

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
MASON LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MARCH 11, 2019
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR

PAUL GIBBONS – VICE CHAIR

THOMAS NORTON – NOT PRESENT

PATRICIA SALVI

ILANA SIEGAL

STEPHEN BANNON – NOT PRESENT

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

LIZ HIRSH

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of February 11, 2019

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 5-0-1 – Karen Smith abstained

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Babe Ruth – John Lucey – to use Memorial Field beginning May 1, 2019 through October 15, 2019 – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 3:00 p.m. or later. Sunday, if available. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve pending receipt of the liability insurance policy.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

B. Little League – Robert DeVergilio to use Olympian Meadows from April 10, 2019 to October 15, 2019 – evenings and weekends. Varied times. Jason Gappa was present representing Little League. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Liz Hirsh

VOTE: 6-0

C. Girls Soft Ball – to use Olympian Meadows from April 1, 2019 thru August 15, 2019. (Discussion/Vote) Mark Viola is the new contact for Girls Softball.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Liz Hirsh

VOTE: 6-0

- D. Great Barrington Millers – *no vote as a Parks Usage Form was not completed.*
It was noted that a temporary dugout was going to be put up because the roof on the current dugout was removed.
MOTION: Paul that a temporary structure, authorized by Sean, be put up and removed after each game for the season.
SECOND: Ilana Siegal
VOTE: 6-0
- E. Berkshire International Film Festival to use the Town Hall park beginning May 30 (tent set up Wednesday, May 29) through June 3rd. The events will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday (May 30, 31, and June 1 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.) The tent will be removed on June 3, 2019. (Discussion/Vote)
MOTION: Ilana Siegal to approve.
SECOND: Liz Hirsh
VOTE: 6-0
- F. Lake Mansfield Alliance to use the Lake Mansfield Beach Area on Sunday May 5, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the annual Lake Celebration and Cleanup Day. (Discussion/Vote) Christine Ward was present representing Lake Mansfield Alliance.
MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.
SECOND: Pat Salvi
VOTE: 5-0-1

Mack from Berkshire South noted that they would help set up the waterfront.

NOT ON THE AGENDA:

- G. Great Barrington Land Conservancy partnering with Senta Reis – to use the beach area at Lake Mansfield for summer yoga beginning July 1, to July 29th, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (Discussion/Vote)
Christine Ward was present representing the Great Barrington Land Conservancy.
MOTION: Ilana Siegal to approve.
SECOND: Paul Gibbons
VOTE: 6-0
- H. Berkshire Waldorf High School to use Memorial Field Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, beginning April 1, to May 31, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for high school baseball practices. (Discussion/Vote)
MOTION: Pat Salvi to approve.
SECOND: Paul Gibbons
VOTE: 6-0
3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**
- A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – Work at Giggle Park will begin in May or June.
- B. Memorial Field Maintenance – The infield will be raked up. No funding for the warning track. We can go over it with the rake.
- C. Dewey Park – waiting for money for consultants and plans. There is no money being spent now. Paul said he spoke to Nick Diller and said until we have a plan, we can't go forward. After the Town Meeting in May, Dewey Park should be put on the agenda in June. The fence was not voted because we are waiting for a plan. Ilana said she got a question about the picnic tables at Grove Street. It was noted they will be put back in April or May.

D. Five Year Capital Plan/Discussion of operating budget – No updates. Sean said he would have an update at the next meeting.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. None

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Christopher Rembold – Planner – Open Space Update – Every five years the Open Space and Recreation Plan needs to be updated in order to be eligible for certain park and recreation and land conservation grants. The last update was done in 2013 which has now expired. Chris noted he has asked the Select Board to appoint a Task Force to help guide the town through this and to insure that we have good public input throughout the process. The OSRP Open Space Plan inventories town and publicly owned recreation and conservation land, natural resources and recreation assets. It looks at demographics, land use change, population change, and what our recreation and land use needs are for the next 5 to 10 years. We now need to move into a community outreach phase as we have done the demographic data. The Parks and Recreation should be involved in this is because there are park land grants to upgrade parks, equipment, and purchase additional land. Chris said he would like a member of Parks to be appointed to the Task Force. To have the parks plan integrated with the rest of the town's plan is a good idea. Liz Hirsh volunteered to be on the Task Force and will report back to Parks and Recreation and also bring the commissioners concerns to the Task Force. This should be completed by the end of the calendar year so we can be eligible for grants in 2020.

Paul Gibbons asked about the area by the Fair Grounds where there is a pumping station and if the town owns property or if there is just an easement. It was noted that the town owns property around the pumping station and an easement for the force main He asked the question because of the possibility of a dog park. Chris noted that the long term plans for the Fairgrounds included a dog park. A dog park could be included in the open space plan.

B. Berkshire South – Mac Wallace from Berkshire South didn't have anything to report on as the summer program isn't running yet. He noted Amy Dunham, the water front coordinator, will be returning. They are doing the application process. He said they are interested in doing some community days in Housatonic. There will be a leadership camp at Berkshire South to try to generate service projects to help bring more people to the Housatonic Park. He advised as they get closer, he will return with definite ideas in April or May. Jenise asked that he mention that school will be dismissed earlier this year than last year which could affect opening days. She asked to have the contract could be forwarded to Berkshire South. They will take care of making sure they stay within budget or if they go over staffing, that they make the town aware of it so a determination can be made about staffing earlier or the July 1 date. Sean said he would check this year's budget.

C. Railroad Street Youth Project – Ananda said the contract they had last year was a one year contract. She asked if an extension would be possible. Sean noted he would talk to her about the process. They are working on hiring for the skate park.

D. William Meier – possible new commissioner – Bill Meier submitted a letter of interest to become a commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He is currently the facilities director at Simon's Rock.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to recommend to the Town Manager that William Meier be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 6-0

Karen advised that a letter of appointment will be sent to him and he will have to go to the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in.

E. Ilana Siegal – re: New Rules Sign for the Lake Mansfield Beach Area – Ilana said that Mac sent her proposed sign rule changes. She noted there is no comment about swimming at your own risk after hours. Also swim diapers – children not toilet trained need to wear swim diapers. Also proper swim wear needs to be worn at all times.
Mack will send a final copy of the rules to the board secretary.

F. The map is not updated. It will be updated by the Town Planner.

6. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Ed Abrahams noted that the Berkshire Natural Resources Council - owns the baseball field just north of Taft farm. It could possibly be used as a dog park. It was decided that Tom Norton would be the representative for this process. It was noted that the Great Barrington Kennel Club could be contacted. Tom could contact Ed Abrahams about this idea.

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Ilana said she had a great meeting with Christine on Lake Day. The next meeting of the Lake Mansfield Task Force is March 26, 2019 at 5:30. This is in preparation to make a recommendation to the Select Board.

Charlie said the backstop was taken down at Dewey School. It takes a long time to do anything. He thinks a fence along the road would be a modest investment and it would make the area safer.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Park and Recreation Commissioners will be April 8, 2019 at the Mason Library – 5:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Paul Gibbons and seconded by Pat Salvi, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann, Recording Secretary