

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

**PRESENT:**

**PAUL GIBBONS**

**CHARLES BOUTEILLER**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**STEPHEN BANNON**

**PATRICIA SALVI**

**KATHY PLUNGIS**

**KAREN SMITH – NOT PRESENT**

**ANTHONY TROIANO**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of October 20, 2014

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Kathy Plungis

**VOTE:** 7-0

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

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent – Joe was not present.

B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Laura Martin could not attend.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Railroad Street Youth Project submitted an application to use the Basketball Court behind the Railroad Street Youth Building at Memorial Field/Bridge Street on November 14, 2014 for an overflow area for dancers to rest and cool off. The dance is scheduled to be from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Tom Norton

**VOTE:** 7-0

4. **UPDATES:**

A. Report from Kathy Plungis – Lake Mansfield Alliance – Kathy noted that she drove by Lake Mansfield and the large lifeguard chair is still there. She was advised that the large one is permanent. Also Paul noted that the mulch has been raked back.

Kathy advised that the Lake Mansfield Task Force meets the second Monday of each month. The Task force presented their findings at a joint meeting of the Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation commission and Parks and Recreation on September 29, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Station, 37 State Road. She noted that the Task Force presented Tighe and Bonds report at the end of September to the above noted boards. The report only dealt with the condition of Lake Mansfield Road. It did not include any factors of the lake shore line. There were three scenarios ranging from \$600,000 to 1.2 million with a contingency that it could go up to a million and a

half. It did not include stabilizing the lake bank. The road could be closed completely and used just for recreation, or it could remain as a two way road or one way with a pedestrian walkway. No decision was made. It was decided that public input would be welcome as to how they see the use of Lake Mansfield. The task force is going to be putting in the Town Budget a request for \$40,000 for a design landscape study. They are seeking an architect with extensive wetland experience. Kathy noted that 550 cars use that road daily. We have 4 members who will be writing the final report to present to the Parks Committee and then it would be presented to the Finance Committee. She noted that the permitting process will take about 2 years. For the water quality, Lake Mansfield did receive a grant for \$30,000 and it will be for over two years of monitoring the lake by Simons Rock College. They will write a water quality plan. The Castle Hill drainage was completed in August of 2013. 33 tons of sediment was removed from the drains. We are wondering if we can get some grants for Knob Hill because it is draining into the lake by the boat launch. Kathy said she would be presenting a rough draft letter at the December meeting. It was noted that the bank can't be stabilized with rip rap. It has to be live vegetation. Kathy said she is looking for support from the board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Fy16 Budget – Paul asked the committee to review the budget and make changes if you want. The Budget Detail was reviewed and it was noted that some of the projects have been done and others are either to be done or are continued projects. (A copy is attached to these minutes) Kathy noted that in the June minutes Joe Sokul said he had a contractor and it was going to take 7-10 days for LB Corporation to repair the skate bowl. Paul advised that the purchase order was cancelled and Joe was trying to find somebody else to do the work. Kathy said she calculated that between 2013 and 2014 we spend \$4,000 for Lake Mansfield, \$16,000 for South Street, \$53,800 for the Housatonic Playground, Grove Street, \$4,200, Little League – \$26,600 plus infield mix. Kathy asked if the water and sewer is working at Olympian Meadows. Paul advised that the sewer lines were installed so that in the future we could install permanent bathroom facilities.

Andy Troiano said he walked through Olympian Meadows and Memorial Field and spoke with Brian Mead and Preston Tinker and they came up with a list of things they would like us to address. One of the things is the Little League is going to have the Division 1 Tournament this year and the access road is over grown and they would like it cut back so you can see better. Some of the fencing is very dangerous, especially by the play area, wires are sticking through the top of the yellow caps and someone may get cut. Some of the wire on the bottom is loose. Andy said he obtained prices for repairing everything from All American Fence. Paul noted in FY 15 we have \$45,000. Of that there is \$10,000 for wood chips at various parks, \$5,000 to replace aging equipment at Grove Street, (which has not been done) \$5,000 for accessibility Improvements at Memorial field (not done), Infrastructure improvements at the Skate Park (very little done) \$10,000 to install equipment at Giggles Park and Olympian Meadows which we have not done and Installation of Playground Equipment in Housatonic which we have done but we have spent more than \$5,000. In FY16 some of the money for the infield mix for Olympian Meadows and Memorial field has been spent. We have moved up the equipment at Housatonic so some of that \$10,000 has been spent. We have installed the sewer lines at Olympian Meadows but not the restrooms. Also there is \$5,000 to improve the field at Memorial Field. Charlie suggested just bending the wires over on the fence at Olympian Meadows. Andy said he would

forward the proposals the board members from All American Fence for Memorial Field and Olympian Meadows. We could possibly allocate funds to do the work in FY15 if the board agrees. Andy noted that Little League put \$1,700 towards new clay and now they are running into a deficit. They are currently trying to raise money for a new scoreboard. Andy also noted that Little League wants to do a banner campaign this year where local business purchase banners and are hung up for the season. Stephen Bannon noted that last year it was determined that they were illegal and they were denied for Memorial Field. It was decided to request Chris Rembold attend the December meeting to discuss the banner bylaw. Andy also noted there was an issue last year with the DPW regarding volunteers mowing the field. Mowing of fields by volunteers will be on the agenda for December.

Area behind swings at Olympian Meadows: The proposal from Berkshire Fence to replace 170 ft. of 3.5 ft. high chain link w/4 ft. high chain link barb tops that are sticking through the top guards is \$4,080.00. After discussion, it was noted to request Joe to get a quote on fixing the fences at Olympian Meadows. This will be discussed at the December meeting. CIP will also be put on the December agenda.

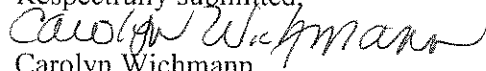
Kathy noted that she would like to see the restrooms put in at Olympian Meadows – There is \$20,000 budgeted – it was decided to add \$10,000 to that for a total of \$30,000. \$5,000 was deducted from the Infield Mix for Olympian Meadows and Memorial Field and Playground Equipment in Housatonic. It was suggested that Parks request between \$35,000 and \$45,000 every year. Paul noted that he added \$15,000 to FY20 for fitness equipment. We have moved the infield mix so the cycle is 15, 17 and 19. For FY 17 \$30,000 for Phase 1 will be added for the Memorial Field Sewer Lines and \$30,000 for FY2018 and remove the playground equipment amount of \$10,000 out of FY17 and move it to FY 18 for the addition of equipment at the Housatonic Playground. Paul said he would work on it and forward it to everyone.

Kathy noted that the Lake Mansfield Task Force suggested that we have a brochure listing all the town parks and post it at Lake Mansfield.

At the December meeting the committee will discuss the immediate issues for the Little League Field. Paul noted he would contact All American Fence in regard to bending the wires over on the fence.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary