

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTINE WARD

KAREN SMITH

STEVEN BANNON – NOT PRESENT

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ELIZA CRESCENTINI

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 February 14, 2011 meeting

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent. Mr. Sokul advised that that the DPW will start cleaning up the warning track at Memorial Field and then work on cleaning the remainder of the parks. He advised he will be working with Berkshire School on their request to do their annual volunteer clean-up program.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. FY 11 Capital Expenditures

Ms. Smith advised that she has been researching climbing rocks and prices. They start at \$4,000 to \$12,000. She noted that the Fit Trail Exercise Stations would work anywhere and is less expensive. The price for a ten station Fit Trail Jogging System and a Fit Trail Fitness System are \$5,495 plus shipping and handling. It was noted that part of the system could be split up between Grove Street Park and Park Street Park directing you from one to the other thus making a walking trail. Mr. Gibbons noted that he would research other company's products and prices as well as inquiring with Luke Blume at the high school. He would report at the next meeting. It was noted that at least \$6,000 would have to be saved for the Housatonic playground. Mr. Sokul advised if an item is less than \$5,000 – no bid requirements are necessary. If the item cost is \$5,000 to \$9,999 you have to seek three (3) quotes from vendors. If the item is \$10,000 or more you need to advertise and solicit sealed bids or proposals.

4. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Great Barrington Little League to use the two fields at Olympian Meadows beginning April 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011. (Discussion/Vote). Mr. Brian Mead was present representing Little League. The times requested on the application are 4/1/-5/31 Monday through Friday 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Beginning June 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011 everyday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Mead advised he would forward a copy of the liability insurance policy naming the Town as additional insured by the end of the week. It was requested that by the last week of April that the schedule be submitted to the board as well as how many people the park is serving. Mr. Gibbons asked him to e-mail him when starting so he can arrange for a dumpster to be available.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Ward

VOTE: 5-0

Mr. Sokul noted that the water should be turned on by May 1, 2011.

B. Lake Mansfield Alliance Parks Usage Request to use the Lake Mansfield Beach Area for the annual Lake Celebration and Cleanup Day Saturday April 30, 2011 (Rain date Saturday May 7, 2011) from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote)

Ms. Ward was present representing Lake Mansfield Alliance. She requested that the requirement of Liability Insurance be waived because it is a Town activity. Ms. Ward noted that she would like a portal-let available as there may be about 100 people at the lake. Mr. Gibbons advised he would contact Mt. Everett. Canoes and Kayaks will be provided by Berkshire South.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

C. Housatonic Valley Associates for a Parks Usage Request to use Memorial Field on Friday, May 6, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a dinner for volunteers of the Great Barrington Trails and Greenway (Discussion/Vote)

Ms. Alison Dixon was present to explain the request. She advised that the dinner will be by invitation only. Berkshire Co-op will assist with the food. Ms. Dixon noted she would inquire about using the Congregational Church if rain or bad weather is predicted. Recycling bins will be present as well. Ms. Dixon noted that they would like to use the parking area at the former Searle's School. Mr. Sokul advised that he would forward the owner information of the former Searle's property to Ms. Ward.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

D. Southern Berkshire Babe Ruth, Robert Flower, for a Parks Usage Request to use Memorial Field for Babe Ruth baseball beginning April 1, 2011 through October 25, 2011, Monday-Friday 4:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Flower was not present at the meeting. Mr. Gibbons noted that he received the request. Mr. Flower indicated on the application he would forward the liability insurance information once it is available.

MOTION: Ms. Ward to approve with the condition that the insurance information and schedule be submitted to the Board.

SECOND: Mr. Smith

VOTE: 5-0

E. Great Barrington Girls Softball to use Olympian Meadows beginning April 1, 2011 through July 15, 2011. Mr. Terry Chamberland was present to explain the request. He noted that the times for use will be determined once the sign-up has been completed. The Committee requested information on the number of teams. The Board also requested a certificate of liability insurance naming the town as additional insured.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

F. Berkshire Hills Regional School District, Paul Gibbons, to use Memorial Field in April and May for games/practice as needed if the high school field is unplayable. He also had an insurance certificate naming the Town as additional insured. Mr. Gibbons advised that it wouldn't interfere with the regular schedule because the high school practices/games are in the afternoon.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

G. Mr. Tom Ingersoll of the Great Barrington Millers noted that their schedule is not available yet but they would like to begin practicing prior to their regular schedule. He advised that the draft schedule shows their first home game on May 15th. The committee requested that he submit a Parks Usage Request prior to the April 11, 2011 meeting to be included on the agenda. Mr. Ingersoll advised he would also submit proposals for maintaining and upgrading the field.

H. Lake Mansfield Association (YMCA, U.S. Masters) for a Parks Usage Request for open water swims for youth and adult swimmers. The event would be Wednesday, July 6, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Bill Meier was present to explain the request. He noted last year there were over 50 kids and 5 lifeguards. There were people in row boats and kayaks for safety. Mr. Meier advised that the YMCA, US Masters insurance will cover the adults and the Simons Rock insurance covers the kids.

MOTION: Ms. Smith to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Crescentini

VOTE: 5-0

It was suggested because parking along Lake Mansfield Road is prohibited and that they consider parking at Simon's Rock and using a shuttle bus or van.

Mr. Gibbons advised that three letters of interest in the vacant position on the committee were received at the Town Manager's office. A letter needs to be sent to all three candidates about coming to the April 11, 2011 meeting at 5:00 p.m. The Parks Commissioners will then make a recommendation to the Town Manager.

5. **BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER**

Ms. Laura Martin advised that two people were interviewed last week for the parks supervisor jobs. Ms. Martin advised that the contract was amended last year to include the free swim lessons at Lake Mansfield and weekend coverage at the Housatonic playground. She advised that the amendment was for only one year of the two year contract. Ms. Martin presented information on adding registration based opportunities at the Housatonic Playground. She noted the activities would be 2 hours each day 5 days a week with a specific age group in mind. The activities are proposed to be run for 3 to 6 weeks based on approval of the budget. People would pre-register through Berkshire South one week prior to the program. The cost for additional staffing would be \$275.00 per week. After discussion, it was determined to begin the registration based program for 3 weeks to see what the interest is. The committee also requested Ms. Martin to return with the proposed hours and more specific staffing and target age. It was noted that there were 1700 visits over the 8 week period last year. There was also a general discussion on changing the hours to later in the day. There was concern because younger children may be alienated.

MOTION: Ms. Smith that the requested amendments to the swimming lessons at Lake Mansfield are covered and the program at the Housatonic Playground is staffed for the 8 weekends.

SECOND: Christine

VOTE: 5-0

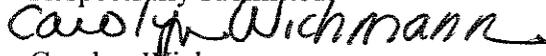
Mr. Gibbons noted that one session for Housatonic will be paid out of FY 11 budget. The remaining 7 weekends plus the swimming lessons will be paid out of the FY 12 budget. He said the additional staffing for the registration based program would be an additional expense.

Proposed Questions for candidates interested in serving as a Parks Commissioner.

- 1) Why are you interested in serving on the Parks Committee?
- 2) What experience do you have that would bring a skill set to the Park and Recreation Commission.
- 3) How do our parks play an important role in our community?
- 4) Ask if the candidates have questions for the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary

The next meeting of the Parks Commissioners will be Monday, April 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. – Mason Library