

MINUTES  
PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022  
5:15 PM.

PRESENT:     KAREN SMITH, CHAIR  
                  PAUL GIBBONS  
                  STEPHEN BANNON  
                  ILANA SIEGAL  
                  SRIDEVI REDDY  
                  JULIE ANIDJAR  
                  TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND  
                  WILLIAM MEIER

NOT PRESENT: THOMAS NORTON

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

1.     CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Karen called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

2.     APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A.     Minutes of the July 18, 2022 meeting (Discussion/Roll Call Vote)

MOTION:     Stephen to approve.

SECOND:     Terry

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:                     8-0

3.     PARKS USAGE REQUESTS

A.     Railroad Street Youth Project to use the skate park at 60 Bridge Street for a Youth Latino Festival on September 17, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Marina Dominguez said she has contacted the Board of Health in regard to the food and she has already appeared before the Select Board for the entertainment permit.

MOTION:     Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND:     William Meier

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Karen Smith	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes

Terry Chamberland Yes  
William Meier Yes

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8-0

- B. **Berkshire Pulse in partnership with the Berkshire Boxing Club** to use the Housatonic Community Center for an accessible pop-up gym to teach elements of boxing training, confidence, etc. The requested dates are Mon/Friday Oct. 3 – Dec .14, from 4-6. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** Betina from Berkshire Pulse was present to explain their request. She noted they would like a 6x6 storage space to store equipment. There is no charge for Great Barrington and Housatonic residents. For non-Great Barrington residents there will be a charge of \$16.00 a class. She said there is a tuition program for people who cannot afford it. Karen noted in the future there may be a charge to use the space. Betina was told to contact Steve Larkin in regard to storage. Terry said it will interfere with the basketball league that plays there Mondays and Fridays. It was noted basketball has not applied yet.

**MOTION:** Stephen to approve.

**SECOND:** Julie Anidjar

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Karen Smith	Yes
Paul Gibbons	No
Stephen Bannon	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Sridevi Reddy	Yes
Julie Anidjar	Yes
Terry Chamberland	No
William Meier	Yes

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6-2

- C. **Peter Dillion/Snappers Swim Team** to have a Good bye gathering at Lake Mansfield for the swim coach on August 18, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **(Discussion/Roll Call Vote)** There will just be a cake. No alcohol.

**MOTION:** Terry Chamberland to approve.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Karen Smith	Yes
Paul Gibbons	Yes
Stephen Bannon	Yes
Ilana Siegal	Yes
Sridevi Reddy	Yes
Julie Anidjar	Yes
Terry Chamberland	Yes
William Meier	Yes

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8-0

4. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. **Memorial Field Update** – Chris Rembold said that Foresight Land Services is the engineer and they are taking the initial concept plans that we used for construction cost estimate to the final design level. Then they will go out to bid. There will be no construction this season. We will coordinate construction once we know who the bidders are. The budget is \$500,000 to be paid with a Community Preservation Act bond.

The Lake Mansfield Playground equipment consists of 5 now pieces including a handicapped swing. They will be installed north of the existing swings. The installation is scheduled for September. We are waiting for one part for the merry-go-round. The public works crews have flagged out the area where it will go. Some trees will be removed.

B. Tighe and Bond – design of Grove Street Park and Dewey Park – Karen noted she is concerned the survey needs more publicity.

C. Parking on Grove Street – not discussed – except at the end of the meeting during citizen speak.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Olympian Meadows Bathroom Facility (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Chris noted that staff isn't sure what the committee wants to do about the bathrooms. Stephen said \$25,000 was spent to run a sewer line and put bathrooms down there and we have been waiting a while for it to happen. It was noted that if a bathroom is put down there it needs to be taken care of and maintained and the leagues need to lock them at night.

**MOTION:** Stephen that we continue with our plans to put in workable bathrooms and connect to the sewer line.

**SECOND:** Paul Gibbons

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

**MOTION PASSED** **8-0**

Chris noted that the fields at Olympian Meadows are in horrible shape. We had Foresight develop plans to improve the far field in the back which is the softball field. Karen showed pictures to the board as to what the minor league field looked like on June 6, July 7 and August 14. Stephen said his concern is about little league and softball after their season ends. They signed a contract saying that they would maintain the fields. The major league field is taken care of.

**MOTION:** Stephen to send an e-mail to both softball and little league that if the fields are not put back to the condition they were in when the season started by September 11 then they will not get permission to use them next year and that includes putting all their equipment away and not leave anything on the field.

**SECOND:** Ilana Siegal

Paul said it is apparent to him that they have not made use of that field. That field in the past was the only field at Olympian Meadows. We should repurpose the entire area by removing the structures and allow the space to become a soccer field. Ilana noted we have had this problem with them before.

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b>	Terrance Chamberland	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Paul Gibbons	No
	William Meier	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Ilana Siegal	Yes
	Sridevi Reddy	Yes
	Karen Smith	No

**MOTION PASSED****6-2**

Karen and Stephen will write the letter

- B. Budget Update – not discussed
- C. Raine Amory/RSYP – for installation of Keen Ramps Mini ramp at Memorial Field Skate Park. (Tabled)

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Berkshire South (Tabled)
- B. Railroad Street Youth Project (Tabled)
- C. Charging for use of town spaces
- D. Lake Mansfield Task Force
- E. Michael Peretti/Tom Norton – planting trees at the Alice Bubriski Playground – Housatonic Village Commons (Tabled)
- F. Police Presence at Lake Mansfield and Memorial Field
- G. Lake Mansfield Beach Area – Christine Ward – Karen said it has been brought to her

attention by Christine Ward and Senta Reis that as we move forward with the installation of the playground could the work include the removal of the metal climber and the regrading and reseeding of the area between the beach and the new equipment. Bill said there is a dip behind the lifeguard area and the beach. If there is a lot of rain it can be filled with water. Bill noted that the metal structure is very popular. Chris will ask if the metal climber is to code and/or if it should be removed.

**7. CITIZEN SPEAK**

- A. James Wisnowski – resident of Grove Street said there is no need for a parking space at Grove Street Park.

**8. COMMISSIONERS SPEAK**

Julie said that it is the job of the committee to receive public input on projects. She noted that the citizens that are concerned about the parking lot could come back and attend future meetings as the design progresses.

**9. ADJOURNMENT - ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to adjourn

**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.m.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

Monday, September 19, 2022 @ 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

  
Carolyn Wichmann, Recording Secretary

**Because of technical issues the meeting adjourned without some items being discussed.**