

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS, CHAIRMAN
CHRISTINE WARD – NOT PRESENT
KAREN SMITH
STEVEN BANNON – NOT PRESENT
CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ALSO PRESENT: JOE SOKUL, DPW SUPERINTENDENT

The meeting of the Parks Commissioners was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. **Minutes of the November 8, 2010 meeting**

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 3-0

B. **Minutes of the December 6, 2010 meeting**

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 3-0

2. **BERKSHIRE SOUTH – LAURA MARTIN**

Ms. Martin noted that she was approached by some skate boarders who patronize the Memorial Field Skate Park advising her that the skate parks in Lee and Stockbridge are setup for more advanced skaters whereas the one in Great Barrington is more for novice skaters. Ms. Smith agreed that additional equipment could be purchased but input needs be brought before the board by the skaters plus they should raise some of the money to pay for the equipment.

Ms. Martin presented a sample of wording for an “A frame” sign to be placed at the skate park noting “Caution – Baseball Game in Progress – Watch for Baseballs.” It was suggested to have a sign board made with hooks so the messages can be changed. Mr. Sokul advised that the Cemetery Department could make the sign stand.

MOTION: Ms. Smith that we approve the request of Berkshire South for a multipurpose “A Frame Sign.” During baseball games, a staff member is to be stationed at the fence and call out a warning if a baseball should come toward the skate park area.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 3-0

RULES BOARD AT THE HOUSATONIC PARK

Ms. Martin presented a draft of proposed wording of a Park Rules sign to be placed at the Housatonic Park. After review, the only change was to eliminate "No boom boxes or loud music" and to input "No Loud or Inappropriate Music." This sign will also be a multipurpose "A frame" sign. Mr. Sokul requested that Ms. Martin forward the wording for the sign to him. Mr. Sokul advised that the Town Manager has advertised a R.F. P. for the Housatonic School and surrounding area. A Housatonic Task Force has been formed to review the proposals who will submit a report to the Board of Selectmen in April.

Mr. Gibbons noted that he would order the short lifeguard chair for Lake Mansfield.

PARKS USAGE REQUEST

Community Health Programs, Kate Feuer, for a request to use Olympian Meadows on Sunday, June 19, 2011 or rain date, Sunday June 26, 2010 for the 2nd Annual CHP Kickball Tournament.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve the request.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 3-0

Mr. Sokul advised that the capital list for parks has been submitted through the Buildings and Grounds Capital Improvement Project line item in the DPW budget. He advised that a review with the Town Manager and Town Accountant will occur next week and then beginning the second week of February the budgets will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Sokul advised that the replacement of the fence on the brook side toward Grove Street hasn't been ordered. He indicated he would confirm the cost which should be approximately \$1,700.00.


Mr. Gibbons advised that the committee needs to develop a plan on how to expend the \$15,000 capital money in the budget. Suggestions were made in regard to putting climbing rocks at the Grove Street Park, Olympian Meadows, and Housatonic School and to finish the bocce court at the senior center. Mr. Gibbons noted that he would check on the prices of climbing rocks. Mr. Sokul advised he would check on the wood chips at Housatonic to see what additional wood chips are needed.

The Parks Calendar needs to be updated. The Use of the Lake Mansfield area will be discussed at a later meeting as Ms. Ward was not present.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting is February 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. The main topic will be the expenditure of funds.

Respectfully submitted,


Carolyn Wichmann, Secretary