

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH – VICE CHAIRMAN

PAUL GIBBONS - PRESENT

CHRISTINE WARD – NOT 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 October 17, 2011

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Crescentini

VOTE: 4-0-1

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent

Mr. Sokul advised that the DPW has been busy picking up the debris at the parks and in the Town after the snow storm and getting ready for winter. Ms. Smith requested that the lights in the library parking lot be fixed to come on when it gets dark. Joe said he would take care of it.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Grove Street Park - Mr. Gibbons said he received quotes and information on swing sets from John LaRue. He noted that they are on the State Bid list. Mr. Gibbons said he inquired about a slide and was told by John LaRue that slides cannot be attached to a swing set; they have to be free standing per code. The cost of an 8 foot swing set with 2 swings for materials only is \$1,670.00. The installation would be additional. A four line set is \$3,700.00 which includes the baby swings. Installation would be additional. It was also noted that mulch is an additional cost. Ms. Smith questioned installing equipment in that park because there are only 14 children under the age of 7 in that neighborhood. It was noted that the Grove Street Park people came before the board with a list of ideas. Mr. Bannon noted that Lake Mansfield is set. Olympian Meadows, Grove Street, Housatonic and Park Street are parks that could use additional equipment. Memorial Field is for older kids. It was noted that the neighborhood should take ownership of the park and volunteer to rake mulch, etc.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to purchase the swing set consisting of two regular swings and two infant swings. The DPW will install it to the specifications. The concrete for the sona tubes will be coordinated with a sidewalk project. This will be purchased with capital money.

SECOND: Mr. Boutellier

VOTE: 5-0

Mr. Gibbons said he would submit the purchase order.

B. Park Exercise Equipment – Mr. Sokul said that the state contract lists 7 to 8 suppliers for exercise equipment. Purchases can be made off the off the state bid list without going through procurement and any supplier can be used. Mr. Sokul said he would send the list out to everyone.

Park Exercise Equipment will be discussed at the December meeting.

C. Gazebo Use Procedure – Ms. Smith said that the procedure for using the Gazebo has been going through the Selectmen's Office. She noted that the use of the Gazebo should go through Parks and the applicant should be required to complete a Parks Usage Request Form. This information will have to go on the calendar. Helen in the Selectmen's Office needs to know if someone wants to use the Gazebo that they need to contact Parks just like any other park in Town. She noted Mr. Gibbons should send a note to Mr. O'Donnell or Helen asking who has used the Gazebo in the past so a letter can be sent to everyone who uses it advising that the procedure has changed.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Offender Procedure – The commissioners requested that Ms. Martin obtain information from other municipalities.

Offender Procedure to be included on December agenda.

B. Housatonic Community Center – Basketball Court Improvements – Mr. Norton noted in 2007 Berkshire Regional Planning proposed improvements to the playground and basketball court at the former Housatonic School. He noted that the grant application for the playground improvements was not awarded. The part that was awarded was the various sidewalks and street repaving that was done in 2010. A copy of the suggested basketball court improvements is attached. Ms. Smith suggested that Mr. Norton talk to Mr. Sokul about removing the asphalt edge and moving the play structures and return next month. Ms. Smith also suggested he take pictures of the balance beam then Kompan Big toys can be contacted about the required height of a balance beam. It was suggested that Mr. Norton check with the Town Planner to see if there are any grants for park improvement. Mr. Sokul will evaluate the basketball hoops to see if they need to be replaced.

C. FY2013 Budget – Mr. Gibbons said he was going to contact Mr. O'Donnell about an extension on submitting the budget. Mr. Gibbons said we have a 5 year plan that we should look at when doing the budget. The 2013 budget needs to be developed at the next meeting which is December 12, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Wichmann, Secretary

