

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
PARKS & RECREATION MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013
5:00 P.M. – MASON LIBRARY**

PRESENT: **Stephen Bannon
Charles Bouteiller – not present
Paul Gibbons
Thomas Norton
Pat Salvi
Kathleen Plungis**

CALL TO ORDER

Paul Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 13, 2013 meeting

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the May 13, 2013 minutes

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

2. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent

Joe Sokul reported that Memorial Field has been mowed.

Mike Gillmore is putting together quotes for fountains in 3 spots. Joe will have these numbers prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Joe has issued a P.O. for the work at Grove St; the culvert, guardrail and catch basin.

The state has not released the funds for the Housatonic Park equipment yet.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Open Space and Recreation Plan – Vote on Final Draft.

Chris Rembold thanked the Commission for their support.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to support the open space and recreation plan

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 5-0

B. Babe Ruth request

The request for Babe Ruth to use Memorial Field was post-poned at the last meeting since there was not a quorum. The Commissioners voted.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve the Babe Ruth schedule for Memorial Field

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

The Commissioners agreed to revisit the rules about groups who use the fields on a yearly basis having to come before the Board for their request.

Tom Norton said that the Board was unable to vote on the Babe Ruth request because a representative was not present. He feels that an exception should be made if a group is not in attendance, if they always request the use of the field.

4. BERKSHIRE SOUTH

Laura Martin introduced Sam Gaughan to the Commission. Sam will handle the parks management. Laura reported that Lake Mansfield is staffed and will begin full time hours on June 20th. (Skate Park, as well)

Laura asked that she be notified if the Housatonic Park equipment is going to be taken down this summer.

Laura will send information about the lifeguard chair umbrellas as Paul Gibbons requested.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Emily Shaw – re: Housatonic Playground Equipment

Housatonic Playground Group

Carmen Dockery-Perkins

Diego Gutierrez

6 people have been meeting regularly to get ideas for the space.

The focus was to be able to bring as many people into the space as possible; young and old.

The fencing around the Basketball area is great.

They suggested:

- moving the swings closer to the play area.
- A water spout
- Toddler-sized equipment
- More permanent porta-john or changing areas

Joe Sokul said that he may be able to keep the porta-johns up longer than they are currently.

- Volunteers to do the bulk of the work

There was discussion about the liability of volunteers doing work under a state contract. Joe Sokul said that the state money is only for the equipment; the installation would be separate. Joe does not see a problem with using volunteers to do this work. He suggested paying someone to supervise.

Diego showed renderings of the groups' vision for the space.

Tom Norton suggested asking the tree committee to help with trees to de-mark the distinction between the playground and the field.

Carmen said that they need a timeframe in order to alert the volunteers about demolition and construction.

There was discussion about painting a 'four-square' area on the basketball court. Carmen will give the dimension to Joe Sokul, who will have the painting done.

B. Lake Mansfield Portable Toilets

Joe Sokul reported that it would cost \$1575 to move the facility 3ft. away from the trees and widen it to fit 2 porta-johns. New stone will be put on the bottom and a brand-new privacy fence will be installed.

Randy Leonard suggested that the guardrail would need to be moved in order to provide access to the facility. He said the current access is dangerous on the corner. It was also suggested that garbage cans are needed in the area.

Joe Sokul said that he will fill the area so that it is easier for the trucks to get in.

Chris Rembold said that Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force is also thinking long term regarding the facilities; possibly making them handicap accessible. He suggested that the Commission consider this when making decisions.

Joe Sokul said that he will submit Long Term plans for all areas; access-way, parking lot, etc for the long term discussion.

MOTION: Steve Bannon that the Parks Commission pays partially for the fence.

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 5-0

Paul Gibbons said that he will speak to Chief Walsh about patrolling this location better at night.

C. Signage in the Parks

Signage – Paul Gibbons suggested a 'no dogs' sign at Lake Mansfield. He will come up with the language and send to Joe Sokul for the creation of the sign.

Tom Norton suggested that each park has a sign identifying it as such.

Ronald

Joe Sokul said that all of these signs should look the same.

6. SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, July 8, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Tom Norton, the Commissioners adjourned their meeting at 6:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary