

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
MASON LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
JANUARY 14, 2019
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR

PAUL GIBBONS – VICE CHAIR

THOMAS NORTON

PATRICIA SALVI – NOT PRESENT

ILANA SIEGAL- NOT PRESENT

STEPHEN BANNON

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of December 10, 2018

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

None

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – Sean presented a tentative operating and capital budget for FY2020. He noted some of the line items have been combined and some items that were in capital are now in the operating budget. Anything under \$10,000 is not a capital item. Things like replacing mulch and landscaping are combined into parks improvements so now there is an increase in the parks improvement budget from \$3,000 to \$11,000. Youth Programming and Parks Programs and Management will be combined too. Sean said he had 2 meetings with Chris Tucci from Railroad Street Youth about the replacement of some of the equipment at the skate park. We have to get an architect to fix or replace anything there as well as someone with a contractor's license to apply for a permit. We have both those lined up. Amanda Timpane's father is a general contractor and they have an architect. Sean said they will get a proposal to him and it will be presented to the commissioners. The work on the concrete for the skate park will be expensive. We can plan that discussion for March. The handicapped swings have been ordered and received. One swing will go to Dewey Park, one to Olympian Meadows and one to Grove Street Park. A new handicapped swing needs to be ordered for Housatonic as the current one is broken. Permanent bathrooms will be put in at Olympian Meadows this spring. The project will be put out to bid this winter.

B. Giggle Park – Sean said the new swing/slide is going to fit. We will have to wait till spring to begin work.

C. Memorial Field update – no update. There will be nothing discussed for a year. They will not impinge upon the field. They were hoping to do the work in September of this year and finish in the spring of 2020. Sean noted until they sell the units, they aren't going to build the second building. They are offering to buy a temporary roof for the dugout. We will need to have to have a discussion with Babe Ruth and the Millers to see what they are okay with. An architectural study will need to be done for the building inspector for the roof for the dugouts. Nothing will be done with the bleachers or backstop. We want to get some type of temporary shade to be put up.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon that Sean indicate to the developers of Memorial Field Group that the Parks Commissioners want the dugout put together for this season.

SECOND: Tom Norton

VOTE: 5-0

D. Dewey Park – Money was put in the capital account for a consultant and we are looking forward to getting proposals for that. The input will be most important from the community. This discussion will be at the April meeting. It was suggested to possibly put a swing set in and fence in the area and leave an open area.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. 5 Year Capital Plan/Discussion of operating budget – discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Applicants for Parks Commissioners

A. Ken Roht – He will be at the next meeting in February. Karen will give Paul the information for the next meeting as she will not be present.

B. Liz Hirsh – She explained why she would like to join the Parks Commissioners.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to recommend to the Town Manager to appoint Liz Hirsh.

SECOND: Charlie Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

A recommendation letter will be sent to the Town Manager.

6. **CITIZEN SPEAK:**

None

7. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Tom Norton said he attended a meeting of the Berkshire Bike Path Council. He noted they discussed their new strategic plan. The original plan was to create a bike trail from Vermont to Connecticut. In this plan, they have expanded the vision to try to include other areas, not just highways going south but to encourage the network to include off road and on road spurs. The Ashuwillticook trail is expanding into North Adams. They are working on getting the trail from the mall down into Pittsfield. Karen said she would bring the map in for the March meeting to show what the preliminary plans are. When the original plan was

being done, it showed the trails being paved which was one of the requirements of getting federal grant money. The group is trying to make it so the trails that are off road can be dirt, like mountain bike trails. They would like to have a contact in each town. Karen Smith and Chris Rembold are the contacts for Great Barrington. The Lenox Town Planner is involved. Tom said he suggested that they bring back Berkshire Natural Resources because they do land acquisition. This is a consortium of bike path people trying to figure out a main route and these spurs.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is February 11, 2019 – Mason Library – 5:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary