

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

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON

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 January 13, 2014

MOTION: Stephen Bannon

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

- A. Updates from Joe Sokul – Joe was not present.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

- A. Lake Mansfield Alliance/Great Barrington Land Conservancy for permission to hold the annual Lake Celebration and Cleanup Day at Lake Mansfield on Sunday, April 27, 2014 (Rain date Sunday May 4) from 9:30 a.m. for set-up with the event from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

- B. Lake Mansfield Alliance – partnering with Senta Reis to provide summer yoga at Lake Mansfield beach area Wednesday and Friday beginning July 2, 2014 to August 1, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (Discussion/Vote) Kathy noted that the \$10.00 will cover part of her costs plus a donation to the Lake Mansfield Alliance. Paul said he would talk to Jennifer Tabakin about setting a policy for people who want to use the town properties and are generating revenue. This will be included on a future agenda.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0 (Karen Smith Abstained)

- C. Great Barrington Land Conservancy for a Potluck Picnic and Volley Ball to celebrate teen energy that helps to maintain our local trails on Friday, July 18, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve
SECOND: Pat Salvi
VOTE: 7-0

D. Berkshire International Film Festival to use the Town Hall Bandstand/Green from Wednesday, May 28, 2014 to Monday June 2, 2014. Lauren Ferin was present to explain the request. She noted the event will go until 11:00 p.m. with the band stopping at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday will be to set up and the following Monday will be for clean-up. Michael Ballon of Castle Street Café will be the caterer.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve.
SECOND: Karen Smith
VOTE: 7-0

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Paul advised that when we did the playground in Housatonic a quote was accepted for mulch from American Playground Surfacing P.O. Box 222, Marathon, NY, a division of American Forest Products. The purchase order was for \$5,743.20. They delivered it. The invoices came from American Forest Products, 848 Marshall Phelps Road, Windsor, CT which is the parent company. Paul said he approved it back in October 2013. It was paid on October 28, 2013. Sometime in November he was notified that the vendor had not received his check. Paul said he received a call from the vendor – his name is Michael McGuffie. A copy of the check was obtained and it was made out to American Playground Corp in Anderson Indiana. This company was in the data base. Paul said he spoke with the owner of American Playground Corp and he admitted he received the check and couldn't understand why his bookkeeping department had cashed it because there was no invoice or purchase order to match it to. Paul advised him that he needed to have the money back because we need to pay the correct vendor. That was in mid-December. At the end of December the company was called again and the same answer and response was received. We still haven't received the money back so a 3rd call was made and he advised the check would be forthcoming the next week. Paul said he went to see Jennifer and explained the situation to her. She had Helen Kuziemko called and he admitted he received the check but he can't pay it back because he is near bankruptcy. Paul said that Michael McGuffie called him again and wanted to know what the status was. Lauren refuses to pay the right vendor because the money has been used. Paul said he is asking the Board for guidance. Steve said this needs to go back to Jennifer and she needs to find out whose mistake it is and they need to find a way to get the money back.

MOTION: Karen that an e-mail be sent by the chairman to the Town Manager stating that we wish that the appropriate vendor be paid immediately since he has been delayed over three months and the Town and the Town Manager and Financial Coordinator needs to remedy the situation because that is where the problem occurred and we will not accept that it be taken out of any of our line items.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon
VOTE: 7-0

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Christine Ward representing the lake Mansfield Alliance in regard to a changing facility at Lake Mansfield. Kathy Plungis explained the request. She advised that the Alliance would

like to add a changing facility to the porta potty area. She is thinking an 8' fenced in area with benches. The ground could be dug down and filled with white stone. Lake Mansfield Alliance would be able to contribute. It was decided to defer this until the next meeting.

MOTION: Karen to ask Joe Sokul for a visual rendition and the approximate cost.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

Karen advised that the CPA will not be ready to do allocations for FY15. A Public Hearing has to be held and it has to go to Town Meeting. What the CPA Committee will probably do is recommend that 10% be allocated for historical, open space and low income housing. Money will then be released by the state in November and we will begin accepting applications for monies in 2016. Karen said they are writing a plan on how it should operate. There will be a two-step application. You cannot ask for money that you are putting forward in another budget. With whatever money is available from the town, the state will reimburse 25% to 100% of that in November. CPA funds cannot be used for maintenance. Town Meeting can decrease a project but they can't increase a project. CPA money can be used to bond but you can only use the town part of the revenue to bond. You can't depend on any of the revenue from the state. CPA is 3% of your assessment, about \$40.00 per \$100,000 but the first \$100,000 of the assessment is waived. It was noted that if parks would like to do a project that means we would be the governing and overseeing body. Revenue generation projects are encouraged. Parks should be looking at a 5 year plan to see what we can do out of capital and prioritize them to see what would fit into the parameters.

Paul said that he advised Jennifer that the #1 priority is to have the money in the budget that we use to hire Berkshire South to run the summer programs. Money for capital expenses may not be available.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary