

MINUTES
PARKS COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING (VIA ZOOM)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022
5:15 PM.

PRESENT: Karen Smith, Paul Gibbons, Julie Anidjar, Ilana Siegal, Thomas Norton, William Meier, Sirdevi Reddy, Terrance Chamberland, Stephen Bannon.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to open the meeting.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 9-0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of October 11, 2022

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve as written.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 9-0

B. Minutes of October 17, 2022

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve as written.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 9-0

3. PARKS USAGE REQUEST:

A. Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to use Memorial Field on Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for setup and to set off fireworks from 7:20 p.m. to 7:35 p.m. Clean-up will be after the fireworks show is over and Sunday morning. (Discussion/Vote) Betsy Andrus was present to explain her request. Berkshire Fireworks spoke to the Fire Department in regard to the fireworks.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

VOTE: 8-1

B. Berkshire Men's Basketball to use the Housatonic Community Center Monday, Wednesday and Friday, (possibly Saturday) from 6:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. beginning November 2022 to November 2023. (Discussion/Vote) Tom Jordan was present to explain the request. Karen advised him that the liability insurance will expire soon and he needs to obtain a new one. He was also advised that the Community Center will be closed on Monday the 21st of November for some work that is being done. He was also told that Saturdays are not permissible because of other groups using it and Berkshire Grown. He said when they enter the building they make sure their shoes are clean and sweep the vestibule.

MOTION: Terry Chamberland to approve.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 9-0

4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- A. Memorial Field Update – The RFP for Memorial Field will be going out after the first of the year.
- B. Tighe and Bond – design of Grove Street Park and Dewey Park – Tabled for Dec. and January
- C. Giggle Park and Grove Street Park – Parks and Rec. needs to decide how much we want to spend on Grove and what people want. We voted to assist the grant for the insulation and lighting at the Housatonic Community Center. It looks like it is going to begin in the last week of January and the first two weeks of February and the community center will be closed.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Hiking and walking trails – Julie Anidjar – Julie was asked to put a press release out on the hiking and walking trails with language and a link. She was asked to check with Christine Ward in regard to the hiking and walking trails in Great Barrington.
- B. Update on Olympian Meadows repurpose. – Bill Meier said that a soccer field could put between the baseball fields and the Housatonic River. Joe Tonetti spoke on behalf of Little League. With regard to the field maintenance, we have hired help this fall and had the fields weeded and edged. We need to improve on communication. He noted that they do have use for the minor league field and the numbers were down because of COVID. Karen said she was going to ask the committee to table repurposing the file. We need to have a meeting in person with the league. Jason Gappa said they tried to address the condition of the field and would like a meeting to avoid problems in the future. We could put aside money for maintenance. Russell Hyde said he dropped off equipment at the shed for football.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to table the decision to repurpose the minor league field until such time we have met with little league hopefully in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

SECOND: Terry Chamberland

VOTE: 9-0

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Berkshire South - 2022 Summer Management Report – Mark Del Signore spoke on the summer management program. (A copy is attached to these minutes)
- B. Charging for use of town spaces – Terry Chamberland – Tabled until January.
- C. Lake Mansfield Task Force – Equipment is 50% complete.
- D. Michael Peretti/Tom Norton – planting trees at the Alice Bubriski Playground – Housatonic Village Commons – Trees are in and being watered.
- E. Jerry Day Donation \$1,426.76 was donated towards playground equipment at Grove Street Park.
- F. Railroad Street Youth Project – nobody was present.

7. CITIZEN SPEAK

8. COMMISSIONER SPEAK

9. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

December 19, 2022 @ 5:15 p.m.



Carolyn Wichmann

Recording Secretary