

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE STATION
37 STATE ROAD
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
AUGUST 13, 2018
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR – NOT PRESENT

PAUL GIBBONS – VICE CHAIR

THOMAS NORTON

PATRICIA SALVI

CHRIS WILTSHIRE

ILANA SIEGAL – ARRIVED AT 5:07 P.M.

STEPHEN BANNON

ANTHONY TROIANO- NOT PRESENT

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of July 9, 2018

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Patricia Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

2. PARKS USAGE REQUEST:

None

3. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – The weed barrier at Lake Mansfield was dislodged and has been fixed. The boat launch area was paved. There is an extra picnic table at the Housatonic Playground. Jane Iredale donated \$5,000 for new playground equipment (swing set and slide) at Giggle Park. He met with Tom Ingersoll at Olympian Meadows to go over what routine maintenance should be done. It should be discussed what Little League should do and what the Town should do. Giggle Park should be on the next agenda for a vote. There is an RFP out for bathrooms for Olympian Meadows. There will be plumbing done internally and will probably be done in the spring. There is \$35,000 that wasn't carried forward in the Capital. At the next meeting there will be an excel spread sheet with all the expenditures. There is an agreement with the union that the buildings department and, cemetery/parks are now all one. Employees can be switched from department to department where needed. Sean noted he would contact the company responsible for removing the weed barrier at the end of the season. The concrete structures for installing the bike racks are being done. We are delaying town hall because of the roof and painting work is being done.

B. Berkshire South – Steven Leonard – He presented the Lake Mansfield Park and Housatonic Report for July 9 to August 12. The reports are attached. A parking map for suggested parking was also presented. Ilana noted that the challenge was that when people who don't live here come and park, they fill up spots that could be used. The sign is how parking might look and not a parking enforcement.

It was suggested to put a small fence in the middle of the parking lot. Sean said he would pass this by the Lake Mansfield Task Force and the Select Board to make sure they are in favor of it. It should be discussed for next season if the hours for the lifeguards could be extended from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Paul suggested they give the Parks commissioners a recommendation. Housatonic averaged 5 children an hour. The morning activity was soccer and the afternoon activity was basketball. There were a wide variety of games in the middle period.

Sean McTeigue of Railroad Street Youth Project presented the Skate Park Report for June 8 through August 13, 2018. He noted the skate park offers a skate camp which is an outreach to all ages inviting them to learn some tips on skating. This past weekend a kid got stung by a bee. Sean said he would take care of the hives. Sean said as soon as they have hot mix, they will patch some of the spots at the skatepark. On the 5 year capital, some of the work will be more intensive. It was noted that the ramps will need to be fixed professionally. This should be a FY20 priority. The park will be staffed until the end of October.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. 5 Year Capital Plan/Discussion of Operating Budget – Sean said if we do work on the Little League Field, the Softball Field will follow and then Memorial Field. There is equipment we need to address, especially at Grove Street Park. Ilana said things need to be kept up. Stephen said that we have capital money that we can spend this year and Sean should come back with recommendations. Sean noted once we go out to bid and know what the first projects cost; we will then have a good understanding of how much money we have. We can continue this discussion over the winter and start working in the spring. We can start excavating the area at Giggle Park immediately. The real issue is the lead time, ordering equipment and installing it. Sean said we have received 3 proposals for Giggle Park. The prep work will be done by Joe Wilkinson.

B. Public Bathrooms – not discussed.

C. South Street Park exercise equipment – not discussed.

D. Town Baseball Fields – Parks - Sean said he would ask Ellen Lahr to put something on the website in regard to obtaining input from the community. A list needs to be done of an overview of what exists in our parks and what needs to be done. An article in the Berkshire Record noting the Parks Commissioners are seeking ideas and input on Dewey Park. Paul Gibbons said he would contact Nick Diller about neighborhood thoughts and needs for Dewey Park.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Gaga Ball – Ilana Siegal – After discussion, a motion was made by Ilana Siegal to expend approximately \$1,200.00 for a 20 ft. diameter plastic mobile Gaga Ball Court. Stephen Bannon seconded. Vote: 7-0.

Ilana suggested putting in a box like they have for books in order to have a ball available. A suggestion was to put the court at Dewey Park to begin with.

6. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

A. Ed Abrahams suggested writing a letter to the editor in the newspapers about the amenities in our parks.

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

A. None

8. **NEXT MEETING:**

A. Next Meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the **GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE STATION.**

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary