MEETING MINUTES

PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230 TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022

5:15 PM.

PRESENT: KAREN SMITH

PAUL GIBBONS
THOMAS NORTON

WILLIAM MEIER LEFT AT 5:45 P.M.

TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND

JULIE ANIDJAR STEPHEN BANNON SRIDEVI REDDY

NOT PRESENT: ILANA SIEGAL

****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. May 16, 2022 (Roll Call Vote)

Terry noted that the votes in 3A and 3C should be 6-1 not 6-0-1 **MOTION:**Tom Norton to approve with corrections.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

ROLL CALL VOTE: Paul Gibbons Yes

Tom Norton Yes
Bill Meier Yes
Terry Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes
Sridevi Reddy Yes
Karen Smith Yes

MOTION PASSED 8-0

3. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Alliance for a Viable Future, Lev Natan, to use the Gazebo behind the Town Hall on Monday, October 10, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for Indigenous Peoples Day. Also Memorial Field from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, October 10, 2022. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Susan Jameson was present to explain the request. She noted it will be the same as last year. The event begins at the Gazebo. Set up is at 10:00 a.m. and it goes from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Then we go to Memorial Field from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Last year there was food behind Railroad Street Youth Project. She was told if they are serving food, they must go to the Board of Health. Lev Natan will get the insurance. Susan said she contacted Wheeler and Taylor about the insurance and they said they couldn't purchase it until 6 weeks prior to the event.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve pending the submission of liability insurance.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE: Terry Chamberland Yes

Stephen Bannon Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Tom Norton Yes
Sridevi Reddy Yes
William Meier Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes
Karen Smith Yes

MOTION PASSED

8-0

B. <u>Friends of Grove Street Park</u> to use the gazebo/giggle park on Sunday August 14th from noon to 7:00 p.m. for a Fundraiser for Grove Street Park. (Music – Jerry Garcia Day) (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Seth Keyes asked if this could end at 5:45 p.m. so it doesn't interfere with their programs at St. James. Daniel

Shankin was present to explain the request. He said Friends of Grove Street Park is sponsoring it. He said they are a group of neighbors committed to the care and maintenance of Grove Street Park. The neighbors want to be a part of the improvement of the park. They would like to have some arts, music and cultural events. He noted he is going to purchase insurance. He also said they are going to seek sponsors and vendors and perhaps some grants. The request was to use the parking lot for vendors. It was noted that the Town Manager would be in charge of permission to shut down the parking lot. Mr. Shankin said he would like to amend the request to begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 5:45 p.m.

MOTION:

Stephen Bannon to approve with the beginning time to be at 11:00 a.m. and end at 5:45 p.m. with the submission of insurance.

SECOND:

Julie Anidiar

SECOND: June	Amujar	
ROLL CALL VOTE:	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Bill Meier	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
MOTION PASSED		8-0

- C. <u>Southern Berkshire CARE, Melissa Moro</u> to use the Housatonic Park from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on 5/21/22 to 7/16/22 (excluding 5/28 and 7/2) (<u>Discussion/Roll Call Vote</u>) Karen advised they have started and she wants the committee to be aware that if something happens and there is any sort of law suit or anything with the Town that the town is not liable because we have never agreed to this. (No representative was present at the meeting).
- D. Berkshire Pulse to use the Housatonic Community Center, on Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a Hip Hop dance celebration Jam. (<u>Oiscussion/Roll Call Vote</u>) Benjamin Court was present to explain the request. Stephen said he would check with the Town Manager on opening up the Community Center.

MOTION:

Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND:

Tom Norton

SECOND.	III INOLUII	
ROLL CALL VOTE:	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Bill Meier	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
ø.	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
MOTION PASSED		8-0

- E. <u>Abby Schroeder</u>—update_on the celebration on July 2, 2022 to name Grover's Corner Park for David Grover (<u>Discussion/Roll Call Vote</u>) Ms. Schroeder was not present. Stephen noted that it is 11 days away and there has been no publicity and it is unknown how this event is going to happen. There has been a lack of cooperation. Karen said she will not revoke permission on it.
- F. Railroad Street Youth Project, Gabrielle Reeve to use the skate and basketball court at 60 Bridge Street for an outdoor event to celebrate summer, Friday, July 8, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Cara and Amayah from Railroad Street Youth Project were present to explain the request. She noted they will be serving food and having live music. Karen advised that the food truck people need to contact the Board of Health for a permit. Volunteers from the Berkshire Health Coalition will be there to help with monitoring as well as staff. The basketball court will need to be shut down but the skate park will be open. The police department also needs to be notified.

MOTION: SECOND:

Stephen Bannon to approve. Terry Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Terry Chamberland Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes
Tom Norton Yes
Sridevi Reddy Yes
Bill Meier Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes

	Julie Andijar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
MOTION PASSED		8-0

Railroad Street Youth Project, Sam Riva, to use Lake Mansfield on July 1, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. G. for an end of the year mentoring celebration/cookout. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Sam Riva was present to explain the request. Food will be served and the Board of Health has been contacted. He said if people stop by they can have a hot dog or hamburger.

MOTION:

Terry Chamberland to approve.

SECOND:

Paul Gibbons

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ROLL CALL VOTE:	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Bill Meier	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Julie Andijar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
MOTION PASSED		9.0

H. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to use the Gazebo and Town Hall Park for an outdoor family movie (Spanish language w/subtitles) on Sunday, September 4 and Friday September 9, from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The free family film will be scheduled for 8 p.m. on Sunday the 4th with the following Friday the 9th as a rain date. Janis Martinson was present to explain the request. Ms. Martinson was advised to contact Lee Rogers in regard to the rain date on Friday the 9th in case there is a conflict.

MOTION:

Terry Chamberland to approve.

SECOND: Paul C	Gibbons	
ROLL CALL VOTE:	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Bill Meier	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Julie Andijar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
MOTION PASSED		8-0

4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- Park Updates.
 - Memorial Field Update CPA money was approved at the Town Meeting. There will be an RFP going out sometime after September in an attempt to get work done next spring when we have a final draft.
 - Budget update and capital No documents available at this point. Stephen said he would speak to the Town Manager because we will also want to carry over extra capital like we have done in other years. We will have \$50,000 extra to spend on Park and Recreation.
 - Tighe and Bond Park assessment continuation

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. <u>Lake Mansfield Task Force- update</u> - Bill Meier - The celebration of Lake Mansfield with open swim clinic will be on Sunday, June 26 beginning at 8:00 a.m. It will start at 8:30 with a safety clinic with a short swim at 9:30 a.m. and a ½ mile swim at 10:30 a.m. There will be a food truck that was approved by the Board of Health. The Fire Department is involved, an ambulance will be there as well as safety equipment. Everybody that takes part is going to get a safety buoy. For \$25.00 registration fee you get to swim and you receive a \$35.00 safety buoy. Three loads of sand was delivered to the lake. The lines were redone.
- Robert Slonaker East Mountain Trails (The Park on the corner of Park/Quarry/East is the Parks B. Commission. (The rest of the forest off Quarry Street is the Select board.) Robert Slonaker was present. Chris Rembold said he would speak to the Town Manager about beginning the project. Stephen will followup on this.

MOTION:

Tom Norton to grant Robert Sloanaker permission to continue his work on the Park Street portion of the

property. There is to be just cleaning up of brush and making trails. No cutting of trees.

SECOND:

Terry Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Terry Chamberland Yes Stephen Bannon abstained Tom Norton Yes Julie Andijar Yes Paul Gibbons Yes Sridevi Reddy Yes Karen Smith Yes Bill Meier Yes

MOTION PASSED

(Stephen Bannon abstained)

- C. Michael Peretti/Tom Norton in regard to planting trees at the Alice Bubriski Playground Housatonic Village Commons. Mike Peretti still needs to present a plan of costs and suggestions were some new plantings can go at the park. Tom said that one of the trees that Wards planted has died. Two of the trees have to be replaced. Tom said he would like the committee to make funds available for the fall because that is the best time to plant and he said he would like to find at least 6 places for additional trees.
- D. <u>Police presence Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field to be discussed with Berkshire South.</u>

7-0

- E. <u>Moratorium of the Great Barrington Board of Health</u> of the use of Glyphosate containing herbicides. Karen said that is just an announcement. We are not having herbicides in the parks. The health department made that determination in December.
- F. Grove Street Court Lines Karen said she spoke with the Town Manager and worked with Steve Larkin in regard to the Grove Street Basketball court. The basketball court is being cleaned up and we are going to have pickle ball courts painted on either side of that court as well as outlining the basketball court. It will be used for both pickle ball and basketball. The pickle ball stanchions can be removed so ice skating can be done in the winter.

MOTION:

Terry chamberland to appropriate up to \$2,000 to transform the Basketball court at Grove Street Park into a

basketball court and pickle ball court.

SECOND:

Julie Andijar

After discussion, Terry withdrew his motion. It was tabled until next month.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Berkshire South Andrew Sagrin –He said Steve Larkin and Bill Meier have been very helpful in regard to Lake Mansfield. Steve got new umbrellas for the lifeguards and new sand was put down. The staff is going to continue to clean up the goose droppings. Sarah will be there six days a week except for Sunday. The biggest issue is the staffing of Lake Mansfield. Andrew noted that he will have numbers by the next meeting. There are no approved town swimming lessons at the lake this year because of lack of staff. It was noted private swimming lessons are not sanctioned by the town and this should be added to the sign. Steve said he would speak to the Town Manager about the Police patrolling Lake Mansfield on their regular rounds.
- B. Railroad Street skate park planning and maintenance priority Sam Riva said he has been in touch with the Library Skate Shop about doing lessons this summer. Two more staff people were hired and now they are up to five. There might be a skate board summer jam with skate boards and scooters. We are doing a skate board apprenticeship in July. Russell Allen asked for signage noting no head in parking. Karen told him to contact Regina to ask Steve Larkin for the signage. A report will be submitted next month.
- C. <u>Tighe and Bond</u> dollar value/long term replacement and initial design of Grove Street Park and <u>Dewey Park</u>. Status update Draft survey is being completed.
- D. <u>Charging for use of town spaces/rental policy</u> when money is being charged –Karen said she obtained a report that Kathy Plungis did about 8 years ago on fees. She noted she would like to get it formulated and sent out to the committee and then contact other towns to update it. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. CITIZENS SPEAK:

Chair will recognize individuals at this time who wish to speak

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Julie noted that the trees at Giggle Park are doing poorly. There is a dead tree by the swing set. Other trees were mulched too much and there was mildew on the trunks. She said she moved it away. Tom said he would look at it. She also noted that some of the equipment in Giggle Park has safety issues.

Paul said Olympian Meadows minor league field is deteriorating. The Little League field is o.k. We need to ask the representatives of each group to be at the next meeting.

Paul said the GB sign needs to be trimmed properly.

Terry asked if there has been discussion in regard to going back to in person meetings. Stephen said Comalli Electric has been hired to rewire the Select Boards meeting room. They are about 4 months behind.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, July 18, 2022 @ 5:15 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

Terry Chamberland to adjourn

SECOND:

Paul Gibbons

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Steve Bannon Yes
Terry Chamberland Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Sridevi Reddy Yes

Tom Norton Yes

Karen Smith

Yes

MOTION PASSED

7-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann

Carolyn Wichmann Recording Clerk