

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

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

2. The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of October 18, 2021 (**Roll Call Vote**)

MOTION: Terry Chamberland to approve as written.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to use Memorial Field on Saturday, December 11, 2021 for Fire Works in conjunction with the Holiday Stroll. Prep time will be 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the fireworks show from 7:20 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.
(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve. The field needs to be cleaned of all debris.

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

B. Berkshire Men's Basketball (Tom Jordan, Steve Piazza and William Fields) to use the Housatonic Community Center beginning November 22, 2021 through April 2022, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. (Discussion/Roll Call vote)

MOTION: Stephen made a motion to approve with the condition that the basketball court is broom swept, mopped and that outside footwear stays in the vestibule. Karen said she would check on the need for liability insurance.

SECOND: Thomas Norton

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent

- Dewey School Update – Sean said he, John Malumphy, Nick Diller and Karen met at the property in regard to the placement of the benches. Karen noted that there should be a third bench in the playground area for parents to watch their children.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon made a motion to purchase a third bench for up to \$1,500.

SECOND: Thomas Norton

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

- Memorial Field Update Sean said the numbers were high and but now have been pared down. He noted he is going forward with the CDC to get partial funding. Some funds will also come from capital.
- Budget update and capital FY22 capital will be on the November budget. No updates currently.
- Tighe and Bond Park Assessment – continuation Sean said all parks should be included in the assessment. Tighe and Bond would like to know what the commissioners would like to see.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Park Rules/Signs – A draft wording was submitted by Andrew from Berkshire South. An amendment will be submitted to Sean and Karen with the addition of no vaping, no drugs and the park closes at sundown and it will be forwarded to the Commissioners. Karen asked Regina to review the wording for the skate park. Andrew said he would send a correction on the dates in the report for Lake Mansfield.
- B. Grading behind Town Hall Grading will be included in Tighe and Bond's parks assessment. Sean said Tighe and Bond mentioned they could include programming as well. Andrew and Regina were asked to put together programs they would like and send it to Karen. She would get it to Tighe and Bond as part of the assessment of what we want done in the parks.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Berkshire South – The summer Parks program report is attached to these minutes. Andrew said parking is an issue at the lake. Karen said she would contact the police chief in regard to the parking at Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field. Stephen said there is going to be a meeting of the Lake Mansfield Task Force on Monday December 6, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. It will be a zoom meeting. Sean said Chris Rembold will attend the next meeting of parks to discuss Lake Mansfield
- B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Regina submitted a 2021 Skate Park Management Report. (Attached). She said parking is a challenge. Karen, Paul and Stephen will meet with Paul Storti over the winter.
- C. Ball field updates – upgrades to Softball fields and Memorial Field
Shared responsibility of groups who use the ball fields- Status of weeding by leagues – Sean noted that there are a lot of weeds there still. Karen said she went down last Saturday because she was told someone would be there from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. weeding and there was just one woman there with her child and they made an effort. Work hasn't been done by little league this year and

is very frustrating. They expect us to do all the weeding. The Girls' softball field wasn't done either. The Town does the major maintenance on the fields but the minor maintenance such as weeding, and raking is the responsibility of the organization.

Tournament Requirements/Little League Review

D. Police Presence at Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field

E. Handicapped access – Lake Mansfield – Sean said we could probably remove this from the list.

We put in a temporary ADA parking stall but the long term plan for the park is a more permanent ADA access built into it so it would be good to attend the meeting of the Lake Mansfield Task Force. Chris Rembold will attend the next Parks meeting to talk about the parking plan as well. Paul said the ropes and the buoys are still sitting by the lake side. Sean noted he will see if he can get them out. Andrew said the staff put them out this year and the previous years it was volunteers. Sean said that Berkshire South should remove them after Labor Day weekend.

F. Skate park planning/maintenance/priority

G. Tighe and Bond – dollar value/long term replacement and initial design of Grove Street Park and Dewey Park.

H. Charging for use of town spaces/rental policy when money is being charged – There is nothing in the budget for cleaning or maintenance of the Housatonic Community Center. Karen said we can come up with a number but it has to go before the Select Board. We need to do some strategic observations if they are profit making or not for profit. Sean said he would research other towns surrounding Great Barrington to obtain input on what they do. Paul said the Berkshire Grown paid \$1,700 to the school district plus custodial costs when the market was held at the school.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Chair will recognize individuals at this time who wish to speak

Jim Bailly said he would like parks to be considerate to fees charged to the sports people. He said the farmer's market is selling alcohol and doing samples. He said it was approved at the last Select Board's meeting.

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Karen said the Farmer's market is starting and the schedule is as follows: Stephen covering November 20, Terry December 18th, Karen January 15, Bill February 19, Ilana March 19, Sridevi April 16th.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, December 20, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to adjourn

SECOND: Tom Norton

ROLL CALL VOTE: Tom Norton
Karen Smith
Terry Chamberland
Paul Gibbons
Sridevi Reddy

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann

Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary

