

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

KAREN SMITH- Vice Chair

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

STEPHEN BANNON

THOMAS NORTON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS- Not Present

ANTHONY TROIANO- Not Present

DONOVAN LALLY- Not Present

Karen Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of November 14, 2016

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. None

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. None

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. None

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Laura Harmer – Berkshire South Report on Summer Program

Laura presented the 2016 Summer Parks Management Reports for Memorial Field Skate Park, Housatonic Park and Lake Mansfield. She noted that a vandal melted wax and sprayed an aerosol substance on some of the obstacles at the Skate Park. She said the DPW maintenance crew took care of it. Otherwise the program ran well. There were 7 police visits at the skate park during the summer. It was suggested to invite the chief to a meeting. A letter should be sent to the Town Manager making the request. Paul said he sent a report to the Town Manager with a cover letter on items we need assistance on. There is an issue with the balls from Memorial Field being hit over the fence without warning. There was discussion about replacing the fence at the basketball court and putting up warning signs about the possibility of balls being hit over the fence. Poles and netting could be put up.

The Board suggested that Berkshire South schedule 2 to 3 activities a week – consistent programs. We need to hold a community meeting in the spring regarding the role of the parks and dogs. Laura said she would reach out to other towns on their policy of children being dropped off at a park with no supervision from a parent or an adult.

Laura noted that there was heavy patron traffic and the swimming area was packed with swimmers. It was suggested to hire an additional person to watch other areas; 2 watching the water and 1 watching the cars, and lots etc.

It was also suggested to have signs at the entrances noting no alcohol, dogs or smoking. She also noted the telephone line does not work. Joe Sokul had noted he was working with Verizon.

B. Subcommittee Updates

1) Pat noted that Kathy worked up a draft of the regulations for various parks. She spoke to other towns to see what they require for parks usage etc. A copy will be forwarded to the board members. The subcommittee will meet again in January.

2) Karen read aloud a draft of the Mission Statement Committee.

C. Appointment of a representative to the Lake Mansfield Task Force.
Tabled until the January meeting.

6. CITIZENS SPEAK

7. COMMISSIONER SPEAK:

1) Tom asked for clarification on the procedure for procurement. It was explained that the budget is presented to the Town Manager and Town Accountant, then the Finance Committee and Select Board. The Parks Budget is included with the DPW budget.

It was noted to contact Sean VanDeusen about attending the meetings.

On a motion made by Karen Smith and seconded by Steve Bannon, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary