

MEETING MINUTES
PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022
5:15 P.M.

PRESENT: KAREN SMITH, CHAIR
 STEPHEN BANNON
 TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND
 PAUL GIBBONS
 THOMAS NORTON
 WILLIAM MEIER
 JULIE ANIDJAR

NOT PRESENT: ILANDA SIEGAL
 SRIDEVI REDDY

ALL VOTES ARE ROLL CALL

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
 The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 Minutes of April 19, 2022 (Roll Call Vote)

MOTION: Terrance Chamberland to approve as written

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

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

<u>MOTION PASSED</u>	<u>7-0</u>
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3. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Berkshire Food Co-op (Jessy Turner) 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 present to explain her request. A tent will be put up on Friday and will be removed on the following Monday. Jessy was advised to reach out to the Millers and Babe Ruth in order to avoid a conflict.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve pending the schedules of the Millers and Babe Ruth.

SECOND: Thomas Norton

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terrance Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	No
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes

Julie Anidjar	Yes
Karen Smith	Yes
MOTION PASSED	6--1

B. Abby Schroeder to update the Parks Commissioners on entertainment and cleanup details in regard to the Saturday July 2 event in memory of David Grover. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote). Abbey said she is working with Kathy Grover and Annie Guthrie. There is a memorial event planned for David at the Colonial in Pittsfield in June. They want to share people with Great Barrington. She noted she has plenty of people to help clean-up. Karen requested that she return with a one page document of what they are doing and who is responsible.

C. Smash the Stigma, Gary Pratt/Rural Recovery to use Memorial Field on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Gary was present to answer questions.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve assuming they can accommodate the Millers Baseball games and Babe Ruth games.

SECOND: Thomas Norton

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terrance Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	No
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION PASSED	6--1
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D. Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative to use the gazebo behind Town Hall for Covid-19 Testing from May 17, 2022 to September 27, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Jill Sweet is the responsible person.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terrance Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

MOTION PASSED	7-0
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E. Alliance for Viable Future, Lev Natan, to use the Gazebo behind Town Hall on Monday, October 10, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Memorial Field from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) This was continued to the June meeting because nobody was present at the meeting.

F. Andrea Harrington for District Attorney, Jordon Orloff to use the Town Hall Park on Saturday, May 28 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Karen noted that this was submitted in a timely manner but was left off of the agenda.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Terrance Chamberland	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Thomas Norton	Yes
	William Meier	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes
<u>MOTION PASSED</u>		7-0

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

A. Dewey School Update – The fence, benches and signs are in.

Memorial Field Update – The proposed Memorial Field improvements include new backstop, new fencing, new dugouts, and accessibility improvements. This is going to cost \$500,000 when fully designed. It will go before Town Meeting on June 6, 2022 to request funding. Park and Recreation is going to purchase a bond (to be paid with CPA funds) at a very low interest rate over 15 years. Chris said either he or Mark Pruhenski or the new superintendent will manage the project.

Budget update and capital – Chris is going to return with information on that.

Tighe and Bond Park assessment- Karen said they returned a draft survey. Karen and Chris looked at the draft and decided it wasn't good enough for what we want. There was a draft survey done in 2019 that was much better. Karen asked them to incorporate this into the draft. As soon as she receives it back and it has been reviewed by herself and Chris, she will present it to the committee.

5. **LAKE MANSFIELD UPDATE:**

A. William Meier said they are working on Lake Mansfield Day which is coming up on June 26th. They are working with the Great Barrington Land Conservancy. There is going to be an event where anyone involved is going to receive a swim buoy. It is safety orientated. We are working to get the weed fabric down because it is coming up. Karen said if it is coming up to get back to her and she will take it up with Lisa of DPW. Simon's Rock is letting us use their parking and we are going to use two of their vans. We will park near the student union and do a shuttle.

B. Michael Peretti – Tom said he walked the Housatonic Park with Mike Peretti to do an evaluation of the trees at the park. He is going to do a plan to do additional plantings for shade. The present shade trees; the sugar maple, is dying. In anticipation of it coming down in the next few years, the plan is to put trees in various spots. Karen said when the plan is ready, submit it to the board. Tom said the Tupelo tree will probably have to be removed because it isn't doing well. Tom said the trees at the park need to be mulched and fed.

C. Police Presence at Mansfield and Memorial Field Karen said she has spoken with Chief Storti and will continue to maintain discussion with him. Karen said that there is a hoop that someone took down at Memorial Field that needs to be put back up and all the nets need to be replaced.

D. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Berkshire South – no one was present.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Sam Riva and Russel Allen were present. Sam said they have 3 skate park attendants right now. The water fountain is still broken. There are 4 -5 applications currently to add to the skate park staff. Russel Allen said he is the senior mentoring coordinator at the Railroad Street Youth Project. We had a skate park cleanup day and we are looking into a spring into summer event on June 10th. The new shed is there. Sam said they are working on parking and asking the Co-op

about using their space after hours. Karen said we can't have people parking in front of the flags. Karen said to let her know what is needed for storage; i.e. shelves, hooks, etc. The ice rink liner is possibly going in the shed.

C. Tighe and Bond – already discussed.

D. Charging for use of town spaces/rental policy when money is being charged. – Karen said she is going to follow-up with Sean because he was checking to see what other towns do.

7. **CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**
None

8. **COMMISSIONER'S SPEAK:**
Julie asked about meeting to look at the different parks. Karen suggested waiting until the survey is finalized and we have received feedback.

Paul asked about the GB sign at Castronova Park and if we have a contract with a firm to trim the trees. Chris said he would check into it.

9. **NEXT MEETING:**
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to adjourn.

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

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

<u>MOTION PASSED</u>	<u>7-0</u>
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The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary