

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

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH

PAUL GIBBONS

THOMAS NORTON

STEPHEN BANNON

ILANA SIEGAL (ARRIVED AT 5:40 P.M.)

SRIDEVI REDDY

TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND

WILLIAM MEIER

ALSO PRESENT:

CHRIS REMBOLD

SEAN VANDEUSEN

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Karen called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of November 15, 2021 (**Roll Call Vote**)

MOTION: Terry Chamberland to approve as written.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

NONE

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent

- Dewey School Update
- Memorial Field Update
- Budget update and capital
- Tighe and Bond Park assessment – continuation - February

Sean noted that the estimates for the softball fields and Memorial Field were submitted to the Parks Commissioners. He noted the estimates for the backstop and fence are really high at \$50,000 for Olympian Meadows. That number is a place holder because we don't know what it will cost to purchase and install a backstop. After the cost of the bathroom from the existing capital, there will be a balance of about \$100,000. Sean said he is looking for direction on the estimates. Sean said the cost for the two softball fields - #2 is the smaller field – the total cost with the contingency is \$144,000. The second field #1, is \$152,000. The placeholders are the backstops. The main softball field would be \$102,000 with no fencing and the junior field approximately \$94,000.

MOTION: Stephen said he would be willing to make a motion not to accept either of the quotes and have a further meeting about what we are going to do with the fields.

Terry Chamberland noted that dugouts, benches and a fence in front of the dugouts are important.

No formal vote was taken. Sean said he would get the numbers from Berkshire Fence and have information for the next meeting.

Sean said he will go forward with asking for the usual \$45,000 for Capital for FY23 and \$250,000 from CPA.

Karen said the Shovel equipment to be installed at Lake Mansfield has been ordered and will go in next spring.

There is also money put aside for maintenance. Sean said that Chris Rembold has submitted the CPA application for Memorial Field. We are asking for another \$250,000 from Town Meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Park Rules/Signs – No signs will be ordered until we have an agreed upon language.

B. Grading behind Town Hall – That is a placeholder and we are meeting with the engineers to see what that will take.

C. AED for Parks – Karen said one of the conditions is that all the coaches be certified in CPR. We need to have an AED at the fields but the question is where it is going to be stored for easy access. There was a question if there is an AED at Lake Mansfield. Stephen will find out if an AED was supplied by Fairview Hospital.

D. The Lake Mansfield Task Force update – Chris Rembold – Earlier the Lake Mansfield Task Force presented the 50% design plans for the recreation area. The design plans are to implement the Select Boards decision to close the road and to transform it into a recreation path. A number of improvements will be done regarding the lake's water quality. The bank area will be restored, the edge of the lake area will be improved which will improve the amount of storm water filtration we have there. The existing parking lot will be transformed at the beach to deal with the storm water that goes from the parking lot into the lake. The parking lot will be made handicapped accessible. The beach area will be improved to incorporate the playground equipment that is being donated. Chris shared his screen and reviewed the plans with the committee. The new parking lot would go to the north. Storm water would go to the north to a series of catch basins and rain gardens rather than to the south into the lake. This provides a turnaround and all traffic would come in through Christian Hill. All fire engines and emergency vehicles would be able to turn around. Going south is no longer a road but a recreation path. It is also the accessible path down into the beach area. The parking lot will be a little bigger than it is now. The changing rooms are going to be closer to the beach area. The task force will be working on refining the plans over the next few months. Work will be done sometime in 2023. The roadway from the north will be accessible for East View pool and the house that is located there.

E. Renaming of the Gazebo for David Grover – recommendation to Select Board and Committee for Celebration – Karen said she would like to ask the Town Manager to appoint a committee to name the Gazebo and surrounding area for David Grover. She would like the parks commission to recommend that. We could call it Grover's Corner.

MOTION: Tom to send a recommendation from Parks and Recreation that a committee be formed to rename the Gazebo after David Grover. Abby Schroder, Kathy Wartella Grover and Karen Smith and 4 others to be named will be on the committee.

SECOND: Ilana Siegal

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Stephen Bannon	Yes
Terry Chamberland	Yes
Tom Norton	Yes
William Meier	Yes
Sridevi Reddy	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes
Ilana Siegal	

MOTION PASSED

8-0

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Berkshire South – Not present
- B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Regina East said that the skating rink is now at Monument Mountain Regional High School. Railroad Street is willing to assist in creating the rink. It is a 40' X 80" rink. Another one may be needed. She said they are going to start hiring summer people early for next year.
- C. Ball field updates – upgrades to Softball fields and Memorial Field Already been dealt with. Shared responsibility of groups who use the ball fields- Status of weeding by leagues Tournament Requirements/Little League Review – It was decided to wait until spring to deal with this issue.
- D. Police Presence at Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field – Karen spoke to Chief Stoti. This will be delayed until March.
- E. Skate park planning/maintenance/priority -
- F. Tighe and Bond – dollar value/long term replacement and initial design of Grove Street Park and Dewey Park. They will be giving a presentation in February and are seeking public input.
- G. Charging for use of town spaces/rental policy when money is being charged – We need to come up with a policy and procedures on people who want to use town spaces. We need to contact Brian Cunningham and Eric Gabriel.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Chair will recognize individuals at this time who wish to speak

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Tom Norton said he received positive feedback on Berkshire Grown using the Housatonic Community Center. He said the floor covering is labor intensive – basically construction paper. Parks may consider investing in some type of floor covering. Paul said he would look into it.

Terry Chamberland said the vacuum at the center is old and a piece of junk. A new one needs to be purchased. Karen said she would address it with Sean.

Tom asked about the bike path to be south to the Housatonic cemetery. Chris said that it was delayed because of pricing.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2022 (attached) Karen changed some of the Monday meetings to Tuesday because of holidays. This will be posted on line.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION: Terry Chamberland to adjourn.

SECOND: Tom Norton

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

Carolyn Wichmann, Recording Clerk

Carolyn Wichmann