

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017
5:00 P.M.

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of November 13, 2017

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. None

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – Sean noted there were no expenditures this month for parks. Sean and John LaRue went through Giggle Park and noted changes that could be made. John will quote some prices. The court house/Dewey School was also visited. The swings at the court house/Dewey School are damaged and broken and need to be removed and replaced. The monkey bars need to be removed. There is a piece of ledge there that we will have to address in the spring. John LaRue is going to come up with a plan for a new swing set and monkey bars. Some edging will need to be done at Grove Street Park to be up to code. The mulch isn't in compliance so some new mulch will have to be put in. Sean noted that a picnic table or bench would be a good addition to the court house/Dewey school lot. Karen noted she asked John LaRue to look at the parks and equipment and tell us what age group we have, especially Giggle Park. We need to review Giggle Park to see what the needs are. Tom suggested inviting community input on the parks equipment. Karen noted that if we are going to put handicapped accessible equipment in, that the Court House/Dewey School Park would be a good spot because of easy access. John LaRue will be submitting information on Giggle Park, Dewey Park and Grove Street Park and look at it as a total program in the sense of phasing in equipment. Sean thought a new basketball hoop would be needed for Grove Street, but it looks like we can excavate out what is there and put a new footing in and level it back up. We can also excavate the areas around the equipment where the grass has grown in and edge the area to code and mulch it correctly. Charlie stated that equipment shouldn't be removed until a replacement is

ready to go in.

B. Olympian Meadows Ball field status – Sean noted we have a liability and we need to fix it because someone could get hurt. The cost will be significant because of prevailing wage. It was noted that Paul had previously said that he thought a local company could do the work at the fields. Karen asked Sean to communicate with Paul Gibbons on the process and what needs to be done. Charlie noted one of the Little League coaches is a landscaper. Karen noted we need the prior quotes for the next meeting. Sean said we have the ability to put a small attachment on the cemetery tractor so we can do some grooming in house on the fields about once a week. Then we could have a company come in once a year to clean them up. He also noted that the new mowers have baggers on them. Karen suggested we could make it a requirement that if they want to use the fields they need to attend an in-service on how to maintain the fields.

Karen introduced Steven Leonard from Berkshire South who will be the contact for Parks. He noted that Laura did not provide him with the programming report of the summer parks programs. He noted he was employed by Kripalu previously. Karen said we need to train the summer parks staff on how to deal with situations that are not going well and completing reports.

Discussion of the Lifeguard hours and suggested issues for the parks could be discussed at the January – February meeting. Karen noted she would not be at the February meeting.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Giggle Park - John LaRue will get back to us on the equipment at the January meeting along with plans.

B. Olympian Meadows – Sean will communicate with Mr. Gibbons on the needs for Olympian Meadows.

C. Memorial Field update – Karen said the Benchmark project is delayed. They are going to start the demoing of the buildings closer to Main Street first. The ball field needs to be usable by next summer. They noted it would impact Memorial Field less because the road would be smaller.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Relocation of the South Street Park Equipment – Sean will check out the adult exercise equipment to see if it is possible to relocate it. Ilana said that she would like to have kid play equipment added to the park. Karen suggested that Steven obtain a list of the town parks from the planner and look at the programming as the subcontractor to Park and Rec. and gather data on equipment use, etc. Stephen Bannon said we need to discuss the 5 year capital plan. This will be discussed at the January meeting. Sean noted he would obtain a copy. Charlie noted that the rest rooms at Olympian were on the Capital Budget and have yet to materialize. Karen noted she was told that public bathrooms are to be put at the Chamber of Commerce Building. Karen said she procured a slide that could go to Grove Street.

6. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK**

Nick Diller asked if there is a list of the parks and what equipment exists? He asked that the backstop or barrier at Dewey School be replaced to keep children from going into the road.

Genevive Naylor said she would like to put poetry boxes along the hiking trails around Lake Mansfield to display youth art and poetry. Karen suggested she speak to Christine Ward. There would be kiosks with art work and poetry. This is to be added to the January agenda.

Karen noted that the CPA awarded 60% to the trail design that is going along the Riverwalk. It will go around the back side of the park.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary