

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

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS

KAREN SMITH- ABSENT

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Minutes of March 10, 2014

MOTION: Stephen Bannon

SECOND: Charlie Bouteiller

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

- A. Updates from Joe Sokul – He noted that that the DPW has begun spring clean-up. The benches are out, swing sets are set up, and the picnic tables made over the winter are out. Regarding Olympian Meadows water and sewer line, the parts have been ordered and purchase orders are in place so things will be ready to go. Joe said he would have the existing water turned on.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

- A. Southern Berkshire Youth Football to use Olympian Meadows from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning August 2014 through November 2014. Preston Tinker was present representing Southern Berkshire Youth Football. He noted he would send the insurance when it is updated in August.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Charlie Bouteiller

VOTE: 6-0

- B. Sheffield Chapel, Inc. 1970 North Main Street, Sheffield to use Lake Mansfield on Sunday, June 22, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a baptismal service and an all church potluck picnic. Pastor Corey was present to explain the request. He noted there will be six baptisms. The plan is to have a baptism service and a cookout.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

- C. Great Barrington Millers to use Memorial Field Sundays beginning April 25, through August 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for games. Practices will be Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. beginning the week of April 1, 2014. Practices are also planned for Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. starting Sunday September 1, through October 31, 2014. Tom Ingersoll was present to explain the request. Tom noted he would like to do some pruning at the field and would like to gain access to the John Dewey Academy to prune some of the maples there. Joe said he would contact the school and

discuss it with them. Also they could use more infield material. Tom advised that the field is not level; the infield drops off at the outfield. Tom said he would obtain an estimate. The bleachers need to be changed and there are issues with the area between the CO-OP property and the field. It was suggested that he return in August or September with suggestions. Kathy noted that it would be worth pursuing using some of the CPA money for improving the field. The money will not be available till 2016.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 6-0

D. Town of Great Barrington Green Energy Committee to use the Town Green/Gazebo for a solar celebration promoting solar power on May 10, 2014 (Rain date 5/17/14 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Event time 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and have a vehicle parked on the street for solar installer demonstrations. Malcom Fick and Chris Vleck were present to explain the request. He noted Berkshire Bataria is scheduled to perform. They may have food vendors and will be meeting before the Board of Selectmen for an entertainment license.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

E. John Lucey, Southern Berkshire Babe Ruth baseball to use Memorial Field May 1, 2014 through July 28, 2014. John noted the insurance expires May 1. He would get the updated insurance in when they receive it. Practices are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve the request upon receipt of the insurance and that they request assistance from parents to help work on the field.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

F. Railroad Street Youth Project, 60 Bridge Street to use the basketball court/skate park at Memorial Field on Saturday, June 28, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a craft fair. Caroline Correia was present to explain the request. She noted there will be vendors between the ages of 14 to 25 selling their products. The majority will be adults. 14 year olds will be accompanied by an adult. It was suggested that she contact the police and let them know about the event.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 6-0

G. Monument Mountain Athletic Department to use Memorial Field for practice from April through May if necessary for the JV Team.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve as long as it doesn't interfere with something else.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

OLD BUSINESS:

Karen Smith requested that the pay for use for Parks be discussed. Paul noted this would be added to the May agenda.

Paul noted there was a letter in the Berkshire Record – titled “environmental injustice” in Housatonic especially naming Old Maids. He said he called Bob Gray about the fact that he may attend our meetings if he has input on improvements. He did advise him that it would cost hundreds of dollars to address the environmental issues at Old Maids. Joe Sokul noted that the Town opens the gate and mows. Stephen Bannon said that Old Maids would be a good CPA project.

Paul also noted that as of this meeting the payment to the incorrect vendor for the mulch has not been resolved. The correct vendor has been paid. The Town Manager is working on resolving it.

Stephen Bannon asked that capital fund remaining money be included on the May agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Laura Martin – She noted that they are getting ready to staff the skate park for the summer which will open on May 3. She noted they are still in the process of hiring the summer staff. A water front coordinator has been hired for Lake Mansfield. He was an ocean front guard and a former member of the Coast Guard. That will begin Memorial Day weekend. Kathy Plungis noted as part of Lake Mansfield Alliance, they are planning on expanding the swimming area. Kathy advised that the rope used to be out further than it is now. A suggestion was made to put a secondary rope out there to mark a shallower part of the lake. More ropes are going to be obtained and more weed fabric will be installed. Laura requested that it not go deeper because of small children being used to going out a particular distance. Paul advised that Christine Ward would let him know how much more rope is needed. Laura said she would get back to Paul regarding what vendors to purchase additional rope from. Laura noted that a lifeguard will be present at the Lake Mansfield cleanup day. Laura and Joe Sokul will be getting together on the rules signs for the skate park. Paul said that the Town Accountant advised him of the balance of the contract money. Paul said he would forward the information to Laura.

Housatonic will be staffed beginning July 1, 2014. The skate park will be staffed beginning May 3rd on weekends for three hours a day until the day after school is out. Lake Mansfield will be staffed beginning Memorial Day weekend and every weekend until it is opened up the day after school opens.

Kathy referred to the letter to the editor in the Berkshire Record where the writer was talking about Old Maids. The writer said there is an overflowing trash barrel there. Joe said he would check into it.

Paul said Brian Mead from the Little League sent him an e-mail asking to see if we can get another trash barrel and a small dumpster to the field. Paul said this would come out of waste management. It was noted that the cost would be approximately \$80 a month for three months.

Tom Norton noted he would like to call the current Housatonic Park the Housatonic Village Common. It was suggested to add it to the May agenda. Paul said he was going to check to see if the commissioners have the authority to name a park.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann, Secretary