

PARKS COMMISSIONERS  
MASON LIBRARY  
231 MAIN STREET  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014  
5:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:**

**PAUL GIBBONS**

**CHARLES BOUTEILLER- NOT PRESENT**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**STEPHEN BANNON**

**PATRICIA SALVI**

**KATHY PLUNGIS**

**KAREN SMITH – 5:10 P.M.**

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of August 11, 2014

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 5-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Joe Sokul advised that signs have been put up at Lake Mansfield. The electrical connection to the pump station at Olympian Meadows has been done. The little league is going to take care of the plumbing inside of the building.

Skate bowl – the staff tried to do some cleaning. We are searching for a contractor to do some sandblasting so we can get it cleaned up.

Laura Martin noted that the pipe was broken on the fountain at the lake as a result of vandalism.

Joe said he would check into it and get back to the board. The fountains are in at Housatonic, Grove Street and the Skate Park. Christine Ward asked if the fountain at the lake could be both a bubbler and a spigot. Joe said he would take a look to see how easy it would be to add a spigot with a fountain. He noted we can get the type that has a key to it.

Paul advised that the grass has grown in at the short stop side of the infield at Memorial Field. He asked if there was a piece of equipment that could eliminate it. Joe advised we can power rake it now and then use a spiked toothed harrow on a regular basis.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Lake Mansfield Alliance – Partnering with Senta Reis for Yoga at Lake Mansfield Beach Area for “Lake Meditation in Motion” from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for International Day of Peace – Sunday, September 21, 2014. Christine Ward was present to explain the request. She noted it is free to all.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Tom Norton

**VOTE:** 5-0

B. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center – to use Memorial Field to stage fireworks in conjunction with the Mahaiwe’s 2014 Gala on October 12, 2014 from 9:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. David Barrett was present to explain the request. He noted Berkshire Fireworks is doing the display and it will last for about 10 minutes. This will be after the preshow dinner and performance at the theater.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve  
**SECOND:** Kathy Plungis  
**VOTE:** 5-0

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Police Coverage at the Skate Park – Chief Walsh and Sgt. Bartini were present. Paul said according to the reports that we have been getting from the people we hired to work at the skate park the number of times that officers actually come and get out of the cruiser and visit the skate park is 3-6 visits a month during the time the staff is there. The understanding was that an officer was to visit once a shift unless there is something else happening when the skate park staff is there. Chief Walsh noted that checking the skate park is part of his policy and procedures outline. He advised that the bike patrol and the officer with the dog also check the park. Some of those checks occur when the staff is not present. The midnight shift also checks it as well. Paul advised that we just want people to feel safe and secure when they use the park.

B. Letters of Interest for appointments to vacancies – Paul advised letters of interest have been received from Anthony P. Troiano and Henri Morrison. He noted he is involved with football, baseball and basketball and he would like to be involved in the Parks and Recreation to take care of the parks and be involved with the youth.

**MOTION:** Kathy Plungis to recommend that Anthony Troiano be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission.  
**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon  
**VOTE:** 6-0

Paul said the other letter is from Henri Morrison. He said he reminded him that we are having a meeting tonight and to please attend. He noted that he is involved in 3 sports at Monument Mountain. (Henri did not attend).

The other person interested in joining the Parks and Recreation Commission is 16 year old Donovan Lally. It was noted he is an avid skater at the skate park and he has a lot of opinions on how things are going at the Park. His brother was previously part of the skate park staff. He attends Monument Mountain Regional High School.

**MOTION:** Karen Smith to recommend Donovan Lally to be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission.  
**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon  
**VOTE:** 6-0

The recommendations will be forwarded to the Town Manager.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Laura Martin said summer programs have come to an end at Lake Mansfield and Housatonic. The ropes have been removed from the

lake. The skate park is only being staffed on weekends from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. rather than 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will continue to be staffed through Columbus Day. Laura advised she would present the end of summer report at the October meeting. She advised that the contract for Berkshire South ends in the spring. Joe and Paul noted they would speak to Jennifer Tabakin about a new R.F.P. that will be put out in May 2015.

Tom asked if the Police have increased their presence in Housatonic or at Lake Mansfield. Laura said that she has not had a report of the Police exiting the cruiser but it is easy to check the Housatonic Park by driving by. At Lake Mansfield there are parking challenges so every so often there is a police presence. Paul said there will be a meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. regarding Lake Mansfield. The Alliance will be sharing information on the road, etc. Karen suggested that prior to the opening of the parks next spring that we have a discussion with the Police Department in reference to what our wishes are and what they can do.

Carolyn Ivory, resident of Grove Street, in regard to Grove Street Park. She noted that the park was mowed maybe once a month this year. Also, 3 to 4 weeks ago, the highway dept. came in to the southern western end of the park and ground up the stump of a tree that was taken out a while ago and cleared out the area. They said they were going to plant grass which hasn't been done yet. Carolyn noted that weeds are starting to come up. The last two weeks, the grass has been mowed. Joe said they got behind in everything as a result of the wet weather in July. The staff has been out on priorities like patching roads, etc. He said they would get to the planting of grass this fall. Joe said the summer help has been cut out of the budget. It was suggested that the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen be approached about reinstating the seasonal help position in the budget.

The next meeting of the Parks Commissioners is scheduled for October 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Secretary