

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:
PAUL GIBBONS
CHARLES BOUTEILLER
THOMAS NORTON
STEPHEN BANNON- Not Present
PATRICIA SALVI
KATHY PLUNGIS
KAREN SMITH – Not Present
ANTHONY TROIANO- Not Present
DONOVAN LALLY

Call to Order:

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of February 8, 2016

MOTION: Charlie Bouteiller to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. **Little League** - Brian Mead was present representing Little League. Joe said that Kiwanis has volunteered to clean up and paint the dugouts and storage sheds. It was noted that the Select Board did not approve the seasonal help for Parks/Cemetery. Brian requested that the road going into Olympian Meadows be graded. A dumpster will be ordered to be placed at Olympian Meadows by April 1.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve Little League using Olympian Meadows April 1, through July 31, 2016.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

B. **Great Barrington Girls Softball** – Terry Chamberland was present representing Girls Softball. He noted they would be using Olympian Meadows from April 1 through June 30, 2016.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve Great Barrington Girls Softball using Olympian Meadows from April 1, through July 31, 2016.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

C. **Lake Mansfield Alliance** (A project of Great Barrington Land Conservancy) for permission to hold the Annual Lake Celebration and Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 7nd is the rain date. It was requested that two porta-potties be delivered by April 30th.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve the Lake Mansfield Alliance to use the Lake Mansfield Beach Area for the Lake Mansfield Clean-up and Celebration Day.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

D. Lake Mansfield Alliance – Partnering with Senta Reis to use the Lake Mansfield Beach area on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, beginning Friday July 1 – Friday July 29, 2016 to provide yoga at the beach area to community members.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve the Lake Mansfield Alliance partnering with Senta Reis to use the Lake Mansfield Beach area for summer yoga.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

E. Great Barrington Land Conservancy/Lake Mansfield Alliance to hold a Birds of Prey Program on Saturday May 7, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lake Mansfield Beach area. Christine Ward noted that the Lake Mansfield Alliance is funding the event. Tom Ricardi runs the program that rehabilitates raptors.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve the Great Barrington Land Conservancy/Lake Mansfield Alliance to use the Lake Mansfield Beach area on May 7, 2016.

SECOND: Charlie Bouteillier

VOTE: 6-0

F. Paul Gibbons, Monument Mountain Regional High School, to use Memorial Field for JV Baseball only as needed, if conflicts occur with the use of the high school field – 2-4 times maximum.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve.

SECOND: Charlie Bouteillier

VOTE: 5-0 (Paul Gibbons abstained)

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Joe said he will have full staff in the middle of April for Parks. Two people come down from the highway to make a full staff from April 15 to November 15. New trash can covers were made and were put at Lake Mansfield and Town Hall. Some picnic tables were repaired and five new ones will be put out. Some of the original benches that were on Main Street will be put in the Housatonic Park. The three water fountains are installed and will be turned on when the weather permits. There are currently only two full time employees in the Cemetery Department. We used to have seasonal help in the summer. Two purchase orders have been issued for the swing and instillation of the swing at Olympian Meadows. John LaRue will install it at the end of April or the beginning of May.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Signage – signs being updated at Memorial Field and Housatonic - Paul requested that Joe order the signs for the parks with the rule changes. He is going to order additional “no dogs allowed signs” to be placed in the parks.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Discussion on dogs at parks, Animal Control Officer, Shep Evans – Shep introduced himself to the commissioners. He noted a non-criminal ticket could be issued when people bring their dogs to the areas where they are not allowed. Dogs are not allowed at Lake Mansfield beach area, Olympian Meadows and Memorial Field. It was noted that the cemeteries have dog waste bags, and the Housatonic common has waste bags. It was decided to hold off on ordering the signs for future discussion. The Commissioners will have to adopt a fine.

B. Housatonic Village Commons – Citizen’s Requests - No Requests

C. Discussion/review of parking at Memorial Field/Lake Mansfield - Paul said because of the recent sale of the Searles complex we will have to look at the parking for Memorial Field. The Town doesn't own any property on the north side of Bridge Street. He noted he had a brief discussion with Kate McCormick and the problem will arise when there is an event and they wouldn't want people at the game or event at Memorial Field taking up all the spaces at the hotel. It was noted there are some spaces available at Wheeler and Taylor. Joe said there is parking on School Street and there is parallel parking on the north side of Bridge Street. A citizen, Gabrielle Senza, who noted she lives on School Street, said she thought in the discussion with the owners of the hotel that they would be open to the idea of having people continue to park on the former Searles property. She suggested contacting Vijay to discuss parking at the hotel for Memorial Field. It was also suggested to speak to Chris Rembold, Town Planner.

Joe Sokul noted that the \$15,000 for the feasibility study for the restrooms was cut out of the budget at the last Select Board/Finance Committee Meeting.

6. **CITIZEN SPEAK:**

None

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

A. Kathy Plungis advised that the Lake Mansfield Task Force should have the 3rd survey out on the website by next week. She noted that they are reviewing the boat launch, road, and the beach and parking area. The results of the survey should be to the Select Board by the end of May to the beginning of June. Kathy said it is a 3-5 year plan because of cost. The designs are on the second floor of the Town Hall. It was noted that they should be made available to the Libraries as well.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. Monday, April 11, 2016

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

A. **MOTION:** Pat Salvi to adjourn.

SECOND: Charlie Bouteillier

VOTE: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary