

PARKS AND RECREATION  
REGULAR MEETING IN PERSON AND ZOOM  
TOWN HALL  
334 MAIN STREET  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA  
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023  
5:15 P.M.

**PRESENT:**

**KAREN SMITH, CHAIR**

**PAUL GIBBONS, VICE CHAIR**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**WILLIAM MEIER**

**ILANA SIEGAL**

**SRIDEVI REDDY**

**TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND**

**JULIE ANIDJAR**

**STEPHEN BANNON** – left at 5:45 p.m.

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

A. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 P.M.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of April 12, 2023 (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Terry Chamberland to approve as written

**SECOND:** Paul Gibbons

**VOTE:** 9-0

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. **Iredale Cosmetics, Ellen House**, 50 Church Street to use Memorial Field or Lake Mansfield on August 11, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a company employer family fun day. **The request was withdrawn prior to the meeting.**

B. **Southern Berkshire Youth Football** to use Olympian Meadows beginning Monday, August 7, 2023 to Wednesday, November 1, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Russell Hyde was present to explain the request. (Discussion/Vote) After discussion, it was determined that they would have full access for the first 3 weeks (five nights) and then the schedule would be changed to three nights, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Town Waiver will be forwarded for participants to sign.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland

**VOTE:** 9-0

C. **Berkshire Busk**, Carli Scolforo and Eugene Carr to use the Gazebo/Giggle Park on Saturday, July 22 and August 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Carli Scolforo was present to explain the request. She noted that the Town Manager told her that they don't need to supply liability insurance since it is a town sponsored event.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve  
**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland  
**VOTE:** 9-0

D. **Festival Latino of the Berkshires, Inc.** for educational and whole family celebration of Hispanic heritage to use the Town Hall Park on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Angela Palmer was present to explain the request. A certificate of liability insurance will be submitted by August 1, 2023.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve  
**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland  
**VOTE:** 9-0

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

**Berkshire South** came up with a plan to service Lake Mansfield from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 7 days a week. There will be two lifeguards all the time and 4 hours during the day there will be 3 lifeguards. They will start Memorial Day weekend and then 7 days a week till Labor Day. An extension of their contract will be written up.

**Housatonic Playground** – Joe Aberdale and Jenise Lucey from Berkshire South noted that the hours for the program have been altered to begin at 1:00 p.m. and go to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. There will be two people there from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a total of 38 days. The money is built into the budget. There is also money for marketing and for equipment. Karen noted we could look into a shade fly. It might be a possibility of looking into a water feature. If we see an increase in attendance, we will continue it and if not we may discontinue it. The Housatonic program doesn't begin until July 5 and ends when school starts.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve the Housatonic Program.  
**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland  
**VOTE:** 8-1

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Review of Olympian Meadows** – Tom Norton noted that the field will be lined on 5/16/23 or as soon as he can get some volunteers to help move the goals. Karen said the Girls Softball has posted their schedule on the website and down at the field.

B. Julie and Sridevi said they are planning on a public input meeting on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall to solicit input from what citizens would like at Dewey Park and Grove Street Park. They noted they would like to bring design concepts for park improvements. They suggested that Tighe and Bond sit in on it to help with concepts.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Lake Mansfield Task Force** - Bill Meier said there was a weed survey done and there are invasive weeds that are going to take over the lake. It was noted that the mats have bubbled up. They need to be taken out and put down again. Joe said there is approximately \$5,000 in the FY 23 budget for the mats. He will contact the company about servicing the mats.

7. **CITIZEN SPEAK:**

John Berthet said that there is a retaining wall on Railroad Avenue that has a lot of invasive weeds. He was advised to talk to the DPW.

8. **COMMISSIONER SPEAK:**

Ilana said she received a request for a picnic table and bench at South Street Park (now Church Memorial Park).

Paul noted that the softball field hasn't been maintained.

Bill Meier said the play equipment at Lake Mansfield is very popular.

Julie noted that a swing needs to be replaced at Dewey Park since one is missing.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Terry Chamberland to adjourn.

**SECOND:** Paul Gibbons

**VOTE:** 8-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Recording Clerk