

PARKS COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015
5:00 P.M.

Present: Paul Gibbons, Pat Salvi, Karen. Smith, Tom Norton, Charles Bouteiller, and Donovan Lally

Absent: Kathy Plungis, Andy Troiano and Steve Bannon

Chairman called meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Minutes of July 13, 2015- T. Norton motion to approve minutes, K. Smith second, unanimous vote 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

- A. Great Barrington Rudolf Steiner School to use the Town Hall Park Gazebo for a Community Puppet Show on Saturday, August 15, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
K. Smith mentioned that policy should be changed stating a person representing event must be present to approve the request. C. Bouteiller stated that it is strongly recommended that a person must be present for approval. P. Gibbons mentioned failure to show up may cause denial of request. C. Bouteiller motion to approve request, P. Salvi second, 4 yes and 2 no votes
- B. Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to use the Town Hall Park on Sunday, August 30, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Pet Fest. Setup will be at 12:00 noon and clean-up will be from 3:00 to 4:00. C. Bouteiller motion to approve request, P. Salvi second, 4 yes and 2 no votes.

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

- A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent – attached email, T. Norton wants to make sure that everyone knows where the property line at the Park and the setbacks. T. Norton was to be assured trees get planted on Park property, K. Smith suggested sending an email to J. Sokul regarding setbacks and property lines. T. Norton and J. Sokul will work together on this issue-J. Sokul requested everything on hold until he checks out the property line as well as types of trees.
- B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center- See report, Lake Mansfield has some problems with dogs, handicapped parking, condition of beach and trash. K. Smith suggested having the areas patrolled by the police department. Great Barrington Police Department will be asked to attend September meeting to discuss these issues. P. Gibbons mentioned that when he drives by Lake Mansfield the beach has been clean. K. Smith does not want lifeguards cleaning beach instead of doing their jobs.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. CPA Update: P. Salvi, no update and she will speak with J. Sokul to get design for handicapped bathrooms at Memorial Field. Step one is due September 1st.
- B. Housatonic Park Update- Finalizing upgrades at Housatonic Park and voting will occur at September meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. K. Smith and P. Gibbons will meet with Board of Selectmen regarding website.

Lake Mansfield: Rules/Parking issues-Resident stated that cars should be ticketed and limit people to use beach. K. Smith stated that this is not a Parks issue and the Board of Selectmen should take on this issue.

Police will be invited to Parks meeting and discuss patrol schedule for Skate Park and Lake Mansfield. D. Lally mentioned that police presence at the Skate Park is less than last year. P. Gibbons will email Police Department to attend September meeting.

Parks Commissioners strongly recommended that the applicants for Parks Usage Requests be present at meeting, in the event there are questions the request may be denied. Wording will be decided at the September meeting. Minutes show that C. Bouteiller will rewrite the attendance for our park usage requests. This will be added to agenda at September meeting.

T. Norton presented a report from 2004 Housatonic Task Force. This report was paid for by townspeople and used to implement Community Development Block Grant. It states that large amounts of effort from townspeople that contributed to this effort. It has taken 10 years and we are now in the final stage of Housatonic Park. T. Norton strongly recommends all members read this report.

6. **CITIZEN SPEAK: none**

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Calendar scheduling events needs to be brought up to speed. Parks calendar needs to be updated on Town Website. Who is responsible to post parks events on town website? Carolyn Wichmann was the person that posted in the past. K. Smith suggested that Terry Walker post items to website. P. Gibbons mentioned that Terry Walker was hired as the Recording Secretary. Updating town website was discussed in length, no resolution at this time and no votes were taken.


8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

- A. Monday, September 21, 2015

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** C. Bouteiller motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m., K. Smith second, unanimous vote 6-0.

Respectively submitted,

Terry Walker


Recording Secretary