. There is currently \$2,000 in the Repair/Maintenance Account, \$5,400 in the Parks Improvement Account and \$42,000 in the Capital Account. Some of the \$42,000 is allocated for exercise equipment.

Patricia Salvi from the Sheffield Kiwanis in regard to a service project that the Kiwanis would like to do. She advised it involves doing work at the playgrounds. The woodchips under the swings and slides get pushed away with use. The Kiwanis would like to rake them back in. This is part of a country wide "one day of service" that the Kiwanis is doing. It was noted that new chips would be helpful. She noted they would like to do this on April 21, 2012. Paul said Housatonic and Grove Street Park would be good places to begin. Paul noted the current swing set at Grove Street Park is coming out and a new one will be installed. The Kiwanis is forming teams who will meet once a month on Saturday to recondition the playgrounds in the different Towns. The chips at Lake Mansfield need to be replenished and replaced. Paul said he would speak to Joe about getting a load of woodchips and having them dropped off at each of the areas.

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

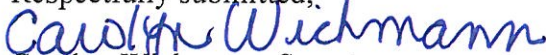
Paul said he found out that the contract for the summer program has ended. The new R.F.P. needs to go out because the contract can't be extended another year. Paul suggested that Laura contact the Town Manager to find out when the new R.F.P. is going to be available.

A resident of Housatonic said that Joe Sokul was going to look into smoothing out the roots at the entrances at the Housatonic Playground on the Meadow Street side and Pleasant Street side. He was also going to get a quote for taking out the curb and adding a bench.

The next meeting will be April 9, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Carolyn Wichmann, Secretary