

**PARKS COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE STATION**  
**37 STATE ROAD**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**KAREN SMITH, CHAIR**

**PAUL GIBBONS – VICE CHAIR**

**THOMAS NORTON**

**PATRICIA SALVI**

**CHRIS WILTSHIRE – NOT PRESENT**

**ILANA SIEGAL – NOT PRESENT**

**STEPHEN BANNON**

**ANTHONY TROIANO- NOT PRESENT**

**CHARLES BOUTEILLER**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of August 13, 2018

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

None

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – Sean said we had the approval at the last meeting to purchase the Gaga Ball structure. He tried to find a vendor to procure the Gaga Ball and the price went from \$2,000 to \$6,000. He noted he would continue to investigate that. The bike racks have been installed at the Railroad Street Youth Project, and one at Olympian Meadows. The others that were back ordered have arrived so they will go in within the next 10 days or so. One will go in the Housatonic Playground, the Mason Library, down below, and then the others will go in at the Town Hall in the spring after the steps are done. Southern Berkshire Youth Football, Chargers football, has started at Olympian Meadows. There was excessive garbage and it took an hour to clean it up. Sean said he contacted Lauren Hyde and told her that if they continue, that there may be a charge next year for using the field and the DPW's time. Sean Alexander will also be contacted.

B. Berkshire South – Steven Leonard - The board was given the usage and incidents report. There was an incident of a baby being unclothed. The parent was asked to put a diaper on the baby. Karen said a sign could be put up stating that your child must be diapered. Steven noted that swim diapers were available if the parent didn't have them. Sand will be added to the beach area in the spring. An AED is being worked on to have at the site. Steven said he would like to work on how to get more people to the Housatonic Park. There were only 3-5 people in an hour. Tom said he would like to have the garbage picked up more than once a week. We will discuss the outdoor storage facility over the winter. Paul noted that if this trend were to continue next year, then maybe we don't need to staff the park. Karen said she would like a final report based on both programs and any other additional budget items.

C. Railroad Street Youth Project – Sean McTeigue was present in Ananda's absence. He noted he doesn't have a report but since last time we met, all has been going well. The park has been very spotless and clean. We received a launch kicker and it has been set up. Sean said he will put what he wants to do in his final report. They are still discussing the possibility of making an ice skating rink during the winter.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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A. 5 Year Capital Plan/Discussion of Operating Budget – The town accountant wasn't able to furnish a budget because of the changeover in the fiscal year. Sean said he is in the process of developing a spread sheet which will show a 5 year capital plan for every park. Sean presented a template for the board to review and if the board agrees, he would do one for every park.

B. South Street Park Exercise Equipment – Karen said in March or April we need to let people know what is available and get a better usage out of it. Nick Diller said he would look at the equipment to see if it would be useful at Dewey School.

C. Town Baseball Fields – Parks – Community Input – (Discussion/Vote) Sean said he had prices from RJM and from Tom Ingersoll. Tom's price is lower by \$700.00. Karen said she met with the Little League people a month ago and said we would like to redo the fields and were not going to do this till next year. We need the parents to rake it before and after the games, pick up the trash, etc. Karen said she is concerned with doing both fields at a cost of \$20,000.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons that we accept the Ingersoll quote for the Little League Field.

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 6-0

**MOTION:** Tom Norton that we accept the Ingersoll quote for the other field.

**SECOND:** Charlie Bouteillier

**VOTE:** 6-0

D. Giggle Park – (Discussion/Vote) we have a quote for the addition of equipment from O'Brien and Sons and a rough estimate for the preparation work from Wilkinson which is part of the town's heavy equipment bid. The quote from O'Brien and Sons for the equipment is incomplete....it says \$17,000 at the bottom. We did receive a \$5,000 donation from Jane Iredale. Sean said he would like approval to move ahead with the prep work from Wilkinson to get that ready assuming there is a lead time of 4 months for the equipment, and an approval to order the equipment. Karen said \$30,000 was budgeted for Giggle Park. The cost for the prep work will be between \$6,000 and \$8,000. There will be a cost for mulch which we will do ourselves.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to accept the quote.

**SECOND:** Pat Salvi

**VOTE:** 6-0

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Karen said after discussion with the building inspector and Sean, we will be developing a banner permit as opposed to a sign permit. Karen discussed with the CDC and the building inspector that Park and Recc will make the decision on the banners, not the Town Manager. Karen said she has been working with Little League to develop a banner protocol of how many they can have, the size, and when they will go up and when they will come down. We are starting with Mr. Geller and the Community at Bat which is two weekends from now. Mr. Geller said the size is 6 by 2.5 and it will go up Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> and come down the 30<sup>th</sup>. Parks just needs to approve it and then the building inspector will issue it. This is a test case and then a policy will be developed.

**MOTION:** Pat Salvi to approve the banner for the CDC Community At Bat. It was noted that the banner would go up on the 18<sup>th</sup> instead of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**SECOND:** Mr. Gibbons

**VOTE:** 6-0

6. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

Nick Diller said he would like a barrier between where the backstop was and the street at Dewey Park. He noted that he would be in favor of putting some of the existing equipment from South Street Park at the Dewey School Park. The swing needs to be replaced and the fence needs to be fixed. Karen asked Sean to look at it to see what can be done now and what can be done in the spring to upgrade Dewey Park. We need to invite the people from that area to come and talk to us about what they would like.

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Tom Norton said he joined the Facebook group of the Housatonic Neighbors. There are 221 members. Pat noted that O'Brien and Sons does skate park equipment. Pat gave the committee a lead that if we spend \$35,000 on parks equipment, we would get a free friendship swing. (We aren't spending that much). There is a grant through the National Dermatological Association for shade. A shade structure could be put in at the Housatonic Playground.

Mr. Troiano has not been in attendance at the last 4 meetings and has not let Karen know he isn't attending. Mr. Wiltshire didn't let her know either nor did Ms. Siegal. Karen said she wants the members to let her know if they are not going to make the meeting.

8. **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of Parks will be Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Great Barrington Fire Station. We will take input from the East Mountain neighborhood in reference to what they would like to see in that park. Karen asked Sean to see what we can do – so let's put a fence up. Sean noted we can obtain a price to replace the one that is broken. Karen asked Nick to give the committee an idea of how long a fence he would like.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Recording Secretary