

MEETING MINUTES
PARKS COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021
5:15 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR

PAUL GIBBONS

THOMAS NORTON (left at 6:00 p.m.)

STEPHEN BANNON

TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND

WILLIAM MEIER

ILANA SIEGAL

NOT PRESENT:

SRIDEVI REDDY

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

All Votes Are Roll Call

1) CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

2. RE-ORGANIZATION

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to nominate Karen Smith as chair.

SECOND: Tom Norton

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Tom Norton	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to nominate Paul Gibbons as Vice Chair

SECOND: Tom Norton

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Tom Norton	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2021

A. MOTION: Terry Chamberland to approve

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Tom Norton	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

4. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS

A. Southern Berkshire Youth Football (Chargers) to use Olympian Meadows from 8/1/21 to 11/1/21 for practice for league players/cheerleaders Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

(Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Jeannette Vallone was present to answer questions. Jeannette explained that the insurance company will not give a quote on liability insurance because it is based on the number of participants and currently registration is still open.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve the request upon the receipt of the liability insurance policy.

SECOND: Tom Norton

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Tom Norton	Yes
Stephen Bannon	Yes
Terry Chamberland	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Bill Meier	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

Karen said that football was going to put their storage container on the other side of the baseball container. Jeannette said they had Wilkinson's there to move the container from the current position to next to the snack hut but the cement barriers were in the way from the driveway to the back part of the field so Wilkinson's couldn't get his equipment in to the proper spot. It will be moved as soon as the ground dries out. It will be moved to the opposite side of the baseball shed opposite the driveway. Karen said to speak to Sean prior to moving the container. Jeannette noted that the practices schedule can change depending on the weather.

B. Lev Natan, Alliance for Viable Future to use the Town Hall Park, and Memorial Field for observing Indigenous People's Day on Monday, October 11, 2021 from 11:15 to 11:45 (Town Hall Park) and 12:00 to 1:00 at Memorial Field. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Lev Natan was present to answer questions. He was advised to contact the River Walk people in regard to the path as it is private property.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve the request.

SECOND: Tom Norton

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Tom Norton	Yes
Stephen Bannon	Yes
Terry Chamberland	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Bill Meier	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

C. Pediatric Development Center, South to use Olympian Meadows/Little League Field for a playgroup for toddlers on Tuesday mornings. The dates are: 7/20 (cancelled) 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17 and 8/24 from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote). No one was present from the Pediatric Development Center. Sean said the mowing shouldn't be an issue.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve the request.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Tom Norton	Yes
Stephen Bannon	Yes
Terry Chamberland	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Bill Meier	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

5. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent – Budget update and Capital

Foresight Engineering finished the survey for the base plan and wetland delineation for the work that will be taking place at Olympian Meadows and Memorial Field. A bid document should be completed in the next few weeks. As

soon as the updated schedule is received it will be forwarded to the Parks Commissioners. Sean said we should go for CPA funding and should be discussed next meeting.

All American Fence gave a schedule for the instillation of the fence at Dewey. They should get there before Labor Day. The precast concrete footings for the benches is complete so as soon as it dries out, the benches will be installed.

We are still waiting for the sign from Larkin for the lake. He did provide a temporary sign at Lake Mansfield until the new wooden sign arrives. Sean said he is waiting to hear from the people who are supposed to fix the bottom barriers at the lake.

The person who was going to put the roof on the dugouts at Memorial Field sent a proposal, Sean told him to proceed but he hasn't responded back. Another temporary pop-up tent was put down there for the Babe Ruth and the Miller's to use.

Sean has been looking for a shed for the Railroad Street Youth Project. Nobody has an inventory currently. Our options will be to have one made or to try to locate another vendor. The Shed Man said he would get inventory back in the fall. In the meantime, Steve Larkin is fixing anything he can to the existing shed. It was agreed to wait until the fall.

Sean noted he is waiting for an update from Tighe and Bond on the schedule of work on Part 2 of the assessment. Everything is moving slowly with contractors and vendors.

Sean noted he would update the board on the budget next month.

When it dries out, gravel will be put in the road at Olympian Meadows.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bill Meier said there were drownings on the eastern side of the state in June and in response to that, the Governor created fines that if you swam outside of designated swim lanes, and if you were in areas not designated for swimming, you could get arrested. We have the swim buoys for Lake Mansfield and the proposal was, why not use the buoys that we have for swimming outside of the lanes and try to have a clinic for local people to discuss safety and techniques when you swim outside the swim lanes. We did this with the help of Berkshire South and the Kilpatrick Athletic Center and the Parks Commission. We did this on Saturday. We had great publicity from WSBS, from the Edge, and Berkshire Eagle. There were 25 people who signed into the sheet. We did a swim together out to the rocks on the other side of the lake and back and we had about 30 people in the water with buoys on and safety craft in the water. The Christian Science Monitor heard about this and sent out a photographer and writer out. It was publicized in Boston.

Karen announced that Charlie Boutellier is not being reappointed to Parks. So there is an opening on the Parks Commissioners. She received a letter from him noting he did not wish to be reappointed.

A. **Appointment of Member from Parks to the Lake Mansfield Task Force.** William Meier volunteered. Chris Rembold will be notified of the appointment.

B. **Donation of equipment for Lake Mansfield.** The layout for the new equipment is attached. 1 handicapped swing, 1 toddler swing plus additional equipment. The donors will contribute up to \$5,000 for maintenance. They are also paying to have it installed.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to accept the donated equipment and maintenance contribution of up to \$5,000.

SECOND: Tom Norton

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Tom Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Tighe and Bond Park Assessment – continuation** – waiting for update.

B. Berkshire South – Andrew noted that since it has been raining a lot the numbers have been low. They are averaging about 12 people in the water and about 23 in the park. We have been staffing Housatonic Park since July 6 and they are also seeing low numbers. The average is around 3 children.

If there is nobody at the beach, the lifeguards are sent home. If the weather becomes bad later in the day, they get paid for the day. For Housatonic Park, we have done a Facebook post that had around 1200 views. We have been incident free. One person had a cut foot at Lake Mansfield that was treated. There have been small issues with people parking on the side of the road. Andrew reached out to Chief Storti and there are signs there now. Andrew asked if he could get a few more keys for the Housatonic Community Center. Sean said the lock will be replaced. Andrew asked if anyone knows of someone who would like to be a lifeguard, and to put out the word. Berkshire South is running a WSI course from August 11 to the 13th which certifies you to teach swim lessons.

C. Railroad Street Youth – Regina was advised to have the staff deal with the parking or call the police. Sam said that there have been only 8 people per day. We are in the process of hiring someone new for the skate park. Regina said that one reason the parking area is full is because of the River Walk.

Karen said for Railroad Street to reach out to the river walk people in regard to the parking situation.

D. Ball field update all 4 Ball Fields/Shared responsibility and Tournament Requirements – Tabled.

E. Bike Trail Mountain Bike trail – Ilana noted that the person who initiated this has a full time job so this has become a part time project. She is still working on the parts of the land that is not owned by the Town.

F. Police Presence at Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field – Meetings with the Police Department are going well. Railroad Street noted that they have had 3 meetings with the police. The police will come by at random times for parking enforcement. Chief Storti suggested printing out fliers advising people to move their cars.

G. Handicapped access – Lake Mansfield – Sean said in order to make that compliant, the area needs to be graded where it will be installed and it can't be done until it dries out.

H. Skate Park planning/maintenance priority – we met on Friday and talked about the shed, shade and water fountain and the fact that there has been a lot of trash in the park. Regina noted she would like some new keys to the shed. Sean said they are thinking of putting 3 posts for shade sails behind the shed. Sean said he would have to look at the area to make a determination on what to use. The water fountain has a bunch of bees in it. They are thinking of moving the trash can. Sean noted that some extra garbage cans will be put at Memorial Field. We are working on a garbage can holder. Regina brought up the ice rink – a meeting will be set up prior to the next parks meeting.

I. Removal of Bleachers – Paul Gibbons – Sean said as soon as he gets a moment they will be removed.

8. CITIZEN'S SPEAK
None

9. COMMISSIONER'S SPEAK

Ilana said some area behind Lake Mansfield, off Knob Hill, has been closed. Ilana said it may be a private road. Sean said they can do what they want with it if it is private. Sean said we do winter maintenance on part of it so the board might have something to say if it is brought to their attention. Sean said he would talk to Stephen Bannon about it.

Bill said the community will now be allowed to walk the roads at Simon's Rock.

10. NEXT MEETING
Monday, August 16, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to adjourn.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	William Meier	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Wichmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" and last name "Wichmann" clearly distinguishable.

Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary