

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING AGENDA
MASON LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

KAREN SMITH- not present

CHARLES BOUTEILLER- not present

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS

ANTHONY TROIANO- not present

DONOVAN LALLY- not present

Call to Order:

Tom commented that Maureen Atwood never contacted him on the installation location of the book house at the Housatonic Playground. It was installed without consulting him.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of April 19, 2016

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

2. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Southern Berkshire Youth Football to use Olympian Meadows – from August to November 2016 for Organized Youth Football practices. Preston Tinker was present representing the team. He also noted they would like to put up a small storage shed for equipment.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve the use of the field.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

B. Free Columbia Puppet Troupe/HVA, 651 Harlemville Road, Hillsdale, NY, Nathaniel Williams, to use the Town Hall Park on Thursday July 28, 2016 or Wednesday August 3, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to sunset for a Puppet Show for all ages.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to table the request because nobody was present representing the puppet company.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

The request for the Free Columbia Puppet show was re-opened.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to bring forward the request.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Nathaniel William was present to explain the request. He noted there would be no charge, that they just pass the "hat" at the end of the performance. He was not sure if he wanted July 28 or August 3. He was advised the contact the board secretary when a date is confirmed.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

C. Railroad Street Youth Project to use the Skate Park on June 12, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for their annual Generation Block Party. There will be 3v3 basketball, skate jam, live music and other games. Ed Abrahams was present representing Railroad Street Youth. It was noted that the Police Department has been notified of the event and the Railroad Street staff will be responsible for cleaning up the park. The event will end at 8:00 p.m. The extra time is requested for cleanup.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

D. Fairview Hospital, 29 Lewis Avenue to use the Town Hall Green Saturday, September 24, 2016 for the Annual Fundraiser reception and dinner. Tent setup will be Friday September 23 and taken down Sept. 26, 2016.

MOTION: Tom Norton to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 5-0

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

It was noted to discuss the available Capital Funds at the June meeting.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Salaries for Parks Employees:** Laura Harner from Berkshire South was present to explain the request for additional funds for the rest of the fiscal year. The Lake Mansfield swim lessons were included on the bid proposal form but they did not get appropriated in the total amount for the fiscal year which is approximately \$2,500. The staffing of the lifeguards on the bid proposal form listed specific dates for a total of 76 days. Because school began later than in the past, last summer from July 1 through September the lake was staffed for 66 days. This year there were no snow days, so lifeguards have been scheduled at the lake for an additional 20 days through June 30th. We have used up \$54,102.00 of the budget leaving an excess of \$1,183.68. There isn't enough money to cover from Memorial Day to the end of the fiscal year. There are 4 weekends between now and June 17, which amounts to 9 days including Memorial Day. There is 14 days after that. The lake coverage is just over \$255 per day or \$4,200 for the lake. The skate park has some coverage issues and also the Housatonic Playground. The bid form said we were to run it from July 1 to the first day of school for approximately 8 weeks. It ended up being 8 weeks and 6 days. Stephen noted that the contract goes through the Town Manager's Office. Laura noted the short fall totals \$8,400. Laura was advised to bring this to the attention of the Town Manager's Office because it is a contract. Laura said she would report back to the board prior to the next meeting on June 13, 2016.

B. Expanding the gardens around the Schneider Youth Building owned by RSYP. There was a question on funding. It is a YA project. They are hoping to get products donated. Paul noted if they are requesting funds from the Parks budget, he would need to know how much they are requesting and how much they are going to fund. It was suggested to return to the June meeting so it can be discussed.

C. Ed Abrahams – Installing a book house at Town Hall Park. It was noted that the book house would go on the fence to the left of the trash bin at Giggle Park.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

5. **CITIZEN SPEAKS:**

Scott McFarlane of the Millers reported on improvements they made at Memorial Field by them and Babe Ruth. There are new roofs on the dugouts and there are materials to put a new roof on the shed. The tractor is being fixed. Scott asked if there is a way to bring some of the soil at Olympian Meadows up to Memorial Field to fill in the low spots. It was suggested that Scott contact the Peter Soules at the DPW to bring the soil up to Memorial Field. It was noted that All American Fence was going to do the fence in front of the dug outs and the bottom of the fence at the backstop.

6. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Kathy Plungis noted that the porta potty needs to be ordered for the Housatonic Playground.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to order the porta potty for the Housatonic Playground

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Kathy asked if the weed fabric has been installed at the Lake and if a Certificate of Insurance has been received. (A copy was sent to the committee members after the meeting).

Kathy reported on the Lake Mansfield Task Force. The surveys have been completed. The consultants are in the process of writing up their report. A walk through was done where the new proposed road would be going if the road goes to one way. No decision has been made. The report should be received by the Task Force by the beginning of June and the committee will be submitting the report to the Select board the third week of June. The consultants will be discussing options and making a recommendation. Christine Ward has asked that all participants on the task force make recommendations as well.

Tom Norton spoke on the Housatonic Playground. Tom said he met with Karen Smith and Joe Sokul with a plan after the last meeting. Tom said he sent an e-mail to a couple of members and Housatonic people so they would know what was decided. Joe had advised him that the picnic area was going to be completed by Memorial Day. Tom said there are 4 things that need to be done.

Fence openings – Craig Lang suggested opening the whole thing (taking 7 sections out) but Joe Sokul did not agree. The picnic area needs to get leveled and graded and filled and compacted to the specs. It was discussed to have a concrete finished surface. Joe Sokul thought airport mix would be sufficient. All the equipment that was purchased is to go in. The fitness area is all prepared and ready to go in. Tom noted that there is \$10,500 left to finish the park. Tom said he needs a clear quote from Wilkinson as to how much it will cost to do the grading. It was suggested that Tom e-mail Joe Sokul and request the cost of the grading from Wilkinson's.

7. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. Monday, June 13, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Mason Library

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary