

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS

KAREN SMITH – Not Present

ANTHONY TROIANO

DONOVAN LALLY

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of January 12, 2015

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 4-0

2. **PARKS CARE/MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMING:**

A. **Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent** – Joe noted that the DPW/Cemetery has been doing inside work and fixing up tables and benches, etc.

Paul said he received an e-mail from Emily Shaw asking about the water fountain for the Housatonic Park. Joe advised the fountains will be installed in the spring at Housatonic Playground, Grove Street Park and Memorial Field. Emily also asked about taking down part of the fence at the Housatonic Playground to get better access to the park. Joe said when we did the new fence that was put around the basketball court, we kept the far end open and we moved the entrance down to the walkway and widened it out. There is access from Pleasant Street. Paul said he told her the instillation of the swings would be in the spring.

B. **Berkshire South Regional Community Center** – Laura Harner from Berkshire South noted that there is still 7 weeks before the skate park opens on weekends and they have begun hiring the staff. Paul noted that at a future meeting we will discuss the hours that it will be open. Paul said the state passed a law that mandated that schools must be ADA accessible. He inquired to Laura if she knew if it applied to non-school facilities. Laura advised she would check into that.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:** Not listed on the Agenda

A. **Railroad Street Youth Project**, 60 Bridge Street, Great Barrington to use the Basketball Court behind the Railroad Street Youth building (skate park at Memorial Field) on March 27, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The request was to use the space for a spill over and a cool off place in conjunction with a dance. Luiza from Railroad Street was present to explain the request. She noted that there would be porta potties available. Luiza said she would send in the liability insurance.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon

SECOND: Charlie Bouteiller

VOTE: 7-0

Paul noted that letters and the parks usage request form are going out to all the individuals or groups that use our facilities this summer. The letter is requesting their attendance at the April 13, 2015 meeting.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Olympian Meadows playground equipment – Paul advised we have \$36,804.65 in the Improvements account after the encumbered \$14,273.34 for the removal of the old swings and instillation of new swings and mulch at the Housatonic Playground. In regard to Olympian Meadows, Paul said he would contact John LaRue and go down there to look at the park and the swings that are currently there and see what he recommends. Tom noted we should evaluate what we have at all the parks. The accessibility at Memorial Field has to be looked at. Paul noted the board voted on the repair of the fence at Olympian Meadows. There is a purchase order outstanding for the repair of the skate bowl that was never rescinded. The rest of the money is for the swing set, the instillation and removal of the old set and mulch. We have not voted or discussed in any detail any additional equipment at the Housatonic playground. The repair of the fence at Olympian meadows was approved at the December 8, 2014 meeting. The approved amount was \$1,380.00 from American Fence. Paul noted we will have to look at Memorial Field for accessibility. Joe noted that one or two parking spaces will have to be created.

Kathy said we have been discussing putting up signs in all the parks to identify the parks and Joe was going to look for some designs. Joe noted he did find some samples that he thought were appropriate. He will e-mail the samples to the board members. Two signs were approved for the Housatonic playground and village green.

Paul said that the Tree Committee Chair was wondering if we would be able to up front a grant. Joe advised they are applying for a DCR grant to improve the canopy along Stockbridge Road from Belcher Square up to Berkshire Bank. He noted that they received permission from the state as it is a state right-of-way. They also spoke to private property owners which may raise the question of obtaining easements and it may have to be approved at a Town Meeting. Joe said he would be concerned about fronting up money and the Parks Commission is not in the tree planting business. The grant is reimbursable 100% but you have to do the project and then the state would reimburse the money. Paul noted he would send him back to the Town Manger. They would ask the public works department, since the tree budget is in the public works department, to look at transferring funds and any reimbursement money would go into the general fund not to the fund it was taken from. Stephen suggested that we ask Dennis Gibbons of the Tree Committee to make recommendations for trees at the Grove Street Park and Housatonic.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary