

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022**  
**5:15 PM.**

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

**PRESENT:** Karen Smith, Chair  
Stephen Bannon  
Terry Chamberland  
Paul Gibbons  
Thomas Norton  
William Meier  
Ilana Siegal  
Julie Anidjar – late  
Sridevi Reddy - Late

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 21, 2022 (**Roll Call Vote**)

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve as written

**SECOND:** Tom Norton

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

**MOTION CARRIED** **7-0**

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. Festival Latino of the Berkshires, Lilliana Ortiz-Bermudez & William Basinait to use the Town Hall Park for educational and family oriented celebration of Hispanic Heritage on Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (**Discussion/Roll Call Vote**) **nobody was present.**

It was noted that it is the same as they request every year. After a brief discussion the following motion was made. (A copy of their liability insurance will be coming in July)

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland

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

**MOTION CARRIED** **8-0**

B. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to use the Town Hall Park/Gazebo on Monday, October 10, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a free country music concert from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (**Discussion/Roll Call Vote**)

Diane Wortis was present. There will be 4 musicians. No food or drink will be supplied.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes

William Meier	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes
Julie Anidjar	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **8-0**

C. Berkshire Food Co-op to use Memorial Field on Saturday, October 15, 2022 for the annual owner's meeting with a catered luncheon from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** **Jessy Turner was not present. This was tabled until May.**

D. Berkshire Busk to use the Gazebo and Giggle Park on Saturday, July 30, from 1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., for family day, with the rain date August 6. The Railroad Street Dreamers will be playing from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on August 6. Berkshire Bateria will be there on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Carli Scolforo was present to explain the request. They are looking to reserve 3 days over the summer -. There is no admission fee. She noted that there will be 4 or 5 chaperones when the event takes place.

**MOTION:** Terry Chamberland to approve

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **9-0**

E. Southern Berkshire Babe Ruth, Craig Paul, Jr. to use Memorial Field Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday beginning April 1 2022 to November 1, 2022. Proposed times are weekdays from 4:00 p.m. to dark and all day on Saturday **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Re: Conditions of usage memo. Karen asked that each league signoff as a board. This is to make sure that everyone that is part of the league will maintain the fields. It was noted that they are aware of what the Town requires for maintenance. Craig Paul said he would sign it representing the board.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Thomas Norton

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **9-0**

F. Great Barrington Rotary Club to use the Bandstand on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a benefit to raise money for Ukraine. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Nadine Foster was present to explain the request. The Lucky Bucket Band will perform. Mama LOS Barbeque will be doing the food. Stephen Bannon said he was a member of the Rotary but wasn't recusing himself. The Police will be notified and the DPW will pick up the garbage. Stephen said he would make sure the picnic tables are out.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes

Karen Smith	Yes
Julie Anidjar	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0**

- G. Great Barrington Millers Baseball Club to use Memorial Field for adult baseball practices and games beginning April 14, 2022 through September 4, 2022. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** The board explained the conditions of usage to Tom Ingersoll. He would like to have a dug out, batting cage and to make sure the tractor runs. There is a bond to redo the field which will be voted at Town Meeting.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 9-0**

- H. Jacob's Pillow (Thasia Giles) to use the Town Hall Park on Saturday, July 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a free family friendly dance performance. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote – See attached request from Lee Rogers on the schedule)** Thasia Giles was present to explain the request. This will be the second year with Jacob's Pillow on the road which is a free family friendly dance performance. Set up will be after 1:00 p.m. on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. (The stage cannot be set up on July 15 because of the Town concert series)

**MOTION:** Terry Chamberland to approve

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0**

- I. Abby Schroeder (Town of Great Barrington) to use the Town Hall Park Gazebo to rename it Grover's Corner Park in memory of David Grover on Saturday, July 2, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** It is considered a Town event so Liability Insurance is not required.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons that the Park and Recreation Commission agree to name the gazebo and surrounding area in honor of David Grover as Grover's Corner.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 8-0**

Karen said she thinks there will be more than 50-100 people. We need to know about parking arrangements, etc. and how the cleanup of the park will be done. The DPW will empty the garbage cans. It was noted we usually have a better logistic of events. Abby will need to return to the next Parks meeting on May 16 in regard to cleanup and details on entertainment. Paul asked if a plan has been submitted on a facility use form that other organizations have to present if they want to use town facilities for an event. He also asked who is responsible for the event. It was noted that Abby Schroeder is responsible for the event. Paul said we should table approving the event until we have all the details. Paul said the Town isn't organizing the event. Paul asked that this be withdrawn and resubmitted at our next meeting to included all the details that we ask of every other group that comes before us for Town facilities.

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

Stephen Bannon	Yes
Terry Chamberland	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes
Thomas Norton	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes
Julie Anidjar	Yes
Sridevi Reddy	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **8-0**

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent - Karen read the updates from Sean. The paperwork for the new mowers is being processed. The new shed for the skate park is done and it will be installed in the next week or so. All the mulch has been ordered for the town parks. The Lake Mansfield weed mat will be installed in May and the survey for Grove Street Park and Dewey will go out next month.

Karen noted that she is concerned about not having a DPW Superintendent. She has spoken to the Town Manager about this. She noted that she wants to know the process to follow.

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

<https://tighebond.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/e558e7ba73e24325983cced9a432728>

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Lake Mansfield Task Force- update Bill Meier – left the meeting.

B. Robert Slonaker – East Mountain Trails (The Park on the corner of Park/Quarry/East is under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commission. The rest of the forest off Quarry Street is the Select board. Robert Slonaker was present. He asked if he could begin creating the trails on the part that belongs to Parks and Recreation and the section that is bordering town property. After discussion the following motion was made.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to move the trail idea on the existing town property to the Select board to begin the process with more details to follow.

**SECOND:** Tom Norton

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Terry Chamberland	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes
Thomas Norton	Yes
Julie Anidjar	Yes
Stephen Bannon	Yes
Sridevi Reddy	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **8-0**

C. Michael Peretti in regard to planting trees at the Alice Bubriski Playground – Housatonic Village Commons – Tom noted that Mike, as tree warden, has been doing regular maintenance on the sugar maple tree. He is concerned about its age. He is looking at what could be done once the tree dies. After discussion, Tom said that he and Mike would return with an assessment prior to cutting the tree or planting.

D. Dale Abrams in regard to the GB Land Conservancy to use the space in the old bathrooms for storage of trail maintenance equipment at Olympian Meadows. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Stephen said the bathrooms next to the softball field were never used because the sewer hookup is down the other side and never finished. Those buildings have holes in the ground and nobody wanted to use them or clean them.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve

**SECOND:** Tom Norton

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Terry Chamberland	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes
Thomas Norton	Yes
Julie Anidjar	Yes
Stephen Bannon	Yes

Sridevi Reddy	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **8-0**

E. Tents – Memorial Field – Change removal to Monday by 1:00 p.m. We had requested that the Mahaiwe Theater and Railroad Street Youth Project remove the tents on Sunday. To have the tents removed on Sunday, it would cost an additional \$4,000. After discussion, the following motion was made.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to allow the tents to be removed on Monday instead of Sunday for the Mahaiwe Theater and Railroad Street Youth Project.

**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	No
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **7-0-1**

F. Police presence – Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field – Karen said she would like to be included in the meeting with the Town Manager and Stephen Bannon. We need to include Janiece as the summer commences.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Berkshire South – Janiece said that there is a severe shortage of staffing; especially for lifeguarding. They are continuing to recruit. They had to increase the pay for the lifeguards to \$17.00 per hour. DCR is paying \$20.00 per hour. Karen noted that this needs to be discussed with the Town Manager.
- B. Railroad Street – skate park planning and maintenance priority – Regina said their RFP is similar to Berkshire South. They are hoping to hire 4 people by May 1. A staff person will be brought in for training. Regina said she reached out to the Police Department on Police presence. Also parking is an issue. Steve said he would speak to the Town Manager about the parking issue. It was noted that the most popular time for the skate park is between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- C. Tighe and Bond – dollar value/long term replacement and initial design of Grove Street Park and Dewey Park. Status update – The survey should be going out soon.
- D. Charging for use of town spaces/rental policy when money is being charged – we need to have a special meeting about what we are going to do about that. Karen said she got a call from someone who wants to have a birthday party at Giggle Park. It was noted that she can have her party because it is a public park. Karen said they checked on the mats at the Housatonic Community Center and they are fine.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

Chair will recognize individuals at this time who wish to speak  
No one was present for citizen's speak.

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Paul said at Stanley Park there are two newly planted trees. He is wondering who planted them and who gave them permission to plant them. Sean wrote Mike Peretti asking him how the trees got there. There was no response. Karen said she will follow up on it.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, May 16, 2022 @ 5:15 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to adjourn.

**SECOND:** Tom Norton

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes

Sridevi Reddy	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes

<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	<b>7-0</b>
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The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Wichmann*

Carolyn Wichmann  
Recording Clerk