

**PARKS COMMISSIONERS**  
**MASON LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**  
**231 MAIN STREET**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**PAUL GIBBONS, CHAIRMAN**

**CHRISTINE WARD**

**KAREN SMITH**

**STEVEN BANNON**

**CHARLES BOUTEILLER**

**ELIZA CRESCENTINI**

**ALSO PRESENT: JOE SOKUL, DPW SUPERINTENDENT**  
**LAURA MARTIN – BERKSHIRE SOUTH**

The meeting of the Parks Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of the March 14, 2011 meeting

**MOTION:** Ms. Ward to approve.

**SECOND:** Mr. Bouteiller

**VOTE:** 3-0-1

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Mr. Sokul advised that Berkshire School will be cleaning the beach area at Lake Mansfield and also behind Town Hall. New attachments will be put on the weed cloth. The warning track at Memorial Field will be done in the next few weeks. An advertisement is going out for summer help for cemetery/parks who will stay on through October. Ms. Smith requested that a letter be sent to Lannie at Railroad Youth to ask if they would be willing to paint the shed at Memorial Field and to have her contact her with the answer. There will be a meeting at the end of the month in regard to the trees coming down behind Town Hall. Mr. Sokul also advised that Arbor Day is coming up and people want to donate a tree to plant at Stanley Park. He advised that a tree was removed last year and the plan is to replace it. Ms. Smith advised she would like to know where it is going and what kind of tree it is to be sure it is the correct type of tree.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. FY 11 Capital Expenditures: Mr. Bannon said that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommended \$30,500 be transferred from the Court House upgrade fund and re-allocated for parks improvements.

Mr. Gibbons noted that he visited Lenox High School and they have a fitness trail that they installed as part of their cross country course. He noted there are many companies that sell the equipment. The recommendation is that we consider metal only and not wood. He said the committee has to decide what pieces to purchase and where to put

them. The DPW would have to put them into cement. A meeting will be scheduled for April 25, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the small Selectmen's meeting room to discuss options.

4. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Great Barrington Millers, Tom Ingersoll/Rich Montone, 1068 Main Street, Housatonic to use Memorial Field for games and practices Thursdays beginning April 14, 2011 through September 29, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Mr. Montone was present to explain the request.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bannon to approve contingent upon receiving the correct liability insurance naming the Town as additional insured.

**SECOND:** Ms. Ward

**VOTE:** 5-0

B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington for permission to hold the Annual Fishing Derby at Lake Mansfield on June 5, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Mr. Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Ms. Boutellier

**VOTE:** 6-0

C. Community Health Program, 444 Stockbridge Road to amend the date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual CHP Kickball Tournament at Olympian Meadows from June 19, 2011 to June 25, 2011 with the rain date to be June 26, 2011. (Discussion/Vote).

**MOTION:** Mr. Gibbons to approve

**SECOND:** Ms. Boutellier

**VOTE:** 6-0

D. Information only: Sculpture Now submitted paperwork for their request to put sculpture exhibits in public parks from June 3, 2011 through November 3, 2011. Their request was approved at the November 8, 2010 meeting. It was noted that the liability is not correct. Sculpture Now needs to be advised that they need to obtain a correct certificate. There was a question if they should be allowed to place price tags on the sculptures.

**MOTION:** Mr. Gibbons to obtain a ruling from the Town Manager on exhibiting items for sale in the parks and are we setting precedent?

**SECOND:** Ms. Ward

**VOTE:** 6-0

E. Berkshire Co-Op Market and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Amy Demarest and Betsy Andrus to use Memorial Field on Bridge Street for the Annual Summer Solstice for Saturday, June 18, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote). The time was adjusted to begin at 9:00 a.m. for set up.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bannon to approve the use of Memorial Field for Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and to have everything removed by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> so baseball may be played in the afternoon. The rain date is Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**SECOND:** Mr. Boutellier

**VOTE:** 6-0

5. **BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER:**

A. Laura Martin – She advised the newly hired coordinator for the registration based opportunity program at Housatonic Playground has been working on program ideas. Some of her ideas are doing theater, writing plays, doing costumes and backdrops and making musical instruments. There would be one additional staff person for the program and two for the drop in regular program. The registration program would be limited to 15 kids. One of the two people involved in the regular programming would be involved in the registration program if needed.

6. **RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWN MANAGER ON PARKS MEMBER APPOINTMENT:**

Applicants present: Thomas Norton and Rosemary Smith. It was noted that Joshua Morse withdrew his application and Karen Woolis was not present. Perspective candidates were asked questions about their interest in serving on the Parks Committee, what experience they had, and the role of the parks in the community. After the interviews were complete the following recommendation was made:

**MOTION:** Mr. Gibbons to recommend Tom Norton to the Parks Commissioners.

**SECOND:** Mr. Boutellier

**VOTE:** 6-0

The committee informed Karen Woolis that any input or ideas that she has for the parks would be welcome.

Mr. Norton noted that April 30 is Housatonic Village clean up day. He usually coordinates the clean up with the DPW.

A complaint was received from a parent noting that over the past several years there has been drug and alcohol use at the Memorial Field Skate Park. The parent was concerned with safety. After discussion, Mr. Gibbons noted he would draft a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen with a copy to the Town Manager requesting that the Parks Commissioners be placed on the April 25, 2011 agenda to discuss the implementation of a plan to improve and increase police presence at this park as well as other parks in the community. Ms. Martin noted that a journal would be kept of dates and time that the police stopped by.

It was agreed to schedule all regular meetings at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Mason Library.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary