

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
GREAT BARRINGTON MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
APRIL 9, 2018
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: **KAREN SMITH, CHAIR**
 PAUL GIBBONS, VICE CHAIR
 THOMAS NORTON
 PATRICIA SALVI
 CHRIS WILTSHIRE
 CHARLES BOUTEILLER
 ILANA SIEGAL
 STEPHEN BANNON
 ANDY TROIANO - ABSENT

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of March 12, 2018
 MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.
 SECOND: Stephen Bannon
 VOTE: 8-0 – Approved as written.

2. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Lee Rogers/Town of Great Barrington to use the bandstand behind Town Hall for summer concerts Friday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning June 15, 2018 through September 14, 2018 and Saturdays starting in June through August from 9:00a.m. to 12:00 noon for David Grover concerts (Discussion/Vote) Lee Rogers was present. He noted he sends out information to businesses about the concerts, does fund raising and has money left from last year. \$4,000 from the town covers the David Grover concerts. He said he would send out a list of the performers when the list is finalized.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
 SECOND: Paul Gibbons
 VOTE: 8-0

B. Terry Chamberland/Great Barrington Girls Softball to use the two softball fields at Olympian Meadows beginning April 5, 2018 through August 15, 2018 (Discussion/Vote) Terry Chamberland was present. He noted that they would use the field every day. There are 3 teams. He is waiting for the other towns to make up their schedules.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
 SECOND: Tom Norton
 VOTE: 8-0.

3. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – Sean noted the RFP has been sent out for the Parks Management Program. He advised there has been a change in personnel in Cemetery/Parks. One person resigned. Sean also advised that National Grid would like to donate a tree to be put into a park. He would need direction on where to plant it.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Steven Leonard, Berkshire South Regional Community Center – Review of 2017 Summer Program Report:** Steve introduced Matt Wallace from Berkshire South who will be coordinating the parks this summer. He also noted the hiring process is going well. Steven presented an addendum to the 2017 Parks Management Report. (A copy is attached to the official minutes). The report noted activities that were implemented at Memorial Field and the Housatonic Playgrounds. There is also a breakdown of the hourly and daily usage at Lake Mansfield. He noted there may be a need for a 3rd lifeguard at the lake on the weekends. It was also noted that the hours may need to be adjusted. Karen noted there will be an amendment to the budget on the Town Meeting floor depending on how much the RFP's are for. Karen noted that she wants to be included in the training meeting with the summer staff. Karen noted that if there is an issue at any of the parks, the police need to be contacted.

B. **Cost of Changing Tables for Lake Mansfield:** The cost of each changing table is about \$390 each. It is proposed to put one at the Lake and one at the Housatonic Park.

MOTION: Stephen Bann to approve up to \$1,000 for changing tables.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 8-0.

C. **Field repairs at Olympian Meadows: (Tabled from the January and March meetings).** There was a general discussion on the infield mix. The DPW will be soliciting quotes for the field repairs. Paul is going to check on the ratio of sand and clay needed for infield mix that doesn't need to be watered and will forward the information to Sean. Terry Chamberland noted that there are ground bees in the field. Sean noted he would look into it. Craig Lang noted there are organic pesticides that can be used. Sean said we will do some repairs on the fences. In the fall more aggressive repairs will be done as far as the infield and sod. This might be bid out but we have the prices from the existing estimates from last fall. This would be paid out of last year's capital money unless it is spent then it would be capital money from this year. Sean said he would need direction as to the priority of the capital expenditures this year.

D. **Relocation of South Street Exercise Equipment: (Tabled from the January and March meetings)** Sean said he would check to see if the equipment can be moved. (Tabled again till May). It was suggested by Craig Lang to move it to Olympian Meadows. He also thought it would be a good idea to distribute it to other parks. Craig said he would like to see a swing set put in at South Street Park.

E. **Bike Racks:** Karen said there is a P.O. from Berkshire Bike and Blade to the Town for 7 bike racks. 2 will be at Town Hall, back and front, 1 at Railroad St. Youth Project, 1 at the Library, 2 in Housatonic and one at the alley way near Rubiner's. They are \$260.00 each.

F. **Picnic Tables/Chairs at Town Hall Park and other Parks:** Karen advised that the Town Manager would like to have freestanding chairs behind Town Hall. Sean said they cost between \$50.00 and \$100.00 each. Karen suggested purchasing 3 or 4 of them. After discussion, the following motions were made:

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to put no chairs in the Town Hall Park.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 3-5 – Motion Failed

MOTION: Ilana to add two picnic tables to the Town Hall Park.
SECOND: Tom Norton
VOTE: 8-0

MOTION: Ilana to try 4 Adirondack chairs at the Town Hall Park.
SECOND: Tom Norton
VOTE: 4-4

G. Public Bathrooms – Karen said a number of places have been considered – Chamber of Commerce, free standing building behind Town Hall, Stanley Atrium, Wheeler and Taylor is willing to donate land. Karen suggested using an expandable security gate to go from the door of the Treasurer's Office to the wall of the bathroom in Town Hall. It would be about 25 feet. An expandable security gate (10' tall) can be purchased for about \$600.00. We could possibly have the bathroom cleaned by a sole proprietor to avoid prevailing wage. A Town employee would cost about \$17,000 a year. It could be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Police would open and close the Town Hall. It was brought up that those restaurants that have liquor licenses need to supply a public bathroom. Ed Abrams said he would check into that.

H. Fees for Parks Usage: Ilana noted that currently just a Parks Usage Request Form is necessary to use the parks with no fee. She was wondering what would happen if we added a nominal fee for private parties to people who want to use the parks. We could have the option to waive the fee at the Parks Committee discretion. Stephen said we don't want to charge tax payers to use their own park. It was noted that the select board has to approve it. Stephen said it is the policy of the select board not to waive fees even for not for profits.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to form a subcommittee to come up with a proposal on fees and to send it to the select board.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Mr. Gibbon opposed).

Pat Salvi noted a study was done by Kathy Plungis in the past to see if other towns charge a fee.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Bench Mark Representatives – Representatives from Bench Mark were not present. Sean said they are going to put a roof over the dugouts at Memorial Field. There will be no other work done until a year from this spring.

B. Five Year Capital Plan/Discussion of operating budget – The operating budget was level funded by the Finance Committee. Line Item 01650-57805 – Youth Programming - We originally asked for \$72,000 as an estimate because of the need for extra lifeguards on weekends and the summer parks management program has been changed at Memorial Field because Berkshire South is no longer going to bid on the skate park part. Railroad Street Youth is planning on doing a much more expanded drug awareness intervention and programming that is more appropriate. Last year we had about \$60,000. We will know on the 27th of April what the bids will be for the programs.

6. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Craig Lang asked why the Parks Commissioners had not approached the CPA for funding. Karen said requests were turned down by the board last year. They haven't been approached since. Karen said recreation and open space is very well funded. He also thought Parks Street Park or South Street Park would be a good location for disc golf

7. COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:
8. NEXT MEETING DATE:
A. May 14, 2018 – MASON LIBRARY
9. ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Carolyn Wichmann



Recording Secretary