

PARKS AND RECREATION
TOWN HALL, SMALL MEETING ROOM
334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
February 10, 2020
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR – not present
PAUL GIBBONS, VICE CHAIR
STEPHEN BANNON
THOMAS NORTON
ILANA SIEGAL
WILLIAM MEIER – not present
CHARLES BOUTEILLER
PATRICIA SALVI
LIZ HIRSCH

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of January 23, 2020

MOTION: Charlie Bouteiller to approve

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

3. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. None

4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- A. Memorial Field Update – Sean noted that Power house will be looking at the numbers and if it works they will move forward with maybe doing the back stop and dugouts prior to doing building 2. In the meantime we have proposed \$100,000 in upgrades as part of the capital budget, to the Selectboard and Finance Committee simultaneously as we continue discussions with the developer. They will let us know if they are going to move forward with the project and give us the money to do the work. If not, we will not allow the access road. Sean said we will probably not be able to get things done till the end of the baseball season. It was suggested to use the \$60,000 for the infield.
- B. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – The Tighe and Bond Needs Assessment and Mapping is moving forward and we will have a good idea of what equipment we have in all the parks and get an idea of what needs to be replaced. Grove Street Park has equipment that we need to replace this year. Sean said he doesn't have anything for Dewey as he doesn't have a plan.
- C. Dewey Park/Grove Street Park Review – Liz Hirsch – For Grove Street, we did a walk around a few months ago and some of the equipment is out of date and pretty dangerous. The neighbors would not want the town to remove the equipment and not put anything back. Dewey doesn't have anything in it. We had agreed to price out a fence and that is still the top priority for everyone. The neighborhood people would like to see benches, a water source and a new play structure near the field area. A design could be done this year and we can apply for CPA money for next year. The current swing set would be taken out after a new structure is installed.
- D. Open Space and Recreation Task Force – Liz Hirsch – Liz noted essentially the open space task force put together a survey to look at the big picture of preserved land, parks, and green space.

The survey noted strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The next meeting will be scheduled in March.

- E. The goal, if we do an updated report, then we can apply for different funding. A second survey may be distributed.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Housatonic Community Center and Gazebo – under parks jurisdiction – Sean said there was supposed to be a meeting with the Town Manager. The community center being under the parks jurisdiction isn't an issue. Currently Amy is responsible for the community center. The responsibility will be transferred to Sean and Carolyn. We will need to talk to the basketball people and Railroad Street Youth.
- B. Tighe and Bond Park Inventory, Needs Assessment and Mapping – discussed previously.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Berkshire South – Paul noted they couldn't attend this meeting. They will be at the March meeting.
- B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Ananda noted they will begin hiring in March and start staffing at the park in May. There is no plan for the skate bowl. When we look at the rest of the park we may be able to address it. Water comes into the bowl and doesn't drain out because the drain is too high. The bowl was designed incorrect from the beginning.

7. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

None

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Tom noted that planning is essential for the parks.

9. **NEXT MEETING:**

- A. The next meeting will be Monday, March 9, 2020 – Town Hall – 5:00 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Pat Salvi to adjourn

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary