

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE STATION
37 STATE ROAD
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018
5:00 P.M.

KAREN W. SMITH, CHAIR
PAUL GIBBONS – VICE CHAIR
STEPHEN BANNON
CHARLES BOUTEILLER - ABSENT
THOMAS NORTON
PATRICIA SALVI
ANTHONY TROIANO - ABSENT
ILANA SIEGAL- ABSENT
CHRIS WILTSHIRE – ARRIVED AT 5:20 P.M.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of December 11, 2017

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. None

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – updates were discussed later in the agenda.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Steven Leonard, Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Jenise Lucey, Director of Berkshire South was also present. Steven said he e-mailed the reports to the commissioners submitted by Laura Harner in regard to the summer programs at the various parks that were requested at the last meeting. Karen clarified that a report on what was done should be submitted. There was no information about the police stopping by. Jenise said she would follow-up with Laura to see where she ended up in her process of compiling a report. Karen noted that the contract is ending June 30, 2018 with Berkshire South. Jenise noted that in prior years you could not bid separately, you had to bid on the whole package. Jenise said there would be an increase in the proposal. She noted it is very difficult to get lifeguards. A 20 hour a week coordinator would be worked into the proposal. Karen advised that Railroad Street Youth Project is very interested in bidding the whole Memorial Field part of the summer program. Karen noted that Berkshire South should speak to Ananda Timpane and tell her it was shared at the meeting. Karen said she will not be at the February meeting but would be reachable by e-mail. Sean will

be the contact person on how the RFP will be worded. Jenise said Steven and Mack, the new aquatics manager are working on getting lifeguard training courses in collaboration with the Railroad Street apprentice program. Pat Salvi noted she is the Key Club advisor for Monument Mountain Regional High School and she would bring the lifeguard training program to their attention. Jenise said she would send the next aquatics class dates to Pat. Karen suggested doing a public relations release as well.

B. Purchase of Helmets – This was tabled until we have a better idea on who is running the program because the helmets would be for Memorial Field skate park. Karen noted we should add \$300 to \$400 to the budget for helmets.

C. Training for Park Staff on confrontations – Jenise noted that the staff is hired by Berkshire South and they are not town employees. There was an incident last summer and Jenise felt it was handled very well. A policy/strategy needs to be developed with Berkshire South and Parks and Rec.

D. Bike Rack Placement – Karen said one should be placed at Town Hall, one by the Gazebo, two at the skate park, one in front of the library and one at the Housatonic Playground. Sean will order at least 6 in March. Tom and Sean will decide where to put a bike rack at the Housatonic Playground.

E. Olympian Meadows – Quotes for field repairs – Paul said the subcommittee hasn't met since the meeting they had earlier. He said the quotes they received were too expensive and the scope of the work for those fields was way beyond what is needed. The main part is to fix the infield berms and repair the fences. Those are the main concerns of the softball and little league people. Stephen said that Sean can go down there with All American fence or whoever to look at the fence and give us a quote and we can approve it before the season starts. Sean said the quotes were to skin back the lips on both sides, add sod, remove the organic material, and put new clay in. Paul noted we need to locate an alternate source for infield mix because the material from New Jersey has maintenance problems because of the amount of clay that is in it as well as expense. It is \$130 a ton delivered. Paul noted he didn't think it was going to cost \$35,000 to take the berms out and level the ground. It was noted the quote is for 3 fields. Karen said if someone can do it locally and do it up to specification she would agree to that. Karen suggested that Sean contact the City of Pittsfield to find out who they use to maintain their fields. We need to phase out a capital budget and a budget for continuous maintenance. At the end of the game, the fields need to be dragged to keep them level. It was suggested to purchase a piece of equipment to maintain the fields. Sean said the DPW can go in once a week and do the fields. It would need to be coordinated with Little League.

F. Relocation of South Street Park Adult Exercise Equipment – **Tabled until the March meeting.** Karen said we need to do a community survey and ask the public where they would like it to go.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Genevieve Naylor re: Poetry/Art Boxes along the trails at Lake Mansfield – Genevieve presented some photos to the board. She noted she had an art/poetry contest and the butterfly art

was selected. The idea is to display youth art and poetry around different hiking spots in the Berkshires. Karen said she will contact Christine Ward regarding putting the boxes along the trails at Lake Mansfield. Genevieve said the inspiration for the project came from her trip to Newport Rhode Island. The box itself would be permanent but the art would change. Paul suggested putting it at various spots at the Lake Mansfield beach area. Sean would have to sign off on the box. It was suggested starting with one to see how it goes.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve putting poetry art boxes around the town beach at Lake Mansfield.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

Karen said we can install one and then decide if it would be a good thing to add some to the trail.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project – - re: park hours and lighting during the winter for basketball Sabrina Allard from Railroad Street Project was present. She said this originally came to them because they had a young person who came in around the beginning of December who was stopped by the Police because they were playing basketball around 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Field. The sign says all parks close at sundown. It gets dark early in the winter so at 5:00 p.m. at night, kids aren't allowed to be there. Is there a way that the hours can be extended? Karen said if Railroad Street is going to be the people to manage the park that the whole sunrise to sundown times could be addressed. **Agenda – Police Department/basketball for March.** Paul thought the lights at Memorial Field are on a sensor. Could another head be put on the light? Sean said he would check on the light situation and would be meeting with Chief Walsh this week.

C. Lifeguard hours at Lake Mansfield – Steven from Berkshire South said that Laura's recommendation is to have an additional lifeguard on weekends and holidays because of high attendance. He noted they are already having a staffing issue so we need to juggle that. He noted that the afternoons are the most heavily used times. They usually guard between 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Karen suggested extending it to 6:00 p.m. With an additional lifeguard, there would be someone who is more mobile to interact with the people at the beach. Jenise was directed to meet with Sean on additional costs for the budget for an additional lifeguard.

D. Financial Budget – Capital Plan- Sean presented a projected preliminary 5 year parks improvement plan to the board. Sean noted that there is approximately \$35,000 left over from FY 17. Karen said we may get some assistance from Jane Iredale on the Giggle Park equipment. She said the money for the woodchips and the infield mix for the baseball field is good. The field repairs are going to be \$20,000 at least. Karen noted if we get some assistance from Jane Iredale, we may be able to put in more benches at Giggle Park and do something at Dewey Park. Paul questioned the \$1,000 for movable soccer nets. The only two fields we could put them in would be Memorial Field or Olympian Meadows. Karen said to change the \$1,000 to \$2,500 and we will go from there. Paul also agreed that the proposed budget for FY19 is good. For FY20 Memorial Field repairs, Paul said we should double the \$17,000. Sean said he would bid it out the year before. Sean said he ordered new dog bag containers. It was noted that the Gazebo repairs came out of the Parks budget. If Parks needs it for something else, it would be taken out

of the DPW budget. There is \$30,000 in the capital budget for bathrooms. Sean said he would check on the Adirondack chair idea for the Town Hall Park.

E. John LaRue's report on Giggie Park, Dewey Park and Grove Street equipment – Karen said they had John LaRue came up with a plan for the parks, but it turned out to be very expensive. Tom said if we can see the plans that John LaRue created, that parts of it might work. Pat noted there is a company called Landscape Structures in Mass that partners with Kiwanis and a lot of Kiwanis clubs in New England use them. Karen said for Pat to get that information to Sean.

F. Dale Abrams – River Walk Trail – Karen said the walk will go on the outer perimeter of the football field. Parks and Rec. will need to approve the plan. The plan, as part of the capital project, the DPW will help build the walk. By the town building part of it, it takes the cost out of prevailing wage. There is a backhoe in house and staff.

Karen noted that Paul will chair the February 12 meeting.

6. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

A. None

7. **COMMISSIONER'S SPEAK:**

A. Paul suggested that the adult exercise equipment currently at South Street Park could possibly be placed along various sections of the Lake Mansfield trail. **It was noted to invite Christine Ward to the March meeting.** Lenox has a trail that goes around part of the high school and various parts of that they have exercise equipment.

B. Chris noted that he has been maintaining the gardens at the Railroad Street Youth Project site. They have multiple raised beds around the building. He asked if he could have an open compost bin at the location. It could be something as simple as 4 wood pallets in a rotating system. Karen suggested submitting a drawing to Sean and we will take it from there.

C. Karen said she was invited to the Berkshire Bike Path Council. She advised them to do a strategic plan as to what they want to do. She gave them an update on what Great Barrington had done. West Stockbridge doesn't want to be involved in the bike path. We will probably go through Housatonic to Stockbridge. It has been broken down in phases. There is a section where the solar panels are that the Town of Great Barrington owns. There are some private landowners that we need to talk to. It is all preliminary. CPA has voted to fund a small path from the Brewery to CHP's trails. A Complete Streets is being done on Route 183. Sean explained that a Complete Streets is a Town wide plan for pedestrian safety. It was noted when a road is done the town tries to make it wider by widening the shoulder and mark it "bike path". We can't use the existing rail line because it isn't wide enough.

9. **ADJOURNEMENT:**

A. **MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to Adjourn. **SECOND:** Pat Salvi **VOTE:** 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Wichmann, Recording Secretary

