

MEETING MINUTES
PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020
5:00 PM.

PRESENT: KAREN SMITH, CHAIR
 PAUL GIBBONS
 STEPHEN BANNON
 THOMAS NORTON
 SRIDEVI REDDY
 ILANA SIEGAL
 CHARLES BOUTEILLER (NOT PRESENT)
 WILLIAM MEIER (NOT PRESENT)

****ALL VOTES ARE ROLL CALL****

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Karen called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of November 9, 2020

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Karen Smith | Yes |
| Paul Gibbons | Yes |
| Stephen Bannon | Yes |
| Thomas Norton | Yes |
| Sridevi Reddy | Yes |
| Ilana Siegal | Yes |

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

3. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Update from Ruby Aver regarding Tai Chi at the Housatonic Community Center – Ruby noted that there has been up to 8 people at one time. People are distanced at 20' apart and masked. The committee will discuss creating a use plan for the Community Center in February or March.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project to flood the skate bowl to use as an ice skating rink. (Discussion/Vote) There was a lengthy discussion with Railroad Street Youth Project about creating a skating rink at the skate park. Many members of RYSP were present to explain their ideas. Nadia Makuc and Laurel Ralph are two youth coalition co-chairs who are part of the project idea. Sam Riva is Railroad Street mentoring and skate park coordinator. Eric Bruun, Regina and Gertrude and Bob Redpath were also present. The plan is to flood the skate rink and to have programming around that. The water department will assist as needed. The size of the rink is 146 x70. The tarp would be at least 150 x 80. The weight of the tarp would be 640 lbs. The hose will be stored in the shed. There will be 3 staff people. 1 person to count attendance. Karen explained the maintenance of the ice through her experience. Ananda said they would like to return in January to continue the discussion

MOTION: Paul Gibbons made a motion to approve the efforts of Railroad Street Youth Project to create a skating rink.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Karen Smith | Yes |
| Paul Gibbons | Yes |
| Stephen Bannon | Yes |
| Thomas Norton | Yes |
| Sridevi Reddy | Yes |
| Ilana Siegal | Yes |

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

- A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent - discussed under new business.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Great Barrington Land Conservancy Lake Mansfield Alliance for permission to install and dedicate two memorial benches in the spring of 2021. (Discussion/Vote) – tabled until January
- B. 1 vacancy for Parks Commissioner – still one vacancy
- C. Memorandum of Understanding – Housatonic Community Center – February or March come up with a memo of understanding.
- D. Storage shed at Olympian Meadows – Karen to report on liability insurance for shed – if Wilkinson will give the Town the storage shed it would be covered under the Town's liability insurance.
- E. Intro of Tighe & Bond park assessment – not discussed. The 30 page assessment dated December 1, 2020 was sent to all commissioners for review. There will be a full review and discussion in January. Karen asked that it be posted on the Town's website. Comments can be sent to Karen Smith or Sean VanDeusen.
- F. Chris Rembold – donation of equipment at Lake Mansfield – Chris Rembold gave a presentation of the 3 pieces of equipment that the Judd and Susan Shoval Foundation would like to donate to the Lake Mansfield beach area. The donation consists of a swing, a tunnel and a climber. The donation amount is approximately \$40,000 which includes installation. Karen said that one of the strap swings could be replaced with a handicapped swing. The plan includes wood chips. They are willing to consider a modest contribution towards maintenance. The equipment is for the age 5-12 age range. We need to get an egress that is wheel chair accessible to the playground equipment. (A copy of the schematics of the equipment is attached to these minutes). It was noted that the donors hired a surveyor at their own expense.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to accept the donation of the equipment for Lake Mansfield beach area.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Karen Smith | Yes |
| Paul Gibbons | Yes |
| Stephen Bannon | Yes |
| Thomas Norton | Yes |
| Sridevi Reddy | Yes |
| Ilana Siegal | Yes |

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

This will go before the Select Board to formally accept the donation.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Status of bench for Dewey Park – Bench styles and location- Sean said he would like consistency in the bench styles and types because parts are easier to replace. Karen said there was a donation for one bench and the Parks will donate a second one.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon made a motion to obtain 2 benches for Dewey Park; one donated and one purchased by Parks and Recreation. In March or April we will decide where they are going to be located.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Karen Smith | Yes |
| Paul Gibbons | Yes |
| Stephen Bannon | Yes |
| Thomas Norton | Yes |
| Sridevi Reddy | Yes |
| Ilana Siegal | Yes |

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

- B. Berkshire South – returning in March 2021

C. Railroad Street Youth Project- End of year report – Ananda reported on the 2020 Skate Park Management. She noted approximately 20 people daily. The age group is from 14-25 years. Hand Sanitizer was available. (The report is attached to the minutes).

D. Ball field update all 4 – Paul and Sean – Ball field updates – Memorial Field has been completely weeded in anticipation of using the field. Sean noted Tom Ingersoll over seeded the Olympian Meadows now. It will be fertilized over seeded and limed in the spring. In March there should be a meeting with the people who use the fields to understand how the fields are used. Sean said he would get the bid documents ready to complete the work that needs to be done on the fields that are left and they we can reviewed in a month or two when they are done. We will need those for budgetary planning. The gate at Olympian Meadows will stay locked for now.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Chair will recognize individuals at this time who wish to speak

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

The cleanup of the sheds at Olympian Meadows has been completed.
Stephen said that he would like to talk about the two fiscal year capital money. We need to spend it.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Next Meeting is Monday, January 11, 2021

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

MOTION: Stephen Bannon made a motion to adjourn.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| <u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u> | Karen Smith | Yes |
| | Paul Gibbons | Yes |
| | Stephen Bannon | Yes |
| | Thomas Norton | Yes |
| | Sridevi Reddy | Yes |
| | Ilana Siegal | Yes |

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Carolyn Wichmann

Recording Secretary