

MEETING MINUTES
PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
5:15 PM.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR

PAUL GIBBONS

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND

WILLIAM MEIER

ILANA SIEGAL

SRIDEVI REDDY

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 P.M.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of July 19, 2021 (**Roll Call Vote**)

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	Terrance Chamberland	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Berkshire Pulse to use the Alice A. Burbriski Memorial Playground (Basketball Court and Housatonic Community Center on Saturday, September 25, 2021 for a special workshop (Chicago Footwork) from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) **No representative from**

Berkshire Pulse was present.

B. Berkshire Baseball Club, Eric Kreis to use Memorial Field from Sept. 20 through October 31 for baseball practices and 3 double header games. (Discussion/Roll call Vote) Eric was present to explain the request. He noted they are a travel baseball team with most of the players in South County. He said he will work around the schedule of the dates that the field is being used by other groups.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve the request.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	Terrance Chamberland	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Abstained
	Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION PASSED **7-0-1**

- C. Berkshire Grown to use the Housatonic Community Center on 11/20, 12/18, 1/15, 2/19, 3/19 and 4/16 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the Winter Farmers Market (Discussion/Roll call vote)

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve with all COVID protocols at that time in place.

SECOND: Tom Norton

NO VOTE TAKEN

Margaret Moulton was present along with Jordon Archey. It was noted that this year there will be about 20-25 vendors. The school property isn't available. She said in the past they worked with the schools and never had a problem with the gym floors. They estimate to have about 600 shoppers. Mats were put by the door, along with mops and brooms to protect the floor. It was noted that so far, there have been no requests from the basketball group. At the high school, there was a floor covering put down for the craft fair per Paul Gibbons.

After discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to table the request until the October meeting and have them return with a plan for protection of the floor.

SECOND: Mr. Bannon

VOTE: Stephen Bannon Yes

Tom Norton Yes

Terrance Chamberland Yes

William Meier No

Paul Gibbons Yes

Sridevi Reddy Yes

Karen Smith Yes

MOTION PASSED: 6-1-0

Sean agreed to meet with Berkshire Grown in regard to solutions to protect the floor.

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent

- Dewey School Update - the fence went in at the Dewey School Park. The new benches can now be installed.
- Memorial Field Update - A permit has been pulled to do the roof on the dugout.

Budget update and capital - A capital budget was presented to the commissioners.

Projected Expenditures Parks Capital:

Company Project Cost

All American Fence Dewey Park \$8,000

Roof on dugout \$2k

Total \$8,000

Parks Capital Report/Budget

Special Article FY17 Parks Improvements, \$18,000

Special Article FY 17 Bathroom Olympia \$30,000

32405-58900 FY20 Parks Improvements \$42,000

32475-58500 FY21 Park Equipment (various) \$60,000

32535 - 58900 FY 22 Capital \$40,000

-10k

Total Unexpended: \$180,000

Stephen said he would like to discuss how to spend the money at the next meeting.

- Tighe and Bond Park assessment - continuation - Tighe and Bond is doing work on the asset management to get the parks equipment itemized, dollar value and long term replacement as well as the initial design of Grove Street Park and Dewey Park. Tighe and Bond will be coming to the next meeting to go over the time frame. We will get public input over the winter to find out the wants and needs of those parks.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Charging for use of town spaces/rental policy when money is being charged – Terry Chamberland said he would survey other towns to check if a fee is charged for town spaces.

B. Grading behind Town Hall – Sean said this will not be discussed until the work is done at Town Hall. The engineer will be here in a week or two to take a look at it. Sean said he needs to meet with Foresight and the contractor who is doing the paving on Rosetter Street and Fairview Terrace. There will be more updates at the next meeting.

C. Policy for off meeting Parks Usage Requests – Karen said there were 5 or 6 requests to use some of the parks between the end of July and August. We had an 8 week stretch that we didn't meet. The Rotary wanted to put up a thank you sign to the first responders. Karen discussed this with the Town Manager. A meeting was not called. The Mahaiwe wanted to move the showing of Mulan in Spanish from the Mahaiwe to Giggle Park because of COVID and that was approved. Dan Bailey has come to us and he wants to have an architectural charrette at the Housy Dome so they can have different architects come together to discuss design ideas. Karen sent him back an e-mail asking him questions about why he wants to do it there because there is no internet. Stephen said they are working on getting internet there. Karen said as a policy change, if something comes up would it be ok if the chair and the Town Manager approve it without a meeting. Karen said she would notify the Commissioners as to what the agreement is.

MOTION: Allow the chair in conjunction with the Town Manager to approve routine requests without waiting for a regular meeting.

SECOND: Tom Norton

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Berkshire South - not present.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Regina said hiring has been difficult this year. They have been monitoring parking. They were advised to contact the police department if people are parking illegally. The park has been popular with lots of attendance. The tee shirts to identify staff finally came in. Fliers were made to deal with the parking situation. To try to solve the staffing situation, they are going to outreach in the winter or spring. Sean said a new shed has been ordered and should be here in late winter.

C. Ball field update all 4 – Paul and Sean – Ball field updates. The draft design for the upgrades to the two softball fields and Memorial Field are done. Sean asked the commissioners to review the plans prior to the next meeting in order to make any changes. The rough costs will also be available at the next meeting. This will allow us to take the plans to the CPA for the Memorial Field upgrades. He noted that it will have to be decided on what the softball field will be made of. The junior softball field currently is grass and overgrown. It can be either all clay, all grass or a combination of both. It was noted to send the plans to Mark Viola. Stephen asked about the bathrooms at the Little League Field. Foresight is working on the design of the bathrooms at the Little League Field and the Town Hall Park. It will be going out to bid this winter. We expect a spring instillation.

Shared responsibility of groups who use the ball fields – A draft Policy for Maintenance of Olympian Meadows and Memorial Field was sent to Eric Kreis and Steve Fenig. Eric said some changes were made but he hasn't received it back yet. He said they are hoping to get the weeds taken care of in a week or two. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. Karen noted that a mower needs to be included for Olympian Meadows in the capital and the mower at Memorial Field needs to be repaired. Eric said there is a hole in the roof of the shed. Sean said a contractor who is doing the dugout may be able to fix the roof.

Tournament Requirements/Little League Review – Reviewed at the October meeting.

D. Bike Trail/Mountain Bike trail – no updates

E. Police Presence at Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field – Regina said the police are making the rounds at Memorial Field.

F. Handicapped access – Lake Mansfield – The Lake Mansfield task force is working on a long term ADA Access for the park. We had discussed putting in an ADA spot. This is planned for this fall to get it graded.

G. Skate park planning/maintenance/priority – This will be addressed over the winter. Stephen said there have been problems with the skate bowl for years and maybe Sean could get an estimate to take care of that. Sean noted that we may have to cut out the existing concrete to lower it.

H. Removal of bleachers – Paul Gibbons - Sean said he went down there to see if it has been removed. He instructed staff to remove them.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Chair will recognize individuals at this time who wish to speak

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Paul asked what the status is of the storage container at the Little League Field with the football equipment in it. Sean said it hasn't been moved yet. It has been delayed because of rain. He noted he would check on it.

Tom noted we wanted the picnic area at the Housatonic village common area accessible. We didn't use pavers but used a hard gravel airport mix. There is a lot of grass there now. Tom and Sean will meet up there to assess the situation.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Terry Chamberland to adjourn

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION CARRIED **6-0**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann

Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Clerk