

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
MASON LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
May 13, 2019
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR
PAUL GIBBONS – VICE CHAIR
THOMAS NORTON
PATRICIA SALVI
ILANA SIEGAL
STEPHEN BANNON
CHARLES BOUTEILLER
LIZ HIRSH
WILLIAM MEIER

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of April 8, 2019

Mr. Gibbons said he thought the entire complex was approved for temporary placards and not just the Little League Field. Karen noted that we were dealing with just the Little League at the time.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve with the language change to approve temporary placards at all the fields at Olympian Meadows.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 7-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Southern Berkshire Youth Football, Inc. to use Olympian Meadows Monday through Friday beginning August 5, through August 18, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. then Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. August 19 through October 25, 2019 (Discussion/Vote).

Lauren Hyde was present to explain the request. This year they are going to try to pilot cheerleading. An up-to-date certificate of insurance will be submitted when the policy is renewed. Lauren said they just became a nonprofit and they can apply for \$50,000 to \$100,000 for grant money for field use and she would need the blessing of the town in the form of a letter saying that we have permission to do something like that. Karen said to get on the agenda for next month and bring all the necessary paperwork and then the Park and Recreation can do that for her. Lauren noted they have an EMT on site. The equipment is certified every year. Lauren will forward all the paperwork to the board secretary.

MOTION: Liz Hirsh to approve the request of the Southern Berkshire Youth Football to use Olympian Meadows pending receipt of their health and safety procedures.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 7-0

B. Community Health Programs to use Lake Mansfield for a parent/child playgroup Thursdays beginning 7/11/19 to 8/1/19 for four weeks from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

(Discussion/Vote) Kim Waterman was present to explain the request. She was advised to contact Berkshire South as they run the programs at the lake. Certified First Aid people are available.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve the request.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

C. Community Development Corporation of South Berkshires to use Memorial Field on Sunday, September 8, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. for a charity softball game for building affordable housing (Discussion/Vote) Rachael Morriarity was present to explain the request. She noted they would like to hang a banner up 2 weeks ahead of time. She noted they put up a banner last year. They will contact the Board of Health for a food permit. Parking will be at the Searles school parking lot on Bridge Street.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve the request for the use of the field for the Softball game.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

MOTION: Pat Salvi to allow CDC to hang the same sign as last year subject to the date change at Memorial Field

SECOND: Ilana Siegal

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Paul Gibbons abstained)

D. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to use the Town Hall Green on Saturday, August 10, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Annual Mahaiwe Gala. The tent set up will be August 8th and removed on August 12, 2019 (Discussion/Vote) Amy Rudnick was present to explain the request. The music will go to from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 7-0

E. Fairview Hospital to use the Town Hall Green on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the annual Fairview Hospital Gala. The tent will be put on September 19, 2019 and removed on September 23, 2019. (Discussion/Vote) Amy Rudnick was also present to explain the request. She noted they will go to the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen for license approvals. The caterer has a first aid kit.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Ilana Siegal

VOTE: 7-0

F. Construct, Inc., 41 Mahaiwe Street to use the Town Hall Green on Sunday, September 22, 2019 for End Point for Walk. The set up will be 10:00 a.m. and the event will be at 4:00 p.m. (They are going to ask Fairview Hospital if they may use their tent) Discussion/Vote. Lisa Henriques was present to explain their request. There will be food which they will contact the Board of Health for a food permit. It is the end point for the walk. They have been in contact with Fairview about using the tent when their event is done.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 7-0

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent- Karen read a report submitted by Sean. He noted that all town parks have been cleaned and the picnic tables are out. The mowing season has started. The 3 new swings for the children with disabilities have been installed. The Little League field has been rebuilt. Grass has been seeded on the infield and once the grass is established play may resume on the field. The minor league field is scheduled for work this fall. Little League is aware of it. He has been in touch with Bob DeVergilio. The trail work at Lake Mansfield has been completed by Peter Jensen. The new gravel has been spread at the Lake Mansfield Parking lot. The weekend garbage pickups will begin the weekend of the 25th. The garbage bin was set out at Memorial Field and a recycling receptacle will go in this week. Giggie Park – 3 trees behind Town Hall need to be removed for the new swing set to be installed. The tree warden has approved the removal of the trees. There will be a public hearing and a Select Board vote and the trees will be flagged this week. Once we get the new configuration done, new trees will be put back in. Charlie noted that we may need to reseed the little league field because there is barely any grass there now. Karen noted she would contact Pete Soules because Sean is out of town and ask him to put more seed on it.

B. Memorial Field Maintenance – The temporary dug out tent was dropped off and the Millers are going to put it up and take it down. The clay is a 3 month wait. Nothing will be done until the fall.

C. Dewey Park – Liz noted there was one neighborhood meeting earlier in the year. Liz said she reached out to the people who attended and they were under the impression that they had to wait until Town Meeting to know what they could ask for. A few people have expressed interest in what they would like to have but it hasn't gone beyond one neighborhood meeting. There were requests for fencing. Liz said she would have a wish list for the next meeting.

D. 5 Year Capital Plan/Discussion of Operating Budget

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Berkshire South – Jenise Lucey – Staffing continues. We have a lake front coordinator, and an assistant to be confirmed this week. We have a little more work to do with a coordinator for Housatonic. Orientation is this weekend for the lake. Steven Leonard is no longer at the Community Center. He will be replaced on June 3 by Nick Pohl. He will be taking on the oversight of all the parks. Mac is also moving on. Karen asked if Steven and Mac could do a punch list of where they are at. The lake is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Sean McTeague asked if any additional information is required. Karen said she would like the details of the police visits. Sean said he had a walk through at the baseball field and the water fountain is working. The one at the skate park isn't working. He would like to get some shade at the park. The national dermatological association has information on shade. He noted he would print up a few options for shade. He said they are

looking for a female of any age to balance the employees of Railroad Street. The block party is this weekend.

C. Great Barrington Softball – Proposal for Placards at Olympian Meadows

(Discussion/Vote) Coach Viola and Grogan were present. Pictures were presented to the commissioners as to what the field looked like at the beginning and after it was done. There is also a problem with water. It was noted that there are plans to redo the field in the fall. They noted they would like some infield mix and the fence fixed at the senior field. Karen said she would get an update from Sean. It was noted that \$10,000 has been made available this July 1. The main girl's field is in good shape but the junior field is where repairs are needed. They noted they would like fencing along both sides. There is no protection in front of the kids. Paul said he would like to have a list in writing as to what they would like to have done to the fields so funds can be allocated. Karen said to e-mail the list to her. John Grogan said he would submit a proposal. It was noted that they are thinking of charging a reasonable price for a placard so they can make some money. Karen asked them to make a proposal to the commissioners. They need to make a contribution to the town to help maintain the field. Paul said for the present time he would like to extend to Olympian Meadows as a whole the policy which would allow placards, banners or signs to the whole complex at Olympian Meadows. As far as the money portion goes, he doesn't believe this is any of our business. The whole issue needs to be more formally vetted.

MOTION: Paul for the present time he would like to extend to Olympian Meadows as a whole the policy which would allow temporary advertising placards, banners or signs to the whole complex.

SECOND: Charlie Bouteillier

VOTE: 6-0-1 Karen Abstained.

D. Jenny Clark re: Maintenance of Water Station at the Housatonic Community Center -
Karen noted one water station is going in at Town Hall, one at the Housatonic Community Center, and one at the Mason Library. The location hasn't been determined as they are looking for placement for water mains. Karen said she had a conversation with the Massachusetts Office of Disability in the sense the fountains that have been chosen aren't handicapped accessible. The egress to the fountain needs to be on concrete not grass. It can't be a certain pitch. One issue that came up at Town Meeting is the restriction of using one liter bottles or smaller for handicapped people. It was noted that they wouldn't be a problem because the fountains have bubblers attached to them so a handicapped person can use the bubbler. There will be a meeting on Friday morning at 11:00 a.m. with Sean because 3 or 4 different locations have been looked for at the Mason Library that may be easy to get to.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary