

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012
5:00P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH – VICE CHAIRMAN

PAUL GIBBONS – ABSENT

STEVEN BANNON

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ELIZA CRESCENTINI

THOMAS NORTON

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of January 9, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Bannon

SECOND: Ms. Crescentini

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent

Mr. Sokul said he sent the RFP for Parks Services to the Parks Commissioners for review and comment. The final draft will be sent out soon. He also advised that the utility poles owned by Verizon are being removed from along Lake Mansfield Road from Knob Hill to the beach area.

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Chris Rembold, Town Planner – Town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan: Chris noted that he is in the process of updating the Town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan since the current one has expired. This will become part of the Master Plan. He noted it is a prerequisite for many different grants. Chris noted that the final draft should be completed by the end of the calendar year. The current plan was reviewed and the areas that need to be updated were highlighted. The process is partly dictated by the state but part is public process. In February and March the goal is to inventory all the park land, demographic data, how the parks meet the needs of the older generation as well as the younger generation. A public forum will be held in March or April on open space and recreation with a second forum to be held in the summer with the goal to finalize the plan by fall. It was noted that the Open Space and Recreation Plan should be on the agenda every month. Ms. Smith advised that we have had some meetings regarding purchasing equipment for Grove Street and Housatonic. Chris said he would contact Paul Gibbons to see what he has for equipment ideas. Chris said the Master Plan will guide the actions of all the boards. The capital budget needs to be attached to the Master Plan. Ms. Smith

said this committee needs to appoint an alternate to the Master Plan Committee because she will be resigning as of August. Christine Ward was the alternate.

B. Paul McNeil – Railroad Street Youth – re: Parkour Park:

Erik from Railroad Street Youth was present to explain what Parkour is. He noted the idea of Parkour is to go from point A to point B fast and efficiently by jumping, running or by any other means. You can run and bounce off walls, stairs on your feet from one point to another. He noted it is not just for kids. It is a challenge mentally and physically. Erik was asked to return with pictures of 3 or 4 elements that would be appropriate. It was suggested to look where it is installed at other municipalities and also look into the liability restrictions of a municipality. Erik said he thought the GB Park on Main Street would be suitable. Karen advised him to design something based on that space.

C. Notify Baseball Leagues regarding submitting a Parks Usage Request: A letter will be sent to everyone who submitted a Parks Usage Request last year. It was noted to request their presence at the March 12th meeting. Karen said to include in the letter that if they do not attend, they will not be considered.

MOTION: Eliza that we contact the organizations who applied last year and require should they have any usage for this year that they come to the March 12 meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

D. Craig Lang and Nick Diller to present a proposal to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant in regard to creating a new park at the court house (Dewey Park). Mr. Lang and Mr. Diller withdrew their request. They were asked by Town Hall to delay submitting this for a year because the Town of Great Barrington is in the middle of negotiations with the court.

Karen said that Don Victor contacted her in regard to the skate park equipment. Karen advised him to come to the board with specific plans for additional equipment and the repairs that need to be made.

4. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Jenna Abriola to use Housatonic School Park for a kickball league: Ms. Abriola was present to explain her request. She noted that she is volunteering with the World Adult Kickball Association to set this up. She said she has been in contact with the New England representative who helped her fill in the form. She noted if you play, you have to sign up with a team and you have to be 21 and over to play. Fund raisers are done twice a season and the proceeds go to a charity such as “Kick for Cancer”. She said the leagues are sponsored by a local business. The proposed day would either be Saturday or Sunday starting in mid May for 10 weeks. Ms. Abriola was advised to let the board know by the April meeting with specific dates and times. She noted that she approached the Brick House about being a sponsor.

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve the use of the Housatonic School Field for the Kickball team on Saturday or Sunday. They need to notify the committee of the dates and times.

SECOND: Ms. Crescentini

VOTE: 5-0

Ms. Crescentini inquired about the advertisement in regard to the vacancy on the committee. Karen said she has received no information from the chairman.

Mr. Norton said that he has information about the plan for Housatonic Village Common done in 2004. It mentions benches and walkways, etc. It will be forwarded to each board member by e-mail.

Capital Improvement – Housatonic Park – next agenda.

Adult exercise equipment – update on next agenda.

Mr. Bouteiller made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Bannon. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary