

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY JULY, 18, 2022
5:15 PM.

PRESENT: KAREN SMITH
 PAUL GIBBONS
 THOMAS NORTON
 WILLIAM MEIER
 TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND
 JULIE ANIDJAR
 STEPHEN BANNON
 SRIDEVI REDDY
 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. June 21, 2022 (Roll Call Vote)
MOTION: Terry Chamberland to approve as written.
SECOND: Tom Norton
ROLL CALL VOTE: Paul Gibbons Yes
 Tom Norton Yes
 Bill Meier Yes
 Terry Chamberland Yes
 Julie Anidjar Yes
 Stephen Bannon Yes
 Sridevi Reddy Abstained
 Karen Smith Yes
MOTION PASSED 8-0-1

3. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:
 A. Berkshire Grown to use the Housatonic Community Center for the Winter Farmers Market beginning Saturday, November 19, 2022, December 17, 2022, January 21, 2023, February 18, 2023, March 18, 2023 and April 15, 2023 from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event times run 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Martha Surquet was present to explain the request. Karen noted that Mr. VanDeusen and Mr. Larkin said the existing floor covering can be used. All the standing issues we used last year will be kept in place. A price needs to be determined for the use of the space. No alcohol will be consumed on the site. Martha said they have one vendor from last year who sells hard cider so they will go before the Select Board for that. They understand that there is no sampling.

MOTION: Bill Meier that it is o.k. to sell alcohol without any samples.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE: Paul Gibbons No
 Terry Chamberland Yes
 Karen Smith No
 Thomas Norton Yes
 William Meier Yes
 Sridevi Reddy Yes
 Ilana Siegal Yes
 Stephen Bannon Yes
 Julie Anidjar Yes

MOTION PASSED 7-2

Karen said we need to make money on that space. Martha said they paid a base fee to the school district to use the middle school. Paul suggested that they pay a fee of \$250.00 per event. Ilana suggested charging an hourly fee in the future.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve the base cost of \$250.00 per event with the rental fee to go to the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

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

MOTION PASSED **9-0**

Karen advised Martha to contact Steve Larkin at the DPW. It was noted that the charge is a one year commitment. Martha asked if there will be a formal contract specifying what their responsibilities are. Karen suggested that she contact Chris Rembold to create a working document.

B. Smash the Stigma to change the location of the event on September 17, 2022 (Saturday) from Memorial Field to the Town Hall Park from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. (**Discussion/Roll Call Vote**)

MOTION: Tom Norton to approve but if there is a conflict with another event, it would need to be moved back to Memorial Field.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

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

MOTION PASSED **9-0**

C, Southern Berkshire Youth Football League to use Olympian Meadows from August 1, 2022 to November 1, 2022 for practice for league players/cheerleaders. **Discussion/Roll Call Vote** Jeannette Vallone was present to explain the request. Karen said she saw on line that they are planning to begin July 20th. We have no insurance. Jeannette Vallone said Wilkinson's is coming to pick up the red container on Wednesday and a new smaller one will be put where the DPW cleared the area to the left of the driveway. She said the insurance should be set for July 18 and be ready by the end of the week. The dates on the Parks Usage Request need to be changed to July 20, 2022 to November 1, 2022.

MOTION: Ilana Siegal to approve contingent on that insurance be issued within 24 hours of the first use of the field. If it is not in place within 24 hours in advance of the use then it is not approved and it needs to be cancelled.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

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

MOTION PASSED **9-0**

Stephen said we should advise the groups in the spring that use the fields to come before us. Also put a list together of people who want to use the Housatonic Community Center who haven't asked permission yet.

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Park updates

- Memorial Field update - The dugout is done. Chip Paul rebuilt the whole dugout himself. Karen asked if there is some way to give him a stipend for building it. Paul suggested that he send an invoice for his expenses. It was noted that the Town paid for the materials. Stephen said he would find out the legal way to do this.
- Budget update and capital – Tighe and Bond Park Assessment – Karen said she sent a draft survey to everyone. This will go out as a press release and electronically and will be sent to Tighe and Bond to compile the data. Ilana said that each member of a family should be encouraged to complete one themselves. This could be noted at the top of the page. Contact information should be included.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

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

MOTION PASSED 9-0

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Lake Mansfield Task Force – update – Bill Meier - the lake is in good shape. Not a lot of weeds. Lake Mansfield Day went well. Simon's Rock was a big help, the fire department brought the first responders and the ambulance responders came as well. The issues at the lake are graffiti and goose poop.

B. Robert Slonaker – East Mountain Trails Voted at the June meeting.

C. Michael Peretti/Tom Norton in regard to planting trees at the Alice Bubriski Playground/Housatonic Village Common. A plan was submitted for planting trees at the park. (Attached). The circles on the plan are the existing trees. The trees that are not circles are proposed trees. Tom noted that one of the circle trees is dead and one needs to be replaced. Also an additional tree is proposed to be by the playground near the baseball fields. The total proposal is for 12 trees. Tom said Mike Peretti's proposal as tree warden will go before the DPW.

MOTION: Tom Norton that we approve the planting of up to 12 new trees as suggested by the preliminary plan and provide \$6,000 from the Capital Budget for its implementation and finalization which would include placement and species selection all to be coordinated with the Parks Commission.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

After discussion, Tom withdrew his motion and Stephen withdrew his second.

Karen said she would like the Parks Commission to ask a tree person. Not the tree warden. Stephen noted that the Town has a tree committee which could help with the planting, etc. We need to obtain a request for proposal to determine species and cost, etc.

MOTION: Karen made a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission work with the tree committee and move forward with research, detail and costs to plant up to 12 trees at the Housatonic Park.

SECOND: Tom Norton

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Berkshire South – Andrew said the guards are raking and scooping the goose poop at the beginning of the day and the end of the day. Andrew said he heard there was going to be a plastic fox put up there to scare the geese. Karen advised Andrew to check with Rebecca of the Board of Health. There needs to be a sign put up that advises not to feed the geese. Julie noted that a goose had a fishing hook stuck in its mouth and an individual brought it to a vet to have it removed. There needs to be a notice about cleaning up the fishing gear. We could specify fishing areas. There were an incident where someone abandoned a tent but it was gone the next day. Someone came to the beach area with a metal detector and a shovel. We told him he wasn't allowed to do that. There has been incidents with people bringing alcohol, open music, floaters and bringing their dogs in. Sarah the Lake Mansfield Coordinator has done an awesome job. The shed has gotten a thorough cleaning and is organized.

Attendance Lake Mansfield: Averaging just under 8 people when the staff comes on duty at 11:30 a.m. That goes up to about 1 person per hour until about 3:30 p.m. - about 14 people. Overall during staff hours there is 11 ¼ people in the water. On the beach we have averaged over 100 people between June and July. It was suggested to change the hours the lifeguards are available at the lake to maybe later in the day to later in the evening.

Attendance at Housatonic Park – at 11:30 we average about 4 people in the park. The highest was 16. Some days zero.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Sam Riva said they hired 5 attendants. They have had 727 people so far at the park. Most are 14 to 25 year olds. Our daily average is 12 people per day. There were 5 events this summer. The skate park cleanup, slam into summer, and skate park lessons 3 times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have a skate board apprenticeship. Steve Larkin is getting signs for parking and is going to paint lines on the blacktop. Russell Allen was also present. The daily visitors have increased. We have seen a decrease of incidents in the park.

Karen said the committee approved an event at the Town Hall Park called Gerry Day which is a fund raiser for Grove Street Park. She said she asked Daniel Shankin to attend to provide additional information. Karen said she had him contact the Select Boards office because there is going to be vendors, fund raising, and 3 bands. The sponsors are paying for the bands and anything left will be given to the Parks and Recreation. He thought about 200 people will attend.

Also in regard to Grove Street Park, the DPW cleaned up the area and will patch the basketball court and painted for two pickle ball courts and also a full basketball ½ court. The basic cost is around \$2,000.

MOTION: Karen Smith that the DPW put lines in for Basketball and Pickle Ball courts.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION PASSED **8-0**

(Ilana Siegal left at this point)

MOTION: Karen Smith to allocate \$2,500 to allow DPW to make 4 parking spaces on the left side of the Grove Street Park.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Tom Norton	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION PASSED

8-0

Somya Shankin said she would like more equipment for more kid friendly spaces.

Karen noted that she would like to go in person hybrid meetings. Stephen said the Town isn't ready for us to go hybrid. The governor just signed a bill extending remote meetings. Also, no decisions will be made on charging to use town properties.

Stephen asked if we can put Capital on either the August or September agenda.

Paul noted that Olympian Meadows Minor League Field (second field) is not being kept up. Paul suggested each person do a site visit. We could get rid of the infield or close the field. It was suggested maybe putting in a soccer field.

Karen wanted to thank the commission. Thank Tom Norton with his efforts with the trees and Bill Meier.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to adjourn

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

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

MOTION PASSED

8-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary