

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

**PRESENT:**

**Karen Smith, Chair**

**Paul Gibbons, Vice Chair**

**Tom Norton**

**Pat Salvi**

**Chris Wiltshire**

**Charles Bouteiller**

**Ilana Siegal**

**Absent:**

**Stephen Bannon**

**Anthony Troiano**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of February 12, 2018

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve.

**SECOND:** Chris Wiltshire

**VOTE:** 5-0-2 (Karen and Pat were not at the 2/12/18 meeting.)

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Great Barrington Land Conservancy/Christine Ward/to use the Lake Mansfield Beach Area on Sunday, April 29, 2018 (rain date – May 6, 2018) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the Annual Lake Mansfield Clean Up and Celebration Day. (Discussion/Vote) – Christine Ward was present to explain her request. The work will include lake area clean up and sprucing up the trails of invasive plants. She noted there would be a hike in the forest as well as a pot luck lunch. There will be a table with information and a Task Force Representative will be there to answer questions about their work at Lake Mansfield. Christine said she and Sean had been attending a pollinator group meeting. Last year we voted at town meeting to support pollinators which is under the Agricultural Committee. Christine said she would like to install a demo pollinator garden at the lake and they would like to do the install on the same day. The Land Conservancy would like to work with Sean in terms of a placement. Christine said they have a design that they can work with. The Land Conservancy would provide the funding for the garden. She noted that she would like Berkshire South to provide water safety coverage and to coordinate putting the ropes out around the swimming area.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve the Lake Mansfield Clean up and Celebration Day on April 29, 2018 and the rain date of May 6, 2018.

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 7-0

**Vote on Pollinator Garden:**

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve.

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 7-0

Charlie said he has a question on the location. Christine noted it could be along the fence line or on the area adjacent to the buffer area. He noted that the garden would probably attract bees and maybe it would impact the beach. Christine noted that bees are a pollinator but they are just one of the many pollinators. Beetles are pollinators moths are pollinators and hummingbirds are pollinators. She noted there are blueberry bushes and other flowering plants located at the lake. Christine noted they could consider their plant selection for specific kinds of pollinators.

B. Great Barrington Land Conservancy/Christine Ward and Senta Reis to use the Lake Mansfield Beach area for summer yoga: July & August (Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Start date 7/2 – end date 8/31. Fall yoga: Sundays, September 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Discussion/Vote) Christine Ward was also present representing the Land Conservancy. She noted there is a suggested donation of \$10.00 to pay the instructor with a percentage going to the Land Conservancy for Mansfield Stewardship. Classes are 1 hour.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 7-0

C. Great Barrington Little League/Robert DeVergilio to use Olympian Meadows Baseball Fields beginning 4/15/18 to 10/15/18 in the evenings and weekends for Little League Baseball. (Discussion/Vote) Bob DeVergilio asked that a wheel chair accessible porta toilet be provided at the field.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 7-0

D. Great Barrington Millers (Berkshire Adult Baseball League) to use Memorial Field beginning April 15, 2018 through October 15, 2018 on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Tom Ingersol was present. He noted the first base dugout is missing and he would like to have one put back. Karen said she and Sean would speak to the Bench Mark people about putting in a shelter and keeping us informed of the project. Sean noted that Benchmark isn't doing anything this year with the field and he doesn't have the final plans. He noted there is a 1 million promissory bond for the project. It was noted that the current road is not on town property. The town is going to get new dugouts, a new backstop and new bleachers. Sean noted there isn't a time line that has been set yet.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve.

**SECOND:** Chris Wiltshire

**VOTE:** 7-0

E. Lee Rogers to discuss the Summer Band stand Use. (No paperwork submitted, just discussion)

Mr. Rogers noted he would like to use the bandstand behind Town Hall again this summer and fall for concerts. He asked about the town providing a picnic table and chairs. David Grover will be there on Saturdays in July and August. Karen advised him to submit a Parks Usage Request Form and he will be included on the April 9<sup>th</sup> agenda.

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent Sean noted the RFP for the Summer Parks Program will be going out in a week. He will have information by the next meeting on picnic tables, etc. that are needed at the parks.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Steven Leonard, Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Karen noted that Steven Leonard and Ms. Timpane have been in communication on how to go forward with the Parks Management Program. Ananda said that she and Jenise had a conversation a few weeks ago and she said if the RFP is split that Berkshire South would not apply for the skate park part. Ananda said she and Jenise would like to have someone from Berkshire South and Railroad Street do the hiring together for the skate park so one staff could be hired until July 1 when it would be staffed by Railroad Street if they get the contract. The current contract goes through June 30. Steven said once the RFP is settled, it will be easier to clarify hours for lifeguards and possibly a third lifeguard on Sundays. He said Jenise and he are working on a proposal for both the lake and Housatonic Playground for a procedure for dealing with problems. He noted they have begun to strategize what kinds of activities and days of the week that the parks would be well attended. Steve said he received an addendum from Laura on the 2017 Report on the Parks Summer Program. Christine Ward requested that a copy of the report be forwarded to the Task Force. Steven said he would forward the report to the Commissioners and to Christine Ward so it can be reviewed. Ilana said the Commissioners are looking for conclusions on what Laura found on days and times that were more used and less used and the programming use. Karen requested that the Report from Laura and the addendum be merged and forward to the Commissioners. Christine suggested that he note the report as a draft. Christine requested that child changing tables and receptacles be included in the current changing area. This would keep the portlets free of diaper material. She

said they have looked into changing tables which are not expensive but would require installation. The Land Conservancy would like to fund the tables and trash receptacles.

B. Old Maids – Discussion on Public beach – Sean said the Board of Health will test the water quality occasionally for e-coli even though it is not a recognized swimming area. If it is high, it will be posted. Tom noted the river is good for fishing, etc. but not for swimming and it is dangerous because of debris, etc. in the water. The Commissioners noted there should be a no swimming sign posted there.

C. Extended hours at Memorial Field Basketball Court – (Tabled from the January meeting) – There was a general discussion about contacting National Grid about the lighting. Sean said he has a company he can contact who could layout something for lighting. Ananda from RSYP said she would like to have the hours at the Basketball court extended to 6:00 p.m. in the winter if we can light it. It was brought up by someone playing basketball there after dark and was told by the Police that he shouldn't be there. It is the policy of the Parks that our parks close at dusk.

D. Field Repairs at Olympian Meadows (Tabled from the January meeting) Paul said he will get together with Sean and set a date to discuss this. - Tabled again till the April meeting.

E. Relocation of South Street Exercise Equipment (Tabled from the January meeting) – Tabled again – to the April meeting. Christine Ward suggested Olympian Meadows. Sean said he needs to check to see if it can be taken out.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. General Discussion On Naming The Parks – It was noted that all the parks have a name already. Sean thought it would be a good idea to name a park after DuBois. The Dewey School Park hasn't been named officially. Christine Ward noted there is a space at the Riverwalk named after DuBois as part of the Afro-American heritage trail.

6. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Christine Ward said she would like to talk to Sean about putting better trash cans along the River Walk.

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Karen said that the Finance Committee and Select Board have decided we don't need public bathrooms in this town and have refused to fund them. She noted that this community needs public bathrooms. It was suggested to do a citizen's petition and put it on the Town Meeting Warrant for next year. This will be added to the April Parks agenda. Charlie asked if the public bathroom will be going into a Park. Ilana said we need to look at an overall budget plan. Sean said we have a 5 yr. capital plan. Pat asked if we could contact Landscape Structures Company out to tour the parks in April. Karen said he has toured the parks and we have received quotes that are very expensive.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. April 9, 2018 – **MASON LIBRARY**

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Paul Gibbons made a motion to adjourn. Pat Salvi seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Recording Secretary