

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE STATION
37 STATE ROAD
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018
5:00 P.M.

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

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of January 8, 2018

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Berkshire International Film Festival, 40 Railroad Street, to use the Town Hall Park beginning May 30th (to erect the tent) through June 4th (removal of tent) for their Special Tribute Event. (Discussion/Vote) Lauren Ferin was present to explain the request. She noted that the actual event will end of June 3. She will be attending the Department Review Team and the Select Board meetings for the alcohol and entertainment permits. There will be a 6-10 piece band on Thursday night from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and a 3-6 piece band on Saturday night from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday night there will be a Film Maker's Reception at the Mahaiwe. The liquor license request will be for Thursday and Saturday. There will be no alcohol on Friday or Sunday as it stands. She noted they might use the tent on Sunday for a small event. They will also be requesting 3 parking spaces to be reserved for storage and access to the tent. A professional caterer will be hired to serve food, etc.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0-1 (Paul Gibbons opposed because of the liquor license)

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – Sean advised that the RFP for the parks programming will go out in about 4-6 weeks. There will be a split RFP this year for the parks programming, lifeguards and skate park.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Steven Leonard, Berkshire South Regional Community Center** – He noted at last month's meeting it was discussed to make possible changes to the contract. Jenise Lucey has been in contact with Sean in regard to having an additional lifeguard on Sundays at Lake Mansfield, and swim lessons at the lake. Jenise was going to contact Ananda at Railroad Street because they are interested in bidding on the skate park part of the contract. Steve asked if the commissioners are interested swim lessons as it has in the past been part of the Berkshire South Catalogue. Paul noted that it has always been an option in the contract. Steven noted as far as details on the programming for last summer for the skate park and the other parks, Laura Harner said that she found the details on the usage at Lake Mansfield and he would get that to the commissioners by the middle of this week. As far as the other programming for the various scheduled activities, there were no attendees, and after the first couple of weeks, the recording of no attendees fell away so there is no record of that through the summer. He advised we can talk about what kind of programming the committee would like to have and it can be advertised in advance. Sean said that the RFP will be split so you can bid on one part or all of it. Steven said he would have a draft protocol for handling altercations or incidents at the March meeting. Ilana noted when the report from Berkshire South is received; she will pass it along to the Lake Mansfield Task Force.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Dale Abrams – River Front Trail** – Dale advised that he represents the Land Conservancy and the River Front Trail. The trail is proposed to run from where the River Walk ends at Bridge Street and head south along the river's edge towards Brookside Road where Bostwick Gardens is. Two segments of the trail are being worked on now, the north and south end with a gap in the middle where the fairground is. He noted he would like to discuss the part by Olympian Meadows and Memorial Field. Dale submitted a proposed site plan of the River Front Trail. It was noted it will be a soft surface walking trail of crushed stone which is similar to River Walk. Dale said they met initially with Karen Smith who represents Parks on the Community Preservation Committee and she gave feedback to move it entirely off the fields as it was originally proposed to go through the football practice field and the baseball fields. That is why it wraps further east. The overall alignment comes in at the north edge across a low swale, goes to the east of the concrete shed under the power lines and follows the dirt road that leads to the football practice field on the east edge of the ball field. It follows along the road and tucks in behind the backstop on the football practice field and wraps around the back edge until hopefully in the near future we will get the final permission for the segment to go to the fairgrounds. The interim measure is from that point where it terminates there will be a marker that points to another marker so you can make a loop and go back to Bridge Street. Ultimately, a boardwalk bridge will cross the wetland and get you to the fairgrounds. It would be about a 250' structure with board walk and bridging. Starting at Bridge Street, the first property is the GB Youth Foundation, (not town property) and we are working on permissions with their attorney, Edward McCormick, to have the trail along the backside of the building up against the edge of the river and tuck behind the backside where the basketball, skateboard park are, and the beginning of the Dewey Academy property. It was noted that Dewey Academy is the most on board of all the land owners. Stephen Bannon noted that he thought that the GB Youth only owned the building and the land was owned by the Town. Dale noted that Chris Rembold noted different. Stephen advised them to look into it further. Paul noted that it is only the footprint of the building that was transferred to the GB Youth Association. Dale said Foresight Engineering did all the

research and put together individual easement maps for each property land owner. Dale said the easement doesn't exist at the moment. It is being created. Stephen said the town wouldn't have been able to install the skate park where it is if the land wasn't owned by the town. He noted that the GB Youth building appears to sit on a different parcel that is separate in deed language from the Memorial Field. Paul advised that the property line looks like it cuts through the basketball courts and the rest of it where the skating rink was. It was a town meeting vote and we will have to go back to the original vote. It was always his understanding that the part that was deeded over to them is the front part of it. Dale noted that they would double check to be sure they are getting the correct easements from the right parties. The trail surface would be cut into the grade and not raised so that mowing machines could go over the top. Dale advised they have gone before the CPA and received their recommendation for funding for the first phase of construction and if that is voted on at Town Meeting, then we would begin working on 2 sections of the trail starting late summer or early fall. Sean said the DPW will be doing the instillation of the trail because of the expense. The portion on Memorial Field would be constructed by the town under guidance of trail designer, Peter Jensen.

It was noted there is a fence proposed to be on the river side of Memorial Field for safety reasons. There is no fence proposed on the Olympian Meadows side. On the property by Dewey Academy, they are asking for a fence on the building side of the trail to define and make a place for signs to indicate private property beyond a specific point. It would be a split rail two rails high fence. The trail would be maintained by the town and River Front people and landowners. There is a plan to have sign kiosks at both ends noting what is suitable to be used on the trail. Bikes will be discouraged. The trail is narrow and with a soft surface. It would discourage bikes and motorized vehicles. The trail is a mile and a quarter long.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Ilana Siegal

VOTE: 6-0

6. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

Mary Wexler and Wendy Kleinman who are members of the Environment Committee of the Berkshire Women's Action Group came before the board. They are concerned with the bottled water industry and the general unsustainability. They would like to see more water fountains in the town for people to refill their water containers. Sean said he would forward to them information as to who maintains the water fountains and where they are located. They were advised that there are water fountains at Memorial Field, Olympian Meadows, Housatonic Playground, Lake Mansfield and Grove Street Park. It was noted that there are no refillable water stations in town. Paul noted that it is not in the current budget plans.

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK TIME:**

Ilana reported on the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force meeting – She advised that the Town's engineers gave an update and are working on the outlet structure and creating a plan before any road plans specific to the one way/ two way road issues gets solidified. They asked that she report that they are still working on all the engineering and creating a plan based on an 18' corridor to take into consideration the right of way and the wetlands and they will return with further plans.

Charlie asked about the lights at Memorial Field and the closing of the Park. He was advised that they are on a sensor. Paul said some of the residents in the past have complained about the bumps of the balls late at night. It was noted that the police will ask you to leave if you are there late at night.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. March 12, 2018 – Great Barrington Fire Station

9: **ADJOURNMENT:**

A. **MOTION:** Stephen Bannon

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 6-0

The Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary