

**PARKS COMMISSIONERS**  
**MASON LIBRARY**  
**231 MAIN STREET**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230**  
**MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**PAUL GIBBONS**

**CHARLES BOUTEILLER**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**KATHY PLUNGIS**

**ELIZA CRESCENTINI – NOT PRESENT**

**STEVE BANNON**

**KAREN SMITH**

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. **Minutes of April 9, 2012**

Mr. Norton noted that the minutes stated to move the entrance and dig up the tree roots at the Housatonic playground. Mr. Norton corrected the minutes to state to move the entrance so as not to disturb the tree roots and endanger the shade tree.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bannon to approve with amendments.

**SECOND:** Ms. Plungis

**VOTE:** 5-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

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

Mr. Sokul said because of the inclement weather, the DPW is backlogged with work but is trying to catch up. The fence was fixed around the bathrooms at Lake Mansfield. The cross walk is scheduled be updated to make cars slow down and additional signs are going to be installed. Mr. Sokul noted that he has been in contact with the school district and the kids at Muddy Brook would like to do some sign design and he is looking at certain areas where they can work. He thought a pedestrian sign or playground sign would be good. This will be coming up at the beginning of next year.

**Bathrooms at Olympian Meadows:** Mr. Sokul said if the Town has to pay prevailing wage rates for replacing or repairing the bathrooms, we are looking at a cost of between \$7,500 and \$8,000 to re-lay block, do a new roof, plumbing, new fixtures and put it out as a contact. If the Town would purchases the materials and that would keep the cost down. It was noted that if we are going to rebuild the bathrooms, that there needs to be maintenance updates done. It was also noted that the bathrooms should be in the center of the complex. We need to be sure the bathrooms are locked at night especially if we invest in permanent bathrooms. Mr. Sokul said there is an agreement with the Police Department to be sure the gate is locked at night at Old Maids. It needs to be discussed

with the Town Manager in regard to securing Olympian Meadows. Mr. Bannon said in the past Little League has been able to obtain contractors to donate time for projects. We need to draw up a sketch of what the building would look like. There is water and sewer there. Paul will call Brian Mead about attending the next meeting. Part of the cost would be to remove the old building.

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

A. **Chris Rembold:** Mr. Rembold said he sent out a general e-mail summarizing the open space forum that was held on April 11<sup>th</sup>. He advised that the issues of bathrooms, etc. have not been included in the recreation plan and needs to be included in the larger plan. The next meeting of the Master Plan is Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>. The next workshop will be June 21.

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

A. **Laura Martin** – Ms. Martin said she is waiting to hear on their submitted proposal for the summer program. Mr. Sokul said there was an advertising issue with the State Com-pass system. We may have to advertise again. Mr. Sokul said he had a conversation with the Inspector General's Office on the advertising and was advised that technically we don't have to spell out the length of the contracts so he is hoping we can resolve it and just award the contract. Mr. Sokul said he is meeting with Ms. Sartori on Tuesday about it.

Ms. Martin advised there is a homemade skate ramp in the Skate Park that is very large. Mr. Sokul said the DPW will remove it. Ms. Martin said she e-mailed the park staff about the structure but has not heard from anyone yet. Last summer we discussed putting up no smoking signs at Housatonic Playground, Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field. Mr. Gibbons said he would order the signs.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Olympian Meadows Bathrooms** – discussed under Parks Care and Maintenance.

B. **Housatonic Village Common** – Mr. Norton submitted a draft of projects to be added to develop a Capital Improvement Plan over the next 2 to 5 years as funds become available. Space was left blank after each item to include a price. Mr. Sokul said Craig Lang will update his work from his plan and update the costs. Mr. Sokul said he would get involved in the things Mr. Lang doesn't do. Removing the curb around the basketball court is about \$2,500. Mr. Norton said the biggest project is to put a drinking fountain in. Mr. Gibbons said if we are going to deviate from our FY13 plan, we will need to discuss it and see how it affects what we have and make changes accordingly.

Mr. Bannon requested for the next agenda that we have the Capital Improvement Plan and begin the process before July 1.

The six pieces of exercise equipment will be delivered to the cemetery department.

**NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Richard Ruth for a parks usage request to use the bandstand and surrounding area behind the Town Hall every Saturday until September 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Mr. Gibbons said that the Town Manager has put the Parks and Recreation Commission in charge of scheduling the gazebo area. He was advised to use the same policy as the Parks uses now which includes the requirement of insurance. Mr. Ruth said he would be done a ½ before David Grove begins his concerts. There was a general discussion on the insurance. Mr. Ruth said he just needs to recoup the liability insurance cost. He is not sure whether to charge or request a donation. There was a question of how we can allow someone to use Town space to enhance their business. It was noted that David Grover uses the gazebo to enhance his business; in fact he gets paid by the Town of Great Barrington. Mr. O'Donnell advised that there should be no charge for the gazebo use if it is being used for a private benefit. Mr. Bannon advised that BIFF is using that area in early June for a benefit and is going to put a tent up. How do the Selectmen approve it when we were told they are to come to Parks? The entertainment and liquor license were approved. It included the reception at the library and use of the park. BIFF is making a donation to the library. Mr. Ruth said he would do it for free if it was on a rider through the Town.

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith that the Great Barrington Park and Recreation Commissioners approve Richard Ruth to instruct Tai Chi as one of its programs at the bandstand if it is raining or the surrounding area at Giggle Park from 8:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. (so David Grover can start) on Saturday mornings from the date of start until September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**SECOND:** Mr. Bouteiller

**VOTE:** 6-0

Ms. Smith suggested that Mr. Ruth have a waiver signed by people attending and get a ruling from his insurance company asking them on this activity if he is covered on his own instruction which would be professional liability or errors and omissions.

Ms. Smith said in the future we should look at the use of the Gazebo and if there is a profit to be made, a donation needs to be made to Parks and Recreation. Mr. Gibbons noted that he would discuss the scheduling of using the Gazebo with Mr. O'Donnell.

Mr. MacGruer noted that there are ground bees up at Grove Street Park near the metal bridge by the treatment plant. Mr. Sokul said that he is trying to get an exterminator to go up and take care of the bees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary