

PARKS COMMISSIONERS

MEETING

MASON LIBRARY

231 MAIN STREET

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015

5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Paul Gibbons, Steve Bannon, Tom Norton, Kathy Plungis, Andy Troiano, Donovan Lally and Karen Smith

ABSENT: Pat Salvi and Charlie Bouteillier

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. K. Plungis motion to approve minutes from May 11, 2015 meeting with correction, S. Bannon second, 6-yes 1 abstained

2. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent- Interviewing process for DPW laborer and should have a candidate chosen by the end of the day. Paul Gibbons questioned possibility of installing a hose connection on water fountains. Joe Sokul said that would not be a problem. A mowing schedule was requested from Joe. K. Smith stated that Parks and Rec Commission should present a mowing schedule and the town should take more pride in town facilities. Joe mentioned that the position for 2 seasonal laborers ended May 22, 2015 and the interview process was lengthy because there were 40 applications. K. Smith suggested clean up front of buildings on next agenda.
- B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center-Laura Harner questioned Joe regarding Skate Light. Joe has not found the material to fix skate ramp. Possibility to form a subcommittee to maintain Skate Park. The new water park coordinator is Mitchell Bellinger. L. Harner stated the nets are in disarray and P. Gibbons will order 6 nets. Karen Smith recommended scheduling events on a regular basis also making it public that bicycles are allowed at the skate park.

3. PARKS USAGE REQUEST:

- A. Soco Creamery, Nicholas Hernandez, 5 railroad Street, to use Town Hall Park on August 8, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for an ice cream social for the community with music provided by the Lucky 5 Band. Nick Hernandez requested the usage of Town Hall Park to promote new ice cream flavors and proceeds will be donated to Historical Society. Motion by K. Smith to approve usage of Town Hall Park, S. Bannon, unanimous vote. 7-0

- B. Railroad Street Youth Project, 60 Bridge Street, Great Barrington, MA to use Memorial Field and the Basketball Court (outside RSYP) on Friday, July 24, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. /set up at 2:00 p.m. This is a youth event with music and food. The name of the event is Barbe-cure and the event will help bring community members together to educate adults and our youth about the growing epidemic of heroin in the community and in Western Mass. The commission was in favor and stressed the necessity of advertising with WSBS, The Berkshire Record, The Eagle and Shoppers Guide to get this out to the community. L.J. stated that the heart of this event is an outreach to get help for opiate users. It was noted that Massachusetts has the highest deaths of heroin overdoses in the United States. A food permit is required from the Board of Health and K. Smith suggested going to the Board of Selectmen's meeting to advertise this great event. P. Gibbons invited the youth group directors to the July meeting for an update. K. Smith motion to allow Railroad Street Youth Project to use Memorial Field, P. Gibbons second Unanimous vote. 7-0

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Housatonic Park updates: Commissioners were in agreement to keep chain link fence. Joe Sokul will bring in catalogue to July meeting to get prices on benches. Parks Commission account for FY15 has available funds of \$36,000 for improvements, the commission plans to encumber funds to FY16. Mr. Norton's brother's family will be donating a bench and a tree in memory of their son. Quotes from local tree nurseries will be obtained with a guarantee of 1 year. Finally, 10 trees and 6 benches will be purchased, chain link fence stays also back stop needs to be fixed. Picnic area needs paving, picnic tables and couple benches around the playground. Signs, garbage cans and trash removal will be discussed at the July meeting. John LaRue will give sketch for equipment near second set of swings. 2 shade trees will be planted near T-ball area. J. Sokul has prices on benches ranging from \$500-\$2,000. At the July meeting, the commission will make commitment to vote on the cost of the installation on trees \$1,000.00 per tree and guarantee of 1 year, benches and paving picnic area. J. Sokul will obtain a list of people to contact and kinds of trees to be purchased size, diameter, 8-10 feet tall and hopefully get bid out next week. John LaRue will be asked to attend July meeting. Also the commission will request Town Manager to carry forward \$36,000 to FY2016.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Karen Smith suggested getting community involved to organize and help mow the Fire Dept, Police Dept, Mason, Town Hall lawns and trim shrubs. An organization was asked by Library members to rake, weed and mow Mason library lawn. It was suggested lawn maintenance be placed on Board of Selectmen agenda as a budget item for next year. This will also be placed on July Library agenda as well.

6. CITIZEN SPEAK:

- A. Ed Abrahams mentioned the possibility of a 94 room Hotel being built on Main Street and the impacts of the Park. Parking lot for park 75 parking spaces concern. Bos must approve first.

7. COMMISSIONERS SPEAK: No comments.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE:

- A. Monday, July 13, 2015

9. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Andy Troiano motion to adjourn at 6:17 p.m., Paul Gibbons second unanimous vote. 7-0

Respectively submitted,



Terry Walker

Secretary