

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY/HISTORY ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON

STEVE BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of October 15, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

B. Minutes of November 5, 2012 (No Quorum Meeting)

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent

Joe said the landscape timbers have been removed along with the curb at the Housatonic Playground. American Fence removed the existing posts and put in new ones. The entrance will be moved down to the end of the sidewalk. The opening will be kept open in order to maintain the area. There was a delay on the South Street project because 33 test pits had to be done for the Main Street project. The wash out in the corner at the Grove Street Park was fixed. Joe said there was a Maple tree taken down at Grove Street by Cemetery/Parks. The new head groundskeeper didn't understand the process. Joe said he will take a look at planting a tree during the tree planting process. The tree committee has developed an appropriate tree list for planting.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to use Memorial Field on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. for fireworks set up for the Holiday Stroll. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

FY 14 Budget – Paul said there is \$78,000 left between Park Improvements and Improvements. The budget being reviewed was dated October 12. In FY 13 we asked for \$45,000. We estimated the following: \$5,000 was to replace the fountain at Grove Street, \$15,000 for the Housatonic playground, \$5,000 to replace the water fountain at the Housatonic Park and \$10,000 to replace the water lines at Olympian Meadows and \$10,000 to replace aging playground equipment. We also had money in the budget for the construction of fitness equipment at South Street Park. For FY 14 we were estimating \$25,000 accessibility renovations at Grove Street and Memorial Field and \$10,000 for infrastructure improvements at various parks for a total of \$35,000. It was noted to look at Olympian Meadows to put some equipment down there. Charlie noted that the softball shed needs to be made suitable to use. Joe said he would return with a price. Steve suggested giving Kompan the names of the parks we would like to add equipment to and give us some suggestions. We can suggest that he go to Housatonic, Olympian Meadows and Grove Street parks. Paul said instead of asking for Capital money for FY14, we can carry forward unused funds from this year. Steve said there is a lot we can do this year and we need to spend the money. The representative from Kompan should meet with Tom in Housatonic and Charlie at Olympian Meadows. The FY 14 request can be changed to add sewer and toilets to Olympian Meadows. Joe said installing the lines in would be the biggest expense. We could put a block building with fixtures. It would cost between \$15,000 to \$20,000. We should also consider bathrooms at Memorial Field. It would cost approximately \$25,000 for restrooms and this could be added to the FY16 budget. It was noted that the back stop and the fence needs to be addressed at Memorial Field. Paul said he would contact John LaRue from Kompan Big Toys about attending the meeting in February to give us a plan for Olympian Meadows, Housatonic and Grove Street. Paul said for the FY14 budget he is going to submit the same budget as before. The Parks program will remain at \$55, 00 for now. Joe said he will send the committee the agreement increases for the Parks Program.

5. **BERKSHIRE SOUTH:**

A. Laura Martin – She said at the last meeting she submitted the end of summer report. The fence along the back side of the skate park needs to be repaired. The fence is along the Searles property line. The fence belongs to the Town. Joe said he would get an estimate on repairs. They are looking for more signs at the skate park, i.e., rules sign. Paul said he would contact the sign company, W.J. Blue Print. The metal edges on the ramps are getting sharp. Joe said he would look at them to see if the DPW crew can do during the winter or if they need to be replaced. The lip on the skate park bowl – Joe said he got an estimate to cut out the asphalt because it was settling down next to the concrete and the way to fix that is to saw cut back so we can get the appropriate patch to get it level with the concrete top of the bowl. Joe said it would be approximately \$2,500 to fix it.

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to make the repairs to the skate bowl before spring and not to expend more than \$3,000.

SECOND: Mr. Norton

VOTE: 5-0

Laura said the lights were repaired at the skate park. Joe said he talked to national grid about installing more lights and poles. The lights are currently at the back end of the park. We would

have to purchase the fixtures and pole then we would have to pay more rent. Around the skate bowl and the shed it is not bright enough. Would National Grid do it if we paid them? Joe said he would contact them. After school starts they would like to see more staffing after school because people who are going to cause trouble are there after school. The current contract goes for a three year period. We would have to do an addendum if more staffing is added. This will be discussed in the spring. Paul asked Laura to send him a copy of the report.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Chris Rembold – Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan.** Chris submitted a copy of the revised Natural Resources, Open Space, and Recreation Plan to the committee. This is the first draft of the master plan to be reviewed by the board. There needs to be a plan in place if you want to apply for funds from the state. He said the first section is an outline of the natural resources of the town. The second and third sections are about open spaces. There is a table on page 19 that has an inventory of town parks and town forests. South Street Park is under the Parks jurisdiction not Conservation Commission. The protected parks are Olympian Meadows for example was given to the Town in a deed for recreational space only. The recreation component itself begins on page 25. We have a lot of parks and adding more would not be good unless we have the resource to maintain them. He said more than 50% of the town population lives near a park. The priorities should be to be sure the areas are well publicized. The Goals and Strategies begin on Page 38. Chris said he would like parks input at this level to be sure everything is correct. The Master Plan will be approved by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. Paul said the commissioners would not meet in January but respond to this in February or March.

Paul said he would send a letter to Chief Walsh acknowledging that the committee was happy to see an increased presence of the Police Dept. at Memorial Field. It was also noted to invite him to the March or April meeting.

The next meeting will be February 11, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the Mason Library.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary