

PRESENT: KAREN SMITH, CHAIR
PAUL GIBBONS
WILLIAM MEIER
ILANA SIEGAL (5:10 P.M.)
TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND
SRIDEVI REDDY
CHARLIE BOUTEILLER
STEPHEN BANNON
THOMAS NORTON – NOT PRESENT

- MOTION PASSED** 6-0-1

- ROLL CALL VOTE:**
- | | |
|---------|-----|
| Terry | yes |
| Bill | yes |
| Charlie | yes |
| Stephen | yes |
| Sridevi | yes |
| Karen | yes |
| Paul | yes |

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It was noted that nobody is allowed on the fields until Sean has approved the use because of the seeding of the field.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bill yes
Sridevi yes
Stephen yes
Charlie yes
Karen yes
Paul yes
Terry yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

- C. **Continuation of Ruby Aver to continue to teach Tai Chi at the Housatonic Community Center** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Karen said there needs to be an explanation about the use of the Housatonic Community Center. Sean said everyone needs to be aware there is going to be a sizable construction project with new LED lighting and new insulation in the roof sometime in the spring.

MOTION: Paul to approve.

SECOND: Bill

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bill yes
Paul yes
Stephen yes
Sridevi yes
Charlie yes
Karen yes
Terry yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

- D. **Pick Enroll, Inc. Patrick Hanavan to use the Housatonic Community Center** beginning March 15, 2021 to October 31, 2021, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for basketball. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Karen advised, per the Board of Health, the indoor regulations in regard to basketball are very strict and stringent. If Mr. Hanavan wants to continue to do basketball, they must do it outside. All the outdoor hoops and nets are up. **Tabled**

- E. **Mark Viola/Great Barrington Youth Softball** to use two softball fields at Olympian Meadows from 4/1/21 to 9/1/21, weeknights from 4:00 p.m. to dusk and weekends for practice and makeup games **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Karen noted that the start date of 4/1/21 may not happen as it depends on the condition of the fields. Nobody should be allowed to use the fields until they receive approval from Sean as the fields have been reseeded. Karen said she is going to ask Mark Viola to share the COVID protocol with Mr. Ingersoll and Mr. Kries from the Little League. There will be some design set up that Little League should be involved in. Sean said none of the work will be done until fall.

MOTION: Paul to approve.

SECOND: Terry

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bill yes
Paul yes
Stephen yes
Sridevi yes
Charlie yes
Karen yes
Terry yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

- F. **Stop Asking Women to Smile Planning Committee** Janes Lawless, to install posters on the lawn at the GB Park (Castranova Park) from April 1 to April 30. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Karen said that she

and Sean reviewed the request of putting thirteen (13) 18" x 24 "signs up in the GB Park from 4/1 to 4/30. Sean said we don't allow signs to be up for more than a week on town property. It would be difficult for the staff to mow around them. Jane said the building inspector would deal with the sign permit after the Parks and Recreation made a decision on putting the signs up. She said they don't have to put up that many signs. April 1 to April 30 is sexual abuse awareness month. This is the task force that did a community read last year but had to change plans this year because of COVID. There will be no community gatherings but we are going to read a book called "Stop Telling Women to Smile" which has interviews with 12 women. The author interviewed them and drew their portraits. The portraits were to be put up along with one sign with the name of the book and author. That spot was chosen because it gets the most traffic. Park Square in Pittsfield has been approved and possibly City Hall in North Adams. Karen said this needs to be reviewed by Town Council. She would like to make a provisional motion and wait and see what the readout is from the Town Manager. Stephen said once we find out from Town Council, we may have to hold a special meeting to vote on it. Stephen said he would speak to Mark Pruhenski about contacting Town Council. Sean said they could put the signs up along the highway and along the medians. This way it doesn't involve the parks. He said he would be happy to talk to Jane afterwards (No vote was taken)

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – budget update. – The preliminary budgets passed the Select board and the Finance Committee. The public hearing is in two weeks. Nothing has changed as far as the operating budget. He said he would have an updated capital spread sheet by next meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Update to the list of Parks on the website – We need to make sure that is done. Carolyn was asked to send the parks list to Sean, Karen and Stephen to review.
- B. Bike Trail – not discussed – **Tom Norton was not present.**
- C. Signage at Lake Mansfield - **Tabled**
- D. Police Presence at Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field - **Tabled**
- E. Handicapped access – Lake Mansfield – **Tabled**
- F. Skate park planning/maintenance/priority – There has been some information requests from Railroad Street Youth Project in regard to the skate park. People have asked things to be done.

MOTION: Karen to charge Railroad Street Youth Project to come up with a list of what they need fixed, how to make things accessible 12 months a year, and how the existing staff can be utilized to teach skateboarding. Also if there are any new obstacles and elements that they want. They need to give us a sketch to be signed off by an architect. We need the people who use the park and Railroad Street Youth to formulate a plan going forward for safety as well as programming.

SECOND: Ilana Siegal

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bill yes
 Paul yes
 Stephen yes
 Sridevi yes
 Charlie yes
 Karen yes
 Terry yes
 Ilana yes

MOTION PASSED **8-0**

Bill said he would like to see an expansion of what is happening at the skate park. He would like to get involved. Ananda asked what the process is for phase planning improvements to the parks across the board. What comes next? Sean said some of the smaller purchases can be made from the operating budget. The larger expenses will have to be incorporated into a capital plan in the second phase of the study. Ananda asked if we could do a walk through to look at the concrete on the skate bowl after the liner is pulled up and start with immediate fixes.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Tighe & Bond park assessment – will be continued until the April meeting.
- B. Berkshire South – April meeting
- C. Railroad Street Youth Project – Ananda said Damon is aware of people in the skate community who would like to make donations towards the park and he wants to know how it would work for people who want to donate. Karen said they would donate to the Parks Department revolving account with a specific nature of the donation.

- D. Ball field update all 4 – Paul and Sean – Ball field updates. – Meeting on Thursday. Karen noted that the over seeding has to be done at the Little League Field and minor league field. Sean noted this will be done as soon as the weather breaks.
- E. Partnership with Simon's Rock and the Town to provide Pickle Ball Courts. – Bill noted that Simon's Rock is still working on this and will probably be delayed for a year.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Chair will recognize individuals at this time who wish to speak

Erik asked about the bathrooms at Olympian Meadows. Sean noted that there isn't enough money to put in permanent bathrooms with the money that was allotted. Sean said he is trying to find one that is more affordable. Little League is also trying to procure a storage container. Karen said to move the one that football has. Karen said it will have to be on the other side of the shed.

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Stephen asked if we can include on the next agenda what capital money is left for this fiscal year and how we plan on spending it. Bill Meier and Karen said that Railroad Street Youth did an incredible job of creating the skating rink. Karen said next year we should build forms and put it on the outfield so you can use the skate park as a skate park and skating can be done on the outfield. Ilana asked who would be available to consult with the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force to oversee the placement and location of the playground equipment at Lake Mansfield. Karen said she and Ilana would do that.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

April 12, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to adjourn

SECOND: Bill Meier

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bill	yes
Paul	yes
Stephen	yes
Sridevi	yes
Charlie	yes
Karen	yes
Terry	yes
Ilana	yes

MOTION PASSED 8-0

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann

Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary