

MINUTES  
PARKS COMMISSIONERS (VIA ZOOM)  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022  
5:15 PM.

**PRESENT: KAREN SMITH, PAUL GIBBONS, STEPHEN BANNON, JULIE ANIDJAR, TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND AND WILLIAM MEIER (LEFT AT 6:00 P.M.)**

**ABSENT: ILANA SIEGAL, SRIDEVI REDDY AND TOM NORTON**

**ALSO PRESENT:**  
**JOE ABERDALE**

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

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

**2. FEES TO USE BUILDINGS AND PARKS** – Karen noted the sheets with various fees are from 2016. There were subcommittee meetings with Kathy Plungis, Andy Troiano, and others. The Housatonic Community Center is being used by Berkshire Grown and they are paying \$250.00 a day for each time they use it. They are also doing the cleaning. Using a building and using a park are two different things. Each board member could check with two towns to see what they charge. Next week Mark and Joe are going to bring the capital budget to show where money is already assigned. BIFF and the Mahaiwe use the town hall park and tie it up for a weekend and are making money for their nonprofits. The Housatonic Community Center is different because it needs to be heated, lighted and cleaned. We may have to get the locks changed because of the number of keys that are out. We need to come up with a system for residence profit and not for profit and nonresidents groups. Terry said he thinks we should charge people who are making a profit.

Julie thought a clean-up fee should be charged and a vendor charge.

Stephen suggested charging the groups that cost us money.

Bill Meier said to ask for a donation.

After discussion, it was noted to figure a cost estimate to run the Housatonic Community Center. A fair fee needs to be determined for each group that is using the facilities.

Paul, Terry and Julie will return with a list of groups that use the facilities now and evaluate what would be a fair fee. Stephen noted that basketball refinishes the floors at the Housatonic Community Center.

Joe said he has an HVAC specialist who will look at the Police Station. He would like to bring him up to Housatonic as well.

**3. TIGHE AND BOND PARKS SURVEY**

The survey was reviewed. Karen noted we may want to do a list of all the hiking and walking trails. It was suggested to contact the Chamber of Commerce to see if people are stopping by to ask about hiking and walking trails. Over half the responders wanted better bike paths. Joe is going to let us know what our operative budget is. We have to decide what we want to do with Grove Street and Dewey School. Olds Maids Swimming pond needs to be improved. Next week we are going to look at the reports from Berkshire South and Railroad Street Youth in regard to the summer programs. Karen said information was received from Franklin Equipment Company in regard to pickle ball. They have pickle ball nets on wheels that also collapse. They are \$150.00 each. There is a lot of dead space in the stage area that could be used for storage. We could get some cages to store the equipment. Stephen suggested that Joe

look into taping the floor. Karen and Steve will go to Berkshire South to look at the taping in the gym for pickle ball.

**4. UPDATE ON OLYMPIAN MEADOWS**

Karen said nothing has been done on the Major or Minor league fields. The tarps are still there; the dumpster is gone and the porta-potties are still there because of football. A registered letter was sent to little league and said due to noncompliance of the contract, the minor league field will no longer be in their purview. There has been no response. Karen said she would like to know what it costs to maintain the fields. The minor league field was not used this year. We might as well repurpose the minor league field. We need to find out what it would cost to take the fencing down or redeploy it.

The plans should be done by the end of the year for Memorial Field and an RFP will go out in the spring next year.

The air pump on the bike stand needs to come in for the winter.

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to adjourn

**SECOND:** Terry Chamberland

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b>	Paul Gibbons	Yes
	Stephen Bannon	Yes
	Julie Anidjar	Yes
	Terry Chamberland	Yes
	Karen Smith	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED** **5-0**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 17, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann  
Recording Clerk