

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

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER – Not Present

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS- Not Present

KAREN SMITH- Vice Chair

ANTHONY TROIANO- Not Present

DONOVAN LALLY- Not Present

Karen Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of October 5, 2016

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to use Memorial Field on Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 7:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for launching fireworks in conjunction with the Holiday Stroll. Betsy Andrus was present to explain the request. She noted that clean up would be Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 5-0

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. The Commissioners noted that they would like someone from DPW to attend the Park and Recreation meetings until someone is hired. It was noted that it was requested that someone from Parks be included in the interview process for hiring a new DPW Superintendent. This was not done. Stephen said that he and Sean met with the finalist for the position. Also the appointment time for parks commissioners needs to be reviewed and clarified.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Housatonic Park/Dogs in Park – A meeting will be scheduled in the spring with the community.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:** Brian Cohen from Benchmark Development presented ideas on how they would improve Memorial Field Ball Park in conjunction with the Co-op Market Project. A retaining wall to come off of Bridge Street as an access is planned. The back stop will be changed as well as the location and a two tiered wall with bleachers is being proposed. A letter of support noting the commissioners reviewed the preliminary plans will be sent to the Town Planner.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons that a letter of support for the project is forwarded to the Town Planner.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 5-0

Paul noted he would forward the letter to the Town Planner.

B. **Subcommittee updates**

To be discussed at the December Meeting. Kathy Plungis, Andy Troiano and Pat Salvi spoke with various towns. Pat noted they will meet again before the December Parks meeting. Paul noted he would call a meeting with himself, Karen and Tom after Thanksgiving to discuss Mission Policies.

6. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

A. John MacGruer said thank you for planting the red oak tree at the Grove Street Park that was to replace the one that was cut down. He noted there is no curb along the top of the bank to keep the run off from getting on to the ball court. It was noted that Joe Sokul made a ruling on the curbing as head of DPW that the grass at the bank is enough and a curb will not be installed. It was suggested that the court at least be swept a couple of times a year He also noted that the Town was going to remove the trees along the property near the former Coyle's residence on Warren Avenue, clean up the area and replant. It didn't happen. John said that Pete and Joe were going to go up there with a backhoe and remove the knotweed by the roots. Karen said she would follow-up on that. Karen advised that the board agreed to go up to the park in the spring and see what the budget would allow to put trees up at Grove Street Park.

On a motion made by Stephen Bannon and Seconded by Pat Salvi, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary