

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS

KAREN SMITH

ANTHONY TROIANO- Not Present

DONOVAN LALLY

The Meeting of the Park Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of November 9, 2015

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Berkshire International Film Festival for permission to use the Town Hall Park beginning Wednesday, June 1, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 6, 2016.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 6-0

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent - Joe noted that the DPW is performing winter maintenance and repairs on picnic tables, etc.

B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center – nothing discussed.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Housatonic Village Common – Tom said he met with Pete Soules and he has the concept plan. Andy Troiano was going to come up with a plan to take care of the grade with landscape pavers as a suggestion to level up the picnic area. We discussed making it ADA compliant. The exercise area is ready.

B. Rules Sign at Memorial Field. It was noted that the current green Rules Sign located at all the parks was approved on May 12, 2014. It was noted that bullet number 4 on the Memorial Field Skate Park sign needs to be changed to read that Bicycles are allowed within the rink. Karen said that the board should post signs specific to each park. Dogs are banned at

Memorial Field, Lake Mansfield, at Olympian Meadows and within the fenced in area at Giggle Park. Steve suggested we invite Shep Evans, Animal Control Officer, to the next meeting for his perspective on enforcement recommendations. Joe noted he would forward the sign Memorial Field sign pictures to Laura at Berkshire South for her input on the wording.

When the park at Old Maids was donated to the Town of Great Barrington one of the stipulations was opening and closing of the gate and the other was to maintain a split rail fence between the properties. The fence had been missing for a while. All American Fence installed a new split rail fence between the properties. Joe said there is \$500 in the donation for Old Maids.

MOTION: Ms. Smith that we expend the \$500.00 in the donation account to pay for the fence at Old Maids.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 8-0

C. Purchase of Weed Fabric for Lake Mansfield –Paul advised that he issued the Purchase Order but he has not heard back. Paul noted he would check with Christine Ward on the weed fabric.

D. Capital Improvement – Current balance in the Improvements Account is \$55,299.95. Karen suggested putting money aside each year to go towards building public restrooms behind Town Hall. There is \$25,000 in the FY 17 Budget to do a Feasibility Study and there is \$10,000 for accessibility improvements to Memorial Field, and \$25,000 for Memorial Field/Olympian Meadows field Improvements. The request for FY 17 was raised to \$60,000. Joe said he would check on the procurement laws on doing the feasibility study early with current funds and provide information at the next meeting. All American Fence has been hired to look at the fencing at Memorial Field. The roofs on the dugouts have to be repaired. Olympian Meadows bathrooms– Joe said he would check on the possibility of doing a precast bathroom.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Girls softball Field – Olympian Meadows - Kathy Plungis said she would look at prices of a large and a small swing set for Olympian Meadows.

B. Parks Goals – - Department Budget Detail – Paul noted that he would accept input from the board and then he would submit it to the Town Accountant. Karen suggested including multigenerational equipment under objectives.

It was suggested to put a sign on the South Street sign to direct people to the park where the exercise equipment is. Karen noted if the park and rec. commission wishes to add anything to the website, please submit it to her. Chris Rembold developed a map of the parks in town. Joe said he would contact him about adding it to the website. The signs identifying the parks would be installed in the spring.

There will be a Lake Mansfield Public Forum #2 at Monument Valley Middle School on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

6. **CITIZEN SPEAK**

None

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK**

Tom suggested changing the Parks Usage Request Form wording to say the following:
#2 on page: 1 – It is strongly recommended that applicants or a designee appear at the meeting in which the request is to be considered. Failure to do so may cause the request to be denied by the commissioners. Karen suggested adding: It is strongly suggested that you appear because questions may come up that would cause the commissioners not to approve the request.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. Monday, February 8, 2016.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Karen to adjourn

SECOND: Kathy Plungis

VOTE: 8-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary