

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON - ABSENT

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS

KAREN SMITH

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of February 10, 2014

MOTION: Stephen Bannon

SECOND: Charlie Bouteiller

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – The new pump station is ordered for Olympian Meadows and the water line work will begin soon. It was noted that \$20,000 of the budget is for the work Wilkinson will be doing on the water and sewer lines.

Paul advised that the correct vendor was paid for the mulch. Now the Town is trying to collect the money from the incorrect vendor. The money was taken from the parks budget. The parks commissioners felt it was inappropriate to do that.

MOTION: Karen that Parks and Recreation Commission recommend that it be held for no longer than a 60 day period and that money needs to come back to the Park and Recreation Budget from the General Fund.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 6-0

Steve said one of the questions asked when the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee met was what was left in the budget to spend this year. The original recommendation of the Town Manager was to include our Capital of \$45,000 into the CPA line for 2015. Steve said he pointed out that it was not a good idea and it got switched back to part of the tax levy. We have \$10,000 encumbered with a balance of \$32,600 and minus the \$20,000, we have \$12,600. Joe noted that another \$1,500 will come out of that also. We will have some extra because the pipe for the water line at Olympian Meadows was donated. Paul advised that he just did a purchase order for supplies for new picnic tables that were built by the DPW.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Southern Berkshire Youth Football requested to be put on the April agenda.

B. Great Barrington Little League to use Olympian Meadows – April 1, 2014 through July 3, 2014 (4-1/-5-31-M-F) 4 p.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 9-p.m. (6/1/-7/31 every day from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.). Brian Mead was present representing Great Barrington Little League. Brian advised

he would forward their liability insurance. Brian asked if the infields could be mowed twice a week. Joe advised he would keep an eye on it. He also noted that the gates are being held together with a bungee cord. Joe advised he would look at it.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Karen Smith

VOTE: 6-0

C. Great Barrington Girls Softball to use Olympian Meadows – April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

MOTION: Karen to recommend approval pending the submittal of liability insurance.

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 6-0

D. Southern Berkshire Babe Ruth – Memorial Field – no one present.

E. Great Barrington Millers to use Memorial Field – no one present.

F. Fairview Hospital to use the Town Hall Green – no one present.

G. Berkshire South Regional Community Center to use Lake Mansfield for the annual fishing derby on Sunday June 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MOTION: Karen to approve.

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 6-0

H. Railroad Street Youth Project to use the Basketball Court and Skate Park at Memorial Field on the following dates: April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11 and August 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. for dances and other events. Setup is at 5:30 p.m. and clean-up is till 11:30 p.m. The event usually ends at 10:00 p.m. Yevin Roh was present to explain the request. He noted that for every 20 people attending, there is one chaperone plus police.

MOTION: Karen to approve.

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 6-0

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Changing area at Lake Mansfield – Christine Ward

Christine advised that Senta Reis, who does the yoga program at Lake Mansfield charges a fee and splits the money paid between the Lake Mansfield Alliance and herself. Last year the Alliance made \$50.00. Christine noted that last year Lake Mansfield Alliance provided support of the lake area and that does not include the volunteer hours they provide for the cleanup of the trails. For Lake Day, (Sunday, April 27, 2014) Berkshire South provides water safety for Lake Day. The swim ropes and the weed fabric are installed on Lake Day as well. Berkshire School will be coming on the 17th to help with clean-up activities and invasive species control. Christine asked if one portable toilet could be made available. The park improvements have been noted in the Lake Mansfield Alliance newsletter. The changing area proposal is for an 8X8 fenced in area to be attached to the portable toilet structure. The quote from All American Fence is \$2,350.00. She said they would like to suggest that there be a gap on the bottom so you can tell if someone is using the changing space. Christine also said they would like a recycled deck material for the floor which will be placed on crushed stone. Two benches are also requested. Lake Mansfield Alliance would like to support this project by providing for the instillation of the decking material and \$1,000 for funding.

MOTION: Karen to encumber up to \$2,000 to complete the changing area based on the \$1,000 funding by Lake Mansfield Alliance.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 6-0

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Establish Friends of the Great Barrington Parks – Karen said because of the way taxes are going if people want to do projects at the parks that we should establish sub accounts that people can donate money for a particular park as a donation revolving account. We need to set up a revolving fund so money is only spent on the park that the money was donated for. Paul advised that there is a revolving fund already with a limit of \$5,000. Paul said he would check to see how much is in the current revolving fund. We need to write a policy on accepting money.

MOTION: Karen that the Park and Recreation Committee recommends in theory that we would like to look at developing Friends of the Great Barrington Parks sub account.

SECOND: Charlie

VOTE: 6-0

Paul advised he would have a report for the next meeting on April 14, 2014.

B. Recruit some Railroad Street Youth – Karen said she has talked to Amanda about having a young adult between 25 and 35 and a youth come together to meetings so the adult can mentor the youth in parks procedures, etc. It is important that we get youth involved. Karen would like the Park and Recreation Commission to vote in theory to find the right youth to become a voting member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION: Steve to allow Karen to proceed in talking to Amanda at Railroad Street Youth about a youth becoming involved with parks.

SECOND: Cathy

VOTE: 6-0

C. Start to review Fees for Use Programs for all participants – Karen advised we are going to have to start looking at fees for using the parks. Steve noted that more and more of the sports leagues are not Great Barrington or Housatonic residents. A question was raised that if a fee is charged, what would be appropriate.

MOTION: Steve to allow Karen and Paul to explore fees for use programs for all participants.

SECOND: Charlie

VOTE: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary