

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON – Not Present

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI-Not Present

KATHY PLUNGIS

KAREN SMITH

ANTHONY TROIANO- Not Present

DONOVAN LALLY

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Minutes of September 21, 2015 – The minutes were not available for review. They will be reviewed and voted on at the November 9, 2015 meeting.

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

- A. None

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent – The cleaning up of the parks will begin in the next few weeks. Wards Nursery will be planting the trees at the Housatonic Park on Friday, October 16, 2015 that was approved by the Commission. The contract has been signed for the equipment for Housatonic. John LaRue has the contract and will be getting the appropriate signatures. Paul Gibbons submitted the Purchase Order to Joe Sokul for the purchase and installation of the equipment. John LaRue will be sending the equipment over to P&P Installations who will put most of it together and it will be installed according to the last plan. Joe noted that Jennifer Tabakin asked him to give an update to the Select Board on the park improvements. The tree that was up at the top of the property was relocated to a place by the school. It is 5 to 8' off the property line. The signs will be ordered and the Cemetery Department will make the posts for the signs during the winter and they will be installed in the spring. Paul asked Joe Sokul to look at the dug outs at Memorial Field to see what they need. Kathy Plungis noted that both roofs need to be replaced. The posts are not rotted at the bottom and the benches are good but they need to be painted. The bottom is scalloped on the fencing behind the first base dugout. In front of the first base dugout the sharp points have come out. The practice pitcher's mound needs to be redone. Kathy also noted when the infield mowing was done the grass clippings went back into the infield. Joe said we need to get the infield back into shape. It will be evaluated in the spring. Karen Smith noted that we need a maintenance plan and it needs to be a budgeted position for maintaining the fields and plantings downtown. Paul noted that he included the idea of doing an annual contract for maintenance of the parks and plantings in the Town Report. Joe noted that there should be a separate line item in the budget just for maintaining the Main Street trees and plants.

Joe stated that the DPW does not have a power rake. They do have a drag. Joe Wilkinson has been hired in the past to power rake the fields. The warning track also needs to be cleaned up and repaired. Joe noted he would obtain a price for infield mix.

Steve advised he would like to check with the Berkshire Regional School District about possibly sharing equipment.

MOTION: Karen Smith that the Park and Recreation Commission approach the Berkshire Hills Regional School District regarding the sharing of equipment to maintain the ball fields in order to keep costs down.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 6-0

Kathy Plungis said she would like the batting cage rehung at Memorial Field in the spring. The Millers said that they would be willing to trim the trees at the outfield. Joe noted that Tom Ingersol was working with the owners of the Searles Castle to do that. The lawn mower needs to be put in the shed at Olympian Meadows.

B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Laura Harner was present from Berkshire South to review the 2015 Summer Parks Management Report.

Laura noted that the summer program went well and there were no major issues. She advised that speed is an issue on Lake Mansfield Road. The portable toilets were not cleaned enough. It was suggested contacting Simon's Rock about using the back entrance for parking for the Lake. On November 4 the Lake Mansfield Task Force will be hosting a community meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Crissey Farm.

Memorial Field needs a new rules sign. It was noted that a new sign was purchased noting the requirement for a helmet at the skate park. The sign that is currently there says no bikes, etc. It was suggested that someone take a picture of it so it can be reviewed at the next meeting. The rules sign at Lake Mansfield needs to be painted because it is faded. Joe Sokul said that sand is put in at the beach area at Lake Mansfield every two years. The picnic tables and grills will be repaired during the winter. Laura said that Christine Ward would like a new weed fabric. Paul advised that as soon as he receives the invoice for the removal of the current weed barrier, he would request a cost estimate for a new weed barrier.

The skate park resurfacing and light is good. Joe Sokul said he would contact Bill Whittaker about the skate bowl. Paul advised he would contact Jennifer Tabakin and copy Chief Walsh about obtaining the police log to find out how many stops the Police made at Memorial Field. The Housatonic Playground staff coordinator was great. There was a good turnout this summer. (A copy of the report is attached to these minutes).

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Housatonic Village Improvements – Kathy Plungis said some representatives from the Housatonic Common were supposed to attend this meeting. Carmen was supposed to be attending along with Emily. Tom wanted to be sure the fitness equipment was ordered and that the picnic area has been staked out. Carmen was supposed to talk about who is going to plan the picnic area. Paul Gibbons said he spoke to Craig Okerstrom-Lang about attending a later

meeting when Tom Norton is able to be present. It was noted that the Housatonic Common representatives wanted to bring in a consultant but that is not going to happen.

There was a discussion about people walking their dogs in the cemeteries and not picking up after them. There is also an issue on Main Street where people are curbing their dogs as well. It is difficult to ban dogs from the cemeteries per Stephen Bannon. The Police should begin ticketing people.

The next Parks meeting is November 9, 2015 – Budget discussion.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to adjourn.

SECOND: Kathy Plugis

VOTE: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary