

MEETING MINUTES
PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
5:15 PM.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR

PAUL GIBBONS (late)

STEPHEN BANNON

THOMAS NORTON

TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND

WILLIAM MEIER

ILANA SIEGAL (late)

NOT PRESENT:

SRIDEVI REDDY

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of March 3, 2022 (**Roll Call Vote**)

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve as written.

SECOND: Tom Norton

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

MOTION PASSED **5-0**

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Continuation from March 3, 2022, Berkshire International Film Festival to use the Town Hall Park on June 1, through June 6 (Wednesday through Monday) from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The opening night event is 6/2 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Also 6/3 – 6/5 to be determined. (Discussion Roll/Call Vote)

BIFF was asked to return because of issues with them joining the March 3, 2022 meeting.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

B. Town of Great Barrington Summer Concert Series/Lee Rogers to use the Gazebo behind Town Hall every Wednesday and Friday from May 20th through September 20th from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. Children's concerts will be every Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Lee noted that he may be using the Gazebo on Thursdays if it is a rainy season. He noted he would like to retain Friday the 15th of July for a popular band. He noted he would like Jacobs Pillow to set up on Saturday. Berkshire Busk will start later on Saturday. Proposals are being put out for proposals for Saturday concerts.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
SECOND: Terry Chamberland
ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

C. Great Barrington Land Conservancy/Lake Mansfield Alliance to use Lake Mansfield Beach Area greenspace from May 7th, Saturdays through June 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. June 27, Monday/Wednesday/Friday through September 2nd. September 3rd Saturdays through November 26th providing yoga at the beach area to community members and visitors. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Christine Ward and Senta Reis were present to explain the request. They will be providing yoga to the community members and visitors. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 to cover the cost of the instructor. A portion of the proceeds will help support LMA for stewardship of Lake Mansfield.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
SECOND: Tom Norton
ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

D. Great Barrington Land Conservancy/Lake Mansfield Alliance/Lake Mansfield Nature Explorers Club, April 30th through July 30th. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Christine Ward explained it will provide summer programs to help young people and their families to experience and appreciate our rich natural world. It will include one Wednesday evening storytelling program by Native American writer, Joseph Bruchac as well as a series of Saturday morning workshops.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
SECOND: Tom Norton
ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

MOTION PASSED **6-0-1**

E. Great Barrington Little League, Jason Grappa, to use Olympian Meadows Baseball Fields (multiple dates – will send along the schedule). Times usually 5:45 p.m. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** PENDING AGREEMENT **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Joe Tonetti was present to explain the request. Joe noted that the board members reviewed the Conditions for Usage for using Memorial Field and Olympian Meadows. (A copy of the conditions for usage for Memorial Field and Olympian Meadows are attached to these minutes).

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Tom Norton

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

F. Bill Meier to use Lake Mansfield for Lake Mansfield Day Celebration on Sunday, June 26th beginning at 8:00 a.m. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Bill noted it is a celebration of the lake with an open water swim clinic. There will be lake swims for kids and adults of different ability levels. He noted he would like the Parks Commission to support the celebration.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to support the open water swim clinic/celebration day.

SECOND: Ilana Siegal

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

- A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent Memorial Field, Budget and Tighe and Bond

Sean noted the link of the draft assessment management was sent to all the members. Included is a map of Dewey Park. Tighe and Bond will be doing a town wide survey on the upgrade of Dewey Park and Grove Street. Foresight is doing bid documents for the bathrooms at Olympian Meadows. It was determined that possibly the Police and Fire will sign off on the Parks Usage Request form prior to coming to the Parks Commissioners and Board of Health. The form is being updated. The capital spread sheet will be updated. CPA money was approved for ADA/sidewalk compliance and will go before the town meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. AED for Parks – Stephen Bannon – He noted that Fairview Hospital is donating \$1,000 towards an AED.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve up to an additional \$1,000 from the Parks Budget to purchase an AED for Lake Mansfield.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

B. Lake Mansfield Task Force update – Bill Meier – He noted there was a meeting this week. There was discussion on the parking and how to deal with the weeds in the lake and redoing the park. The playground equipment donation that was given last year should be installed before the summer.

C. Renaming of Gazebo for David Grover- this is on hold pending the appointment of a committee by the Town Manager.

D. East Mountain Trails – Robert Slonaker is working on it.

E. <https://tighebond.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/e558e7ba73e24325983cccd9a4327285> – link to maps

F. Parks rules/signs – Berkshire South and Railroad Street will send updated wording for signs to Sean and Karen.

G. Julie Anidjar – submitted a letter of interest to be a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee. She said she is interested in taking a more active role in Great Barrington.

After discussion the follow motion was made:

MOTION: Tom Norton to recommend to the Town Manager that Julie Anidjar be appointed as a member of Parks and Recreation to serve out the term vacated by Charlie Bouteiller.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

6 **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Berkshire South – Andrew noted they are working on staffing. The Greenagers are putting in garden beds in Housatonic. The RFP will be submitted next week.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Sam said they are putting out fliers for the skate park and starting the interview process. He has been in contact with Damien from the library skate shop in Great Barrington and he wants to do free lessons like he did a couple of years ago. We are doing an apprenticeship with their coordinator for skate boarding. Regina asked about the shed and if there is a timeline for that. Sean said he would check on the status. Karen suggested getting together with Ilana Siegel to discuss a Gaga Ball Court.

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

D. Charging for use of town spaces/rental policy – This is on hold for now. Sean is conducting a survey to see what other towns are charging for use of their parks.

7. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

None

8. **COMMISSIONER'S SPEAK:**

There was discussion on the floor covering at the Community Center. Bill said it would be a good investment to purchase a floor covering. Stephen Bannon said the furniture that was in the Select Board's meeting room is now in the conference room at the community center. The conference room was painted and we have to revamp the insulation for the ceiling. Bill will send the vinyl floor covering information they use at Simon's Rock to Sean. There is a water filling station there now.

Paul said we can buy a floor covering and have it cut to the dimensions of the floor. The storage container for football at Olympian meadows needs to be moved. Sean said he will follow-up on this.

Ilana said the Housatonic Community Center needs to be used more. We need to invest money in it. There is currently a floor covering there that is not in use. Sean and Karen will go look at what is there for floor covering. Karen noted that there isn't a budget to maintain the center.

Tom Norton –if the covering that is there can't be used – we should do something with it. There was a question on the bike trail and if it is still being scheduled to be surfaced? Sean said the existing contracts have gone up so he isn't sure when it will happen. The home gas property and the solar field – is there an exit? Sean said it is a dead end.

9. **NEXT MEETING:**
April 19, 2022 @ 5:15 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**
MOTION: Tom Norton to adjourn.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

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

MOTION PASSED **7-0**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann

Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Clerk