

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016
5:00 P.M.

NO QUORUM

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

KAREN SMITH

CHARLES BOUTEILLER-not present

THOMAS NORTON – not present

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI- not present

KATHY PLUNGIS – not present

ANTHONY TROIANO

DONOVAN LALLY- not present

Call to Order:

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Minutes of July 12, 2016 – to be voted when there is a quorum at the September 12, meeting.

It was discussed when a member of the board is unable to attend a meeting that it is the responsibility of the member to contact either the chairman or the vice chairman.

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

- A. None

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent – Joe advised that he had the signs removed from the Housatonic Park that stated “No Dog in Park.” The trees are being watered. He has been in contact with John LaRue about installing the equipment and Joe Wilkinson about establishing the grade and seed prior to installing the equipment. The chain link fence has been put in. The gate location will be corrected. Karen noted that no changes should be made to the plan for Housatonic until Joe Sokul has signs off. Laura Harner of Berkshire South noted the umbrella holders for the lifeguard chairs at Lake Mansfield need to be replaced. Joe noted that he would check on that. Beach sand will be brought up as well. Laura also advised that there is a water pipe sticking up. Joe said he sent notice to the Fire District. It was also noted that the telephone at the Lake is not working. Joe contacted Verizon about fixing it or replacing it. Laura stated she would like more signs at each end of the lake noting no dogs, smoking or alcohol. The post at Memorial Field will be fixed after the Fire District is out of the area. All American Fence will take care of it. Joe advised that Mass DOT will begin work on the Bridge Street Bridge and it will go for about 8 to 10 months.

Paul said he would e-mail Jennifer Tabakin about being included on the hiring process of a new DPW Superintendent.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Housatonic Park/Dogs in park – continued till September meeting. Housatonic Parks needs to have permanent rules signs. Joe said they are on order.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Development of Policies and Procedures – Tabled

B. Use of parks by profit making entities – Tabled

C. Memorial Field Handicapped Accessible Plan – Craig Lang was to attend. There was no discussion.

D. Porta Toilets – Discussion with Laura Harner on having staff responsible for cleaning the porta toilets. If the toilet is full, call Mt. Everett to pump. It was noted that for general cleaning the staff would be supplied with gloves and cleaning material. If toilet paper or towels are needed, the staff should be able to take care of it. Staff should call Carolyn or Joe for emptying.

Laura Harner from Berkshire South said that the Shred for Keenan event put on by The Garden that there was drinking and smoking at the event. There was also garbage left afterwards. Laura also noted that the Police were present but did nothing about the drinking and smoking. Karen said to invite Bill Whittaker to the September meeting.

She also advised that adults are swimming outside the ropes at Lake Mansfield. The board advised if there is an issue the lifeguards need to clear the water and have someone call the police as well. There was a question as to who was at the Lake last Thursday or Friday around 3:00 to 3:30. There was a bus load of kids dropped off by a Berkshire Hills bus. Laura noted there have been snapping turtles at the lake. She was advised to call Shep Evans the Animal Control Officer.

6. **CITIZEN SPEAK:**

A. None

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Paul said at this present time the board members have accepted a one year appointment. He said he didn't know why the normal three year appointment was changed to a one year term. Stephen Bannon also brought up the procurement process. The Town Manager discussed that issue with Joe and he noted that procurement goes through the public works office. Anything over \$10,000, the chief procurement officer has to sign the contract. The Town Manager was also concerned because Parks has the ability to purchase items for instance at Carr Hardware. Stephen advised her that when purchases are made the invoices are submitted to the Town Accountant. Stephen also noted that Parks has spent a lot of time and money in the Housatonic Park. Stephen said that one of the complaints is that after we approved the \$30,000 we asked the group to come back with a new plan. We made it clear that until this phase is done there is not a second phase. The plan was to get the equipment, establish a picnic area, and plant the trees. This is a really good committee and gets a lot of work done

The Commission will draft a letter to go to the Town Manager and all 5 Select Board members to ask about the appointment time change. It will be voted on at the next meeting. Also it was questioned why when we wanted to expand the parks members we had to go to Town Meeting? Andy Troiano will check on other towns to see how Park Commissions are set up and the policy and procedures used with Park and Recreation Commissions within the Commonwealth. It was suggested to check Williamstown, Lenox, Lee and Taunton.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. September 12, 2016

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary