

**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING IN PERSON AND ZOOM**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**334 MAIN STREET**  
**GREAT BARRINGTON, MA**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023**  
**5:15 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**KAREN SMITH, CHAIR**  
**PAUL GIBBONS, VICE CHAIR**  
**THOMAS NORTON**  
**WILLIAM MEIER**  
**ILANA SIEGAL**  
**SRIDEVI REDDY**  
**TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND**  
**JULIE ANIDJAR**  
**STEPHEN BANNON**

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

A. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 P.M.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of February 21, 2023 (Discussion/vote)

**MOTION:** Tom Norton to approve

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**MOTION PASSED:** **6-0-3**

Terrance Chamberland Abstained

Karen Smith Abstained

Ilana Siegal Abstained

The commissioners who abstained were not present at the February 21, 2023 meeting.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:**

A. **Great Barrington Land Conservancy** to use the Lake Mansfield Beach Area on the following dates in 2023.

**Spring Yoga** – Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27. June 3, 10, 17, 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Summer Yoga** – Monday, Wednesday and Friday beginning June 25 through Sept. 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

**Fall Yoga** – Saturdays Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

It was noted that grading the area at Lake Mansfield is on the fall schedule.

B. **Great Barrington Little League** to use Olympian Meadows beginning April 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. It was noted that someone will be hired

at the beginning of the season and at the end to do the weeding. Little league will do the weeding during the season. It was noted that they may leave at the end of June  
They would meet with Joe Aberdale at the end of the season. No tournaments are planned for Great Barrington. One load of infield mix will be delivered. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Terrance Chamberland

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

It was noted that we need an in-service training on the mower. Mr. Tonetti and Mr. White and Ms. Storti were present.

C. Housatonic Improvement Committee to use the Alice Brubriski Park or Housatonic Community Center (in case of rain) on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Includes set up and take down for a picnic/family event. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve the use of the park or community center in case of rain.

**SECOND:** Thomas Norton

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

D. Pick Enroll, Inc. to use the Housatonic Community Center for basketball from April 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) 90% of the players are from Great Barrington and Housatonic. He noted they will make accommodations for Lacrosse, etc. There is an under 16 team and an over 17 team. They were instructed to have each team member and coach complete a waiver. It was noted that they would like to donate a portable Basketball rim to the center. They were advised to send the specs to Joe Aberdale.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Thomas Norton

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

E. Tom Jordan is interested in adding another day for basketball, either Saturday or Sunday at the Housatonic Community Center.

It was decided to start at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and go through 9:00 a.m. through October 31, 2023 and they will return after that date.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve the adult basketball group to use the Housatonic Community Center on Saturday morning from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

**SECOND:** Tom Norton

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

F. Berkshire County Youth Lacrosse to use the Housatonic Community Center on Thursdays on the following dates: March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13, and April 20<sup>th</sup> for indoor lacrosse practice from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Lauren Hyde was present. (Discussion/Vote) Lauren said she is looking for an area to use for practice while the ground is still wet. The kids would wear sneakers. There are indoor balls for indoor practices. There would be up to 15 kids. It was noted that Mr. Norton, Meier and Ms. Smith will go and watch on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lauren said she would talk to Matt and Patrick about the timing.

**MOTION:** Karen Smith to approve the Berkshire County Youth Lacrosse to use the Community Center on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members of the committee would observe how the floor is maintained and if everything is ok they would be allowed to use it for the rest of the time requested.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**MOTION PASSED** **8-1**

It was advised to have each player and coach complete a waiver of liability form.

G. Town of Great Barrington Summer Concert Series 334 Main Street, Lee Rogers to use the Town Hall Park Gazebo Wednesday and Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from June 9<sup>th</sup> to mid-September 2023. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Terrance Chamberland to approve.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

H. Great Barrington Milles/Berkshire Adult Baseball to use Memorial Field from April 1, 2023 to September 5, 2023 – Thursdays 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sundays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote) Tom Ingersoll was present. There needs to be a mower in-service training for all the groups that would be using the lawn mowers. The line machine should be repaired or replaced.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Thomas Norton

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

I. Southern Berkshire Babe Ruth to use Memorial Field Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to approve.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

J. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to use Memorial Field Saturday July 15, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. which includes setup. The tent will go up on Friday July 14 and be removed July 17. Diane Wortis and Janis Martinson were present. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

**SECOND:** Terrance Chamberland

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

#### 4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE

A. Memorial Field update – That will be in September.

B. Grove Street Park and Dewey Park – Sridevi and Julie were thinking of putting this on the next agenda in April or do a different public input meeting. We would like to renovate Grove and use Dewey as a blank slate and create an inviting space for parents and children but integrating the playground as a larger park and design a natural playground. Karen advised to Setup the framework and a date. We can make it a multiyear funds project and apply to CPA. Joe said we need to address the parking. There is only 4 spaces there. It might be a good idea to replace some items at Grove Street and work on Dewey Park. Julie asked if we could bring in a playground builder that has experience in creating natural playgrounds. The CDC wants to give the piece of property by the bridge on Grove Street to Parks.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Berkshire South - Not Present.

B. Lake Mansfield Task Force

C. Lake Mansfield Beach Area – new equipment – Joe Aberdale will follow-up

D. Railroad Street Youth Project – Regina East was present on Zoom. They have received applications for skate park attendants. They should have a good staff by May 1. They are still looking for a mentoring/skate park coordinator. Regina said she wanted to discuss the parking. Regina said she would forward the job description to the board secretary.

E. Scheduling of Community Center

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Update on Olympian Meadows repurpose** – Bill Meier, Tom Norton and Joe Aberdale met at Olympian Meadows last month. We decided not to make any major changes to the field. We can put in a soccer field, obtain the necessary equipment and basically goals. We can get a surveyor down there and we can lay it out so we can have a regulation field by expanding it out by two sides for the following year. One corner where the girls' softball field is to incorporate that corner as the softball field and purchase a movable backstop that is \$1,700.00 and have base cutouts so we have a soccer field and a softball field and a peewee football field. Bill said he located two soccer goals for \$4,752.00, bases for \$350.00 and a portable backstop with back and sides for \$1,700.00. Paul suggested doing a site visit to determine what can be best placed. This can be done at the next meeting.

**MOTION:** Paul Gibbons to spend up to \$5,000 to purchase two appropriately sized soccer goals

**SECOND:** Karen Smith

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

B. Changing the name of South Street Park to its original name of Church Memorial Park (Discussion/Vote) Correspondence was received requesting the South Street Park be renamed to its original name of Church Memorial Park. Craig-Okerstrom-Lang presented a historical analysis of the property that indicates that the park was deeded to the town in 1925 by the heirs of Col. George and Maria L. Church.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon that we change the name of the South Street Park to Church Memorial Park if we are able to put a plaque there

**SECOND:** William Meier

**MOTION PASSED** **9-0**

It was noted that if the Parks Commissioners are changing the name then the Historical Commission should help pay for the sign. It could be a joint effort.

7. **CITIZEN SPEAK**

None

8. **COMMISSIONER SPEAK**

Joe Aberdale said that Railroad Street Youth extended their contract and Berkshire South has agreed to staff Lake Mansfield. The Housatonic Playground will be on the April agenda under new business to discuss if Berkshire South will be staffing that. Berkshire South will send their summary of the program in 2022.


9. **NEXT MEETING**

Changed to April 12, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. Site visit will be at Olympian Meadows at 5:15 with the regular meeting at 5:45 p.m. in the Select board's meeting room.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann  
Recording Clerk