

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS- Not Present

KAREN SMITH

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. **Minutes of June 9, 2014 – Regular Meeting**

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve

SECOND: Karen Smith

VOTE: 6-0

B. **Minutes of June 23, 2014 – Special Meeting**

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0-1 – Karen abstained

Paul advised about \$8,000 was spent on equipment for the Alice A. Bubriski Park. The amount was over the account balance but part of the amount will be taken out of FY15 funds. The money was carried forward and the funds from FY15 will be added.

Paul said he spoke to the Town Manager about the \$5,000 that was inadvertently paid to the wrong company for mulch. He said a letter has not been sent yet. The company is supposedly going bankrupt. Stephen Bannon noted he would bring the subject up at the Board of Selectmen's meeting about putting the funds back into the Parks account.

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. **Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent**

The changing station is complete at Lake Mansfield. The signs for Lake Mansfield are on order. During the July 2nd storm, a tree fell down across the shed door at Lake Mansfield. The lifeguards went in there to take shelter and couldn't get out. The door was damaged. It was removed and fixed. Pete Soules spoke to Brian Mead regarding the shed at Olympian Meadows. Brian noted that getting volunteers to fix it did not work out but he would give us a contact person as far as the snack shack at Olympian Meadows. We can go down and do a layout and get everything done and get water inside. The Parks are being mowed and trimmed on a regular basis. The water fountains – they were held off because they are \$600.00 each and \$150 to install them. Laura noted the fountain at the skate park isn't working. Joe said he would check it out. Three fountains will be put in at different parks. The park rule signs have been installed. The sign for the helmet rules are scheduled to be installed at the skate park. The bid for the skate bowl repairs

is going out to bid again. The current purchase order will be voided. There was a complaint of graffiti at the skate park – they are trying to get it cleaned up.

The Main Street reconstruction project has started. The drainage coming up from Memorial Field and Stanley Park is going to be done. Joe said there are a couple of dead trees by the outlet at Lake Mansfield that need to be removed.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Parks Usage Request from Railroad Street Youth Project, 60 Bridge Street to use Memorial Field (just the outfield) July 24, August 7, August 21, September 4, September 18, October 2, October 16, (All Thursdays) from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Ultimate Frisbee Games. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve the request.

SECOND: Karen Smith

VOTE: 6-0

B. Parks Usage Request from The Garden to use the Great Barrington Skate Park on Bridge Street on Saturday, August 9, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Shred 4 Keenan/Colm Flat ground skate completion. William Whittaker was present to explain the request. He noted there will be no food. There will be music and water will be available.

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve the request.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 6-0

Karen requested that he submit a new certificate of insurance for liability naming the Town of Great Barrington as certificate holder.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Karen re: Kids on the Park Committee: The original goal was to get kids involved on the committee. Mr. Borden who attended our meeting two months ago has decided that he can't do it and the other person never communicated to Shawn Flynn. We do have a letter from a person in Housatonic who wants to be involved on the committee. An e-mail was sent to MaryAnn Young and Shawn Flynn asking for recommendations and they recommended **Henry** ? but he received no direction on what to do . Also letters of appointment were never created. It was determined that the Town Manager needs to publicize the two vacancies and set a deadline.

MOTION: Karen Smith – we speak to the Town Manager and ask to have it advertised the week of the 20th of August in the Shopper's Guide and announced at a Select Board meeting that the Parks and Recreation are seeking two additional members.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 6-0

Paul said he would talk to Jennifer Tabakin.

Karen said he would not be at the August 11 meeting.

A. Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Laura Martin. She noted that the Housatonic Playground opened on July 1, 2014. The average attendance has been 59 people a day. It is open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There have been approximately 32 people per day at the skate park. This was based on the 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 schedule. She noted at Lake Mansfield there have been 253 people per day for people in the water and at the park.

Karen read an e-mail from Kathy Plungis: A concern came at the Lake Mansfield Alliance meeting. The Alliance had the parking pointed out that cars are parking in emergency only areas and anywhere they can

find space. Sometimes they encroach in the wetlands. Christine Ward is going to contact the Police to check the area and ticket cars that are parked in the emergency areas. Congestion and safety is an issue. Karen said this needs to be addressed through the Town Manager and the Chief. The e-mail also suggested that if the beach parking lot is too full then have the lifeguards put up signs at both ends of the beach area saying "lots are full" and the area is closed. Laura noted that a lot of people drive to the area in order to walk the trails and they are not all at the beach area. If the lifeguards determine there are more people in the water than they can handle, then they can make a call for additional assistance. Karen advised the lifeguards' job is to watch the water not the parking lot. Charlie noted we have to get the correct signs up at the Lake for where you are not allowed to park and after that it becomes a police issue. The lifeguards can call the police if there is an issue. Someone needs to get back to Kathy Plungis or Christine Ward. Laura said she would obtain the numbers for how many lifeguards are needed per number of people. Kathy also noted that the climbing apparatus is aging and rusted. A child got hurt on it and had to have dental work done. Kathy said they felt it is unsafe and needs to be replaced but not to take it down until the new one has been ordered and installed. It is requested that a larger one be installed. She advised the new swings looked terrific and the changing area has been used. The Alliance has also sent in the check for \$1,000 to cover part of the cost of the changing area. Joe said he would check on the climbing apparatus for rust spots. Tom Norton said he looked at all the equipment two years ago with John LaRue for safety and he thought there was nothing wrong with that structure, that it met code. The spaces are adequate so people can't get trapped or caught inside. Paul said he would respond to Lake Mansfield Alliance in regard to their issues and cc the board. The police need to be instructed to go to the Skate Park between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Karen said we need to invite the Great Barrington Trails and Lake Mansfield Alliance, Joe Sokul, Bill Walsh and Shepley Evans of the Conservation Commission to either the September or October meeting and we need to talk about the parking issues, etc.

Paul has three things he is going to contact Jennifer Tabakin about:

- 1) Membership on the Committee
- 2) Police visiting the skate Park during staffing hours.
- 3) Parking enforcement at Lake Mansfield.

Laura noted that additional shirts have been ordered for the staff. She said last year when there was vandalism at Lake Mansfield the water fountain was broken and it has not been replaced.

B. Susan Jennings – re: Picnic at a Park – nobody was present to speak on that.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann, Secretary