

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017
5:00 P.M.

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR
PAUL GIBBONS
STEPHEN BANNON
CHARLES BOUTEILLER
THOMAS NORTON
PATRICIA SALVI
ANTHONY TROIANO
ILANA SIEGAL
CHRIS WILTSHIRE

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of October 10, 2017

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve with amendments.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 9-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Betsy Andrus, Chamber of Commerce, to use Memorial Field on Saturday, December 9, 2017 for Fireworks in conjunction with the Holiday Stroll. The time of the fireworks will be from 7:10 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Clean up will be on Sunday, December 10, 2017.
(Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 8-1 – Paul Gibbons was not in favor.

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Karen Smith presented a list of updates on the parks from Sean Van Deusen as he was not able to attend the meeting. (A copy of the list is attached to these minutes). Karen met with Jane Iredale and we have asked for a quote from Kompan Big Toys on equipment for Giggle Park.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Laura Harner – Berkshire South – Parks Management Report - Laura presented the 2017 Summer Parks Management Report dated November 10, 2017 to the commissioners. The report gave an overall summary of the activities at Memorial Field Skate Park, Housatonic Park, and Lake Mansfield. (A copy is attached to these minutes).

Memorial Field: **It was noted to add the purchase of new helmets on the spring agenda and adding benches to be placed in the shady areas.** Karen asked why there is no programming for all age groups shown in the report. Laura noted that she failed to add it to the report. Karen noted in December she would like Laura to return with a detailed report on programs, staff that was used and what the attendance was. Laura noted she would update all the programs for all the

parks. Laura said the Police didn't stop by Memorial Field when the staff was present. **For the April agenda we need to add Police Department.** Ilana noted she uses the field with the children in the morning and witnessed alcohol bottles littering the field. **(Note to Sean that the Park needs to be checked in the morning starting in the summer because the staff doesn't come on until the afternoon).**

Karen noted that the work being done on the Co-op project will not be as intrusive on Memorial Field as originally thought.

Housatonic Park: Laura noted the average age of attendees was age 10. Karen noted that Housatonic Park would be a good location for a solar recyclable garbage can. It was noted in the report for Housatonic Park that the police were called for an incident which was resolved. The second incident involved a staff member that was later resolved.

Training for parks staff should be addressed in January in how to handle confrontation situations.

Lake Mansfield: **It was suggested having 3 Lifeguards on duty during busy times of the day; after 3:00 p.m. and weekends. Suggestions and needs for the future should be placed on the March agenda. A lock for the shed door needs to be replaced.** Laura said they will be working on the hiring of lifeguards during the April school break. Information needs to be transmitted to the camps in regard to bringing their own lifeguards to the lake.

Ilana thought the rope at the swim area was smaller. **It is a question for Sean that we would like to have a longer rope to make the swim area larger.** It was noted that the rope follows the weed barrier. A new contract will be coming soon for the weed barrier. **We need to ask Sean if the weed barrier has been removed yet.**

Laura noted that this will be the last parks meeting that she will be attending. Steven Leonard will be taking over the Parks Department. She noted she will be leaving Berkshire South.

B. Update on the fields at Olympian Meadows – Paul Gibbons submitted the notes of the Sub-committee Renovation of Olympian Meadows dated October 26, 2017. (A copy is attached to these minutes). Paul noted that there are times when the fields need to be mowed when they are not scheduled. **It was noted to discuss with Sean on purchasing a York rake and a mower. Sean also needs to get the fence evaluated at Olympian Meadows.** It was discussed to delineate exactly what we want done and hire a landscaping crew to do that work and it wouldn't be anywhere near the amount listed in the quote. A more reasonable sum would be around \$5,000. This could be done every few years. The leagues are partially responsible before and after the games.

C. Giggle Park Update – Karen Smith – Karen noted she met with Jane Iredale and reviewed the quotes for the swing and slide. She noted that part of the problem when the original park was built; the layout was not conducive to try to get anymore equipment in there. The cost for the slide and swing addition was close to \$20,000. Karen noted she wanted Jane to pay for anything we want to add. One thing we need to look at is do we expand the fence area? We are under discussion and nothing will be done at this point. Kompan Big Toys is getting us a quote for a slide and swing set and the cost of moving the fence. Hopefully by next spring we will have some sort of new equipment there along with benches.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Ilana Siegal – Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force – the firm in charge of planning was there to present their timeline and the next stage of deciding what to do with the road. They closed the road for two days to do boring of the road. They will receive information and report back to the task force. There was discussion about Lake Mansfield in general to address the storm water mostly along the road and around the boat launch. They are planning on finishing the loop trail along the back and will go before the CPA for funding. A letter of intent is supposed to be sent for weed control next year. It was suggested to have changing stations and trash cans near the porta potties for diaper disposal.

Karen advised she got a census of the Little League. There are 276 kids that participate in Little League and of that 84 are Great Barrington and Housatonic and 192 are outside the town. Stephen said that they also use fields in Sheffield, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge; and Egremont. **Karen said would like to get together with Carolyn to create a list of all the parks, the status of the parks in town and what the DPW is responsible for from Sean.**

B. Bench and Trash can at Old Maids - Karen noted that Old Maid's is being mowed. We will consider putting a bench and trash can up there. Parks closed running a program there but it is still a park. Stephen thought it should be a larger discussion if we are going to put things up there.

6. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

Nick Diller – he said 2 months ago the backstop was removed at Gilmore Park and he would like it to be replaced. It was used for T-Ball practice, etc. Karen advised him to contact Sean to see how much it would cost. He said we need to promote our parks. Paul suggested contacting Chris Rembold about a Google Plan on the website. Karen said there should be a list of parks on the website and what is available. Once we get the map correct, people who are interested in having our parks used and promoted could volunteer to help us do that. Stephen noted Gilmore Avenue was approved at a Town Meeting but there is no money for Gilmore Avenue and nobody came to the parks department with a plan or request. The plan was to keep it as a green space. If you were to make it a full scale park it would take about \$50,000 to \$70,000.

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Tom said he feels there is a need to consider down the road, a genuine children's playground in Great Barrington similar to Housatonic. He noted Gilmore Park could be an optimal place for us to consider. Charlie noted we have equipment at Giggle Park, Grove Street and different places and he doesn't want to reproduce Housatonic again. Kids need open space.

Stephen said he hopes that as the equipment at Giggle Park wears out that we can replace it with something more realistic for a playground.

Pat noted that the Kiwanis painted the dugouts at Olympian Meadows. There were 14 Key Club members, Kiwanis and several other volunteers. All six dugouts got painted on the outside and two got painted on the inside. Kiwanis will return next year.

Karen noted that Amanda requested a bike station at the skate park and there may be one added to the library. Karen said she was not thrilled with the reports from Berkshire South because

there was no a program or usage information in the report. We need to meet with Laura's replacement to discuss what information we need.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to adjourn

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 9-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann
Administration Assistant