

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

KAREN SMITH

CHARLES BOUTEILLER- ABSENT

STEPHEN BANNON – LEFT AT 6:15 P.M.

THOMAS NORTON - ABSENT

PATRICIA SALVI

ANTHONY TROIANO

ILANA SIEGAL

ALSO PRESENT: SEAN VAN DEUSEN, DPW SUPERINTENDENT

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

1. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to nominate Karen Smith as Chair.

SECOND: Anthony Troiano

VOTE: 5-0

Karen accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Karen Smith to nominate Paul Gibbons as Vice Chair.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Paul accepted the nomination

Karen thanked Paul for all his years of service as Chair of the Committee.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **Minutes of May 8, 2017**

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve

SECOND: Karen Smith

VOTE: 6-0

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. **Parks Usage Request from southern Berkshire Youth Football to use Olympian Meadows in the evenings beginning in August through November 2017 (Discussion/Vote)**

Shawn Albert was present to explain her request. It was noted that the current Certificate of Insurance needs to be up-to-date because it will expire August 18, 2017. Shawn noted she would forward it. Shawn noted there will be a Skills and Drills on Saturday, June 24 and another one Saturday, July 22nd from

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Karen advisee Shawn to contact Mr. St. Peter of the Little League noting the dates in June and July to be sure they are not an issue. Karen advised Shawn to resubmit the request form with definite dates and times for August through November. Paul noted that the Town pays for the dumpster and the portable toilets at the Field. (Carolyn was advised to contact the Little League Representatives and ask them to attend the next Parks Meeting).

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve Southern Berkshire Youth Football to use Olympian Meadows Field on June 24, 2017 and July 22nd.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

B. Berkshire Pulse to use the Housatonic Park or in case of rain to use the community center on Friday, June 16, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a workshop led by a contemporary dance company (Discussion/Vote) Elizabeth; the administrator at Pulse was present to answer questions. It was noted that the Parks Commissioners have no jurisdiction over the use of the gym. It is the Town Manager's Office. She noted that they would be using the area between the playground and the school. Karen advised that they shouldn't just offer a discount to Housatonic residents that it should be extended to Great Barrington residents as well. Sean said he would contact Sunny Tarnawa about opening and closing the Community Center if it is needed and available.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0-1

C. Lake Mansfield Alliance – partnering with Senta Reis providing yoga at the beach area at Lake Mansfield. Session 1- Monday, Wednesday and Friday s – Friday July 3 – Monday July 31. Session 2 – Sundays in September (9/10, 17, 24) and October (10/1, 10/8).

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 6-0

Ilana said she would be willing to locate a teacher for August. (Put on the agenda in March of 2018 that Ms. Siegel and Ms. Reis would line up a yoga teacher so there can be coverage for the whole summer). It was suggested to use the Gazebo as an alternate space for next year.

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – He noted that he and Karen did a small tour of the parks. Sean noted he is obtaining prices to replace the backstop in Housatonic. There was some damage done to one of the grills. Signs are all set about dogs being allowed. There are dead branches in a tree that need to be pruned. Mulch needs to be refurbished around the new trees. The grass around the “speed bump” sign at Lake Mansfield needs to be trimmed.

The area near the gate at Housatonic School needs to be trimmed too.

Two new grills at Lake Mansfield have been installed. The parking area will be fixed up. The wood on the porta-potties and changing area has been fixed. Sand was put on the beach before Memorial Day.

Castronova Park – getting new swings...not new chains. There needs to be a bigger flag pole there, the existing one is too small.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to have Sean look into getting a bigger flag pole with solar lights and a larger flag for Castronova Park.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 6-0

South Street Park – Ilana noted that she has never seen anyone use the exercise equipment at the park. It was noted that a few years ago it was the agreement of the board to put fitness equipment at South Street Park. Ilana noted that she has done research on age appropriate equipment. The Commissioners could look at existing parks to see if there is something we can put there. Karen suggested that Ilana discuss her ideas with Sean then the Commissioners can discuss it and check the state bid list. It was noted that there is a 5 year Capital Plan. Public toilets were approved for Olympian Meadows. A temporary trailer could be hooked up for a while at Olympian Meadows. Sean was asked to see what the cost is. Karen said she would speak to Robert Patterson about submitting an updated Parks financial statement each month noting what is encumbered in the budget and what the balance is. Money could be carried forward to FY18 if there are specific projects the money will be used for. Giggle Park needs a swing set for all ages. Olympian Meadows needs to have something for smaller kids. The field at Olympian Meadows needs to have professionals come in and do some work. This is to be discussed at the September meeting. There was almost \$5,000 worth of work done on the electrical system at the Snack Shack at Olympian Meadows because there were live wires all over the place going into the park. Little League will be asked to attend the July 10 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Laura Harner – Berkshire South – re: a policy regarding parental supervision at the Housatonic Playground because people are taking advantage of it and dropping very young children off at the park with no food, no supervision or anything. In Pittsfield children are allowed to be signed in for periods of time. Karen suggested that Ilana work with Laura and come up with something that is workable to get us through this summer and get it back. If we have to call a special meeting then we will call it.

B. Park and Rec Policies and Procedures (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to accept the draft of the Policies and Procedures.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE : no vote taken

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to table voting on the Policies and Procedures until the July 10, 2017 meeting to give Karen a chance to edit the draft.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE : 6-0

C. Revised Parks Usage Request Form (Discussion/Vote) – Pat Salvi will reformat the form and it will be presented at the next meeting. It was decided to put the rules on a separate page and the Parks Usage Request on a separate page. There was a question about making the form fillable on line. This was tabled until the July 10, 2017 meeting.

D. Bike Repair Station (Karen Smith) Karen presented information on a bike Fix it station to be put in front of Town Hall. It has all the tools and a pump. The concrete could be extended and there is a light available and a bike stand. The cost would be approximately \$1,400.00. Karen noted she would have to present it to the Historical Commission. Karen noted she is going to approach Berkshire Bike and Blade about donating 2 hours once a month to have a tech there to assist people with their bikes.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 5-0

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Gilmore Park – Tabled

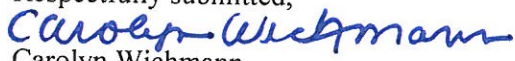
7. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**
 - A. None

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**
 - A. None

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**
 - A. July 10, 2017

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**
 - A. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann

Secretary