

**PARKS COMMISSIONERS**  
**TOWN HALL/SELECT BOARD'S MEETING ROOM**  
**334 MAIN STREET**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA**  
**MONDAY, FEBRAURY 13, 2017**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**PAUL GIBBONS**

**KAREN SMITH- Vice Chair- Absent**

**CHARLES BOUTEILLER**

**STEPHEN BANNON**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**PATRICIA SALVI**

**KATHY PLUNGIS - Absent**

**ANTHONY TROIANO – Absent**

**ONE VACANCY**

Paul Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of January 19, 2017 were approved with changes submitted by Karen Smith.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Charlie Bouteiller

**VOTE:** 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Great Barrington Millers to use Memorial Field Sundays beginning 4/2/17 to 10/1/17 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays beginning 3/23/17 to 10/26/17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The vote was unanimous to approve the use of the field on the dates requested.

The millers requested we look at replacing home plate, the pitchers plate and purchase a new set of bases for both the Millers and the Babe Ruth program. Paul said he would meet with a representative from the Millers and place the order at the appropriate time.

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent was present. There were no maintenance issues during the winter months. Sean indicated that maintenance would begin when the weather clears. The Cemetery Department has been constructing picnic tables for placement in the parks. They have done this in the past and their efforts are appreciated.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Laura Harner – Berkshire South – She expressed her request again to have the telephone line at Lake Mansfield looked at. Sean indicated he would contact Verizon and ask to meet with them at the Lake to look at what the problem is with the telephone line. Signs will be purchased and updated and placed in the appropriate parks. New “No Dog” signs will be placed in those locations that need them

such as Lake Mansfield swim area, the beach area, and Memorial Field and Olympian Meadows. Sean will meet with Paul to order the signs. Also, Berkshire South will discuss at a future meeting the idea of hiring an extra lifeguard. This would be more for supervision as the area becomes full with people. The parking issue was discussed but no resolution was made. This will be discussed at a future meeting to discuss if we have the ability to limit the number of people in the swim area when the parking lot gets filled to capacity.

B. Subcommittee Updates – policies and procedures developed by that subcommittee were distributed to members who had not seen it. It will be discussed and voted upon at a future meeting which will be posted in the agenda so that the citizens will know that parks procedures will be discussed at that meeting and perhaps voted upon.

C. Appointment of a representative to the Lake Mansfield Task Force – This was deferred to another meeting. The chairperson will discuss with the chairperson of the Lake Mansfield Task Force the possibility of changing the time of the meeting so it will be more conducive to a member from the Parks Department to be able to attend.

D. Vacancy on Parks and Recreation – This has been posted and we are awaiting applications. When we receive applications we intend to interview those applicants interested in becoming a member of the Parks Commission. At this time a recommendation will be made to the Town Manager.

E. Vote on Policies and Procedures for Parks and Recreation – This will be voted on at a future meeting.

F. Citizens Petition to add a new Park at Dewey School Courthouse – There was no representative from the citizen group present at the meeting. Discussion was deferred to the next meeting and an invitation will be issued to the group to have a representative attend to discuss the petition and the potential financial impact on the board's approval of the petition and the recommendation that it be approved at the Town Meeting. **This will be noted on the March agenda. Paul said he would invite Nick Diller and any others to the March 13, 2017 meeting.**

6. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

A representative from Bench Mark attended as well as Ed Abrahams was present. There was no citizen's speak. **We must add to the next agenda Bench Mark and a discussion of the Memorial Field – Co-op project.** It was not able to be discussed at this meeting because it was not on the agenda. We would request that **Chris Rembold attend the March meeting along with Bench Mark,** to have a discussion of the project and its status. The board instructed the chair to discuss with Chris Rembold as to what the procedure would be to have an updated sign bylaw to allow different groups to place temporary signs on fences during their season. Principally it would be the Millers, Little League and Babe Ruth. Our current sign bylaw does not allow it and we need to get advice from Chris as to how we can go about amending the sign bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary