

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

**PRESENT:**

**PAUL GIBBONS**

**CHARLES BOUTEILLER**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**STEPHEN BANNON**

**PATRICIA SALVI**

**KATHY PLUNGIS**

**KAREN SMITH**

**ANTHONY TROIANO- Not Present**

**DONOVAN LALLY**

The Meeting of the Park Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Kathy Plungis distributed the Open Meeting Law information to be signed by the board members and submitted to the Town Clerk.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of September 21, 2015

B. Minutes of October 13, 2015

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve both sets of minutes.

**SECOND:** Kathy Plungis

**VOTE:** 8-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Not on the Agenda – Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to use Memorial Field on Saturday, December 12, 2015 (rain date Sunday December 13) from 7:20 p.m. to 7:35 p.m. to launch fireworks.

**MOTION:** Karen Smith to approve

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 8-0

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Joe noted that the infield at Memorial Field has been graded and the parks cleanup is in progress. The area at the Housatonic Park is ready for the instillation of the fitness equipment and will be installed the week after the 16<sup>th</sup>. All American Fence will be looking at fence repairs for the bottom of the fence and the backstop at Memorial Field, the split rail fence at Old Maids and the opening at Housatonic Park. It was brought to the attention of the board that a tree located at Grove Street Park, donated by Thomas Whalen, was cut 3' above the ground. Joe noted he would follow-up with the Police Department for the Police Report. Joe noted that trees were cut at Park

Street Park as well. The people who did it were brought to court and they have to perform community service.

B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Not present.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Housatonic Village Common – Tom Norton suggested paying Craig Okerstrom-Lang to do a design to complete the park. The picnic area needs to be designed. It was suggested to purchase an ADA compliant picnic table. The benches need to be installed and garbage cans need to be purchased. Also a section of the fence could be removed for a walkway. Tom advised \$30,000 was budgeted to finish the park. Joe Wilkinson came in and leveled the exercise area and the Town installed the mulch. Tom was advised to return with a quote to complete the project. Paul advised that the purchase orders issued are as follows: \$15,196.00 for exercise equipment, \$4,312.00 for the instillation of the equipment, four benches, a pedestal table, and a grill for a total of \$19,508.00. That leaves a balance of \$10,492.00. Joe advised that the most expensive item is the concrete. After discussion, Tom said he would return to the next meeting with a quote as to how the remaining \$10,492 will be spent.

**MOTION:** Kathy Plungis to pay \$1000 to Craig Okerstrom-Lang for design work.

**SECOND:** Tom

**VOTE:** 1-7 (Vote Failed)

B. Rules Sign at Memorial Field – The sign is going to be redesigned. Karen Smith, Joe Sokul and Laura Harner will work on the new wording for the sign.

**MOTION:** Karen Smith that Joe, Laura Harner and herself review and come up with the wording for the rules sign.

**SECOND:** Karen Smith

**VOTE:** 8-0

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to allow bikes at the Skate Park at Memorial Field.

**SECOND:** Karen Smith

**VOTE:** 8-0

C. Purchase of Weed Fabric for Lake Mansfield

The cost of a new weed fabric with 5 barrier rods and labor is \$4,388.

**MOTION:** Karen Smith to use the remainder of the Lake Mansfield Account to purchase a new weed fabric with the remaining balance to be taken out of capital up to \$4,000.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 8-0

Paul will issue a purchase order for the barrier.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Use of Memorial Field for Fireworks – the board noted they would review the times requested for fireworks more carefully. Joe said he would check Memorial Field for debris left from the previous fireworks at Memorial Field.

B. FY 2017 Budget Karen noted that the Community Preservation Committee turned down the funds for handicapped access and bathrooms at Memorial Field. She noted we need to include a feasibility in the Capital Budget to review the need for public bathrooms and handicapped access to Memorial Field. Paul noted there was \$25,000 in the budget when it was presented to the Finance Committee for a feasibility study for Memorial Field for Handicapped Accessibility. Public bathrooms were not part of the \$25,000 for the feasibility study. After discussion, it was decided to increase the Capital Budget to \$60,000 and add \$25,000 to do a feasibility study to put bathrooms behind Town Hall. Paul noted we need to focus on fixing up Memorial Field and make it handicapped accessible. Paul said he would work up a capital plan with the \$25,000 feasibility study included and present it at the December meeting.

Paul said he spoke to Chief Walsh about the police presence at Memorial Field and Lake Mansfield. Chief Walsh noted they would work up a plan for next year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary