

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING AGENDA
HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY CENTER
1064 MAIN STREET
HOUSATONIC, MA 01236
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

KAREN SMITH

CHARLES BOUTEILLER - ABSENT

STEPHEN BANNON

THOMAS NORTON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS

ANTHONY TROIANO

ONE VACANCY

ALSO PRESENT: SEAN VAN DEUSEN, DPW SUPERINTENDENT

Paul Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 13, 2017 Minutes

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 7-0

B. March 13, 2017 Minutes

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

C. Subcommittee Minutes from March 27, 2017

MOTION: Karen Smith to table voting on the minutes till the next meeting.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 7-0

2. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Parks Usage Request from Fairview Hospital to use the Town Hall Green for the Annual Gala and Dinner on Saturday September 16, 2017. The tent set up will be Friday, September 15 and the breakdown will be Monday, September 18, 2017. (Discussion/vote) A Representative from Fairview was not present. **This was tabled until the May 8, Parks meeting as nobody was present from the hospital.**

B. Parks Usage Request for Great Barrington Little League to use Olympian Meadows Baseball Fields from April 3, 2017 through August 15, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 21, 2017 will be all day. (Discussion/Vote) – Liability Insurance will be submitted when available. Robert DeVergilio was present representing Little League. He noted he has been in contact with Sean in regard to mowing the field. Robert noted he would e-mail the schedule of games and the liability insurance to Carolyn.

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve

SECOND: Stevphen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

- C. Parks Usage Request from Babe Ruth to use Memorial Field Monday through Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning May 1 through July 31.(Discussion/Vote)
Liability Insurance will be submitted when available.

MOTION: Kathy Plungis to approve

SECOND: Anthony Troiano

VOTE: 7-0

NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Parks Usage Request from Great Barrington Girls Softball/ Terry Chamberland/to use the two girls' softball fields at Olympian Meadows from April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017.

MOTION: Karen Smith for a provisional approval based on receiving the liability insurance.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 7-0

- D. Christine Ward, representing Lake Mansfield Alliance for the Lake Mansfield Cleanup Day on 4/29/17 from (9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

Christine said she has connected with the DPW on the cleanup and would like to connect with Berkshire South on water safety support and putting in the ropes. Sean said the porta potties will be going in next week. .

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent - Grills at Lake Mansfield
Sean noted that the porta potties have been ordered for the various parks. Sand will be going in at Lake Mansfield. The slats on the fence for the bathrooms will be fixed. Six grills will be ordered and four will be replaced. The cost is \$150.00 each. Terry Chamberland asked Sean to look at the softball shed at Olympian Meadows as it was vandalized.

MOTION: Karen Smith for Paul to give Sean the specs for the grills and to order them.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Laura Harner – Berkshire South – Laura noted that the skate park will begin to be staffed on May 6. Karen asked Laura about the plans for the parks programming and how the lake will be staffed. Christine Ward asked if the dates for the swim lessons had been decided.

B. Dogs allowed in the Housatonic Village Common – Paul noted the meeting is being held at the Housatonic Community Center to allow the residents to give the Commissioners input on dogs being allowed in the park. Paul noted he when people speak, he would like people to give their name and address.

Michelle Loubert, Housatonic – She noted she enjoys seeing dogs and kids playing in the park. She does not advocate banning the dogs if people are responsible and clean up after their dogs and keep the dog on a leash. She noted that she has seen improvement at the cemeteries as far as people cleaning up after their dogs. Paul read aloud Chapter 81, Section 2 – Dogs required to be leashed; exceptions and chapter 81, Section 10 – enforcement, violations and penalties. (A copy of the leash law is attached).

Jim Stark, Housatonic – He noted that he feels banning all dogs from the park is too drastic.

Robert DeVergilio said he coaches children at the field and has never had an issue with waste or a bad dog situation.

Karen Smith said she is happy to honor the dogs in the park but people have to be responsible by keeping their dogs on a leash and cleaning up after their dogs. Andy Troiano stated that he talked parents about dogs and some kids are afraid of dogs. Karen suggested doing a dog awareness day where dogs are brought in on a leash, and have a little picnic and educate them on what is an appropriate way to handle a dog. The dog should stay by the owner and let the child approach the dog.

MOTION: Karen Smith that the Park and Recreation restate what is already on the books within the parameters of the town bylaw that dogs will be allowed in the Housatonic Village Common. They must be on leash and they must follow the recommendations of how one deals with dog excrement.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

Dogs are not allowed at Olympian Meadows, Memorial field or Lake Mansfield.

Karen asked Sean to report at the June or July meeting on the condition of the parks as far as dogs being present. Signs will be ordered for the parks. Karen asked Sean to forward the text on the signs to the Parks Commissioners before ordering them.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Applicant for Parks Commissioner (Vacancy)

Ilana Siegal submitted a letter of interest to become a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. She noted she owns Lifeworks Studio in Great Barrington which promotes movement, healing and wellbeing. She was advised that she would be finishing a former member's term who resigned from Parks. She noted she is very interested in learning about the parks.

MOTION: Karen Smith to accept Ilana Siegal's request to become a member of the Commission and to advise Jennifer Tabakin to make the appointment.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

Paul said he would e-mail Jennifer Tabakin that the board accepted Ilana Siegel as a new member.

Karen said she regrets that Kathy Plungis is resigning from the Board and thanked her for her service. Now we have another vacancy.

6. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

A. Millers – Scott MacFarland said that Tom Ingersoll talked with Sean. This weekend the Millers will be doing infield clay. Scott asked about the Benchmark project. Karen said It was made clear to Benchmark that the season isn't to be interrupted. There needs to be a new shed built at Memorial Field.

87. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Karen said the final draft of the Policies and Procedures will be voted on at the May meeting. There is an update on procurement in the final draft. Karen noted she is going to be the liaison between the DPW and Parks, so if there are complaints or issues, to let her know.

Pat Salvi said that the Sheffield Kiwanis will be painting the dugouts at Olympian Meadows on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. She noted she has been in touch with Sean and the new people in charge of Little League are putting the word out to the coaches and parents if they want to help.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. May 8, 2017

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary