

PARKS COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
MASON LIBRARY  
231 MAIN STREET  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017  
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR  
PAUL GIBBONS – ABSENT  
STEPHEN BANNON  
CHARLES BOUTEILLER - ABSENT  
THOMAS NORTON – ABSENT  
PATRICIA SALVI  
ANTHONY TROIANO- ABSENT  
ILANA SIEGEL  
CHRIS WILTSHIRE

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of August 14, 2017

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Ilana Siegel

VOTE: 5-0

2. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. None

3. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – The old backstop was taken down at Dewey School because it was rusty and in bad shape. There was a general discussion about possibly replacing it. The minimum cost will be \$2,500.00. It was decided to table it for now. Complaints were received from a resident of Grove Street about invasive Japanese Knotweed that is around and in the park. A quote of \$850.00 was received to treat it, once in the fall and once in the spring. A strategic plan needs to be done on how to deal it. Chris Wiltshire will be the contact on the knotweed situation. Landscaping was done around the gazebo. Two new garbage cans were ordered for Giggie Park because the ones there are old and a bench was installed at the park. All American Fence will do the fence repair at no cost. The cost of some Adirondack chairs for the park behind Town Hall is approximately \$150.00 per chair. Further investigation will be done on what other towns have dealt with as far as vandalism. **The cost of dual chairs/table needs to be investigated. This could be put on the March/April agenda.** Sean noted he has an appointment on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. with the construction company to go over the repairs to Olympian Fields.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Laura Harner – Berkshire South – The staffing has ended at the Housatonic Park and Lake Mansfield. Memorial Field Skate Park is being staffed on weekends from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. through Columbus Day. Karen noted, for a future discussion in January, staff needs to be trained on how to react when there is a difficult situation. It was suggested that Laura check with other Park Departments to see how they set it up. Laura noted that the Summer Parks Management Report will be submitted in November.

B. Review of Finances – Sean will handle all the invoices for parks. Karen asked Sean to supply a print out what is paid. Repairs and Maintenance and Park Improvements are really one line item. The only total we are concerned about is the bottom line. The Gazebo improvements were paid out of Parks capital. Also the upgrade of the electric at the Little League Field was paid out of improvements. \$49,904 was carried forward. \$35,000 was approved at Town Meeting. Sean suggested putting a handicapped table at Old Maids. It was noted that Parks closed that park years ago. After discussion, a capital plan needs to be re-done. Sean will gather information on the cost of refurbishing the fields.

C. Set time for site visit for Housatonic fence issues. – Tom Norton wants to change the fencing at the Housatonic Park. Karen recalled visiting this 3 or 4 times. She asked the commissioners if they wanted to set up a site visit.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to conduct a site visit at Housatonic Park to view the fence issue.

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 0-5 Motion failed

At some point a storage shed was put down at Olympian Meadows for football that was never discussed or approved by the commissioners. Mr. said he received permission from Mr. Gibbons, but permission was never granted. Ms. Albert has come to request permission to put the shed at Olympian Meadows. Karen said the representative from Little League asked that the storage container be moved so it isn't next to the concession stand. A suggestion was made to move it next to the Little League shed. Also the portable toilets need to be removed.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon that youth football and little league work together to decide on a location for the shed but before they move it, get the permission of the head of the DPW.

**SECOND:** Ilana Siegel

**VOTE:** 5-0

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Priorities for Community Preservation Committee

B. Furniture at Giggle Park

C. Shed at Olympian Meadows

D. CPA – Step 1 – Application – Applications are due October 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

E. Bike Trail – Karen said there has been interest in getting a bike trail from Housatonic to West

Stockbridge. Tom Norton has worked with Peter Thorne on the West Stockbridge part. Karen would like to get it phased in and would like the Park and Recreation Commission be the reps to that group to try to get a bike trail that is safe.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to nominate Karen Smith and Tom Norton to the bike trail committee as the Parks and Recreation representatives.

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 5-0

It was noted that in the future, this could be a possible CPA Funding. Chris Rembold noted the basic idea is to connect downtown West Stockbridge with Housatonic primarily off road. The idea is to get it as close to the river as possible. There was the idea of putting a trail along the active rail line but there isn't enough room. A bike ad hoc committee has completed a feasibility study and has identified a few segments that could work. One is on Stockbridge Road using the utility line crossing Division Street, going up Van Deusenville Road to Housatonic. Where Home Gas is there is an old trail that is now town owned. It would go on that trail and could eventually connect to West Stockbridge. Tom Norton is interested in working on the path from Main Street in Housatonic, north into Stockbridge. It would be about 4.5 miles and is expensive. The idea is to work in manageable segments. At this point we could go out and solicit an engineering design for the first component or two.

F. Bike Rack for Town Hall – The bike fixit stand has been put up in front of Town Hall. Karen said she talked to Chris Rembold and Sean VanDeusen and we thought it would be good to have a bike rack at Town Hall. It would be a single sided, six slotted bike rack to the right of the steps once they are fixed. The cost would be between \$300 and \$500 to install it.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to budget between \$300 and \$500 to install a bike rack in the future. .

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

After discussion, it was decided to budget \$1,000 for two bike racks, one in front and one in back of Town Hall.

**VOTE:** Stephen Bannon withdrew his original motion.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to budget up to \$1,000 to install two bike racks in the future.

**SECOND:** Ilana Siegel

**VOTE:** 5-0

G. Approval of Town Annual Report – July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 - Karen said she sent the report to everyone. Kiwanis never painted the dugouts at Olympian Meadows so that will be changed to be done in the following year. It was noted that they will try to do the project in October of 2017.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Ilana Siegel

**VOTE:** 5-0

6. **CITIZENS SPEAK:** Tom Ingersoll sent a list of concerns about the construction at the Co-op. Karen said they need to get it built and then we will see. Karen explained that they met with the developers on how the actual entrance will be and where the boundaries are. Flags were put up to get an idea where things will be when they are done. Chris assured that the field will be playable next year.

Ed Abrahams – re: dog parks – He asked ever since the water dept. put the signs up on the McAllister Property, do you have any ideas on how people should proceed? It was noted that there were two proposals brought before the committee in the last 10 years, one by the cemetery on Blue Hill which did not work out and the other was the Fairgrounds which didn't work out either. It was noted that first you need the land, someone to maintain it, parking, water, and nothing came together. Part of the proposal for the fairgrounds was that they were going to provide a space for dogs.

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Giggle Park – Karen said that Ilana brought back a quote of \$18,000, not including site prep or ramp access for a swing set and slide. Karen said she would like to talk to Jane Iredale. There isn't enough room for the slide in the park because there isn't enough landing area. It would have to be outside the park but we can't do that because it takes up too much space. Once we have a budget, do we want swings or a slide? Stephen suggested making it a standard agenda item until it is voted on.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. October 10, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

  
Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary