# PARKS AND RECREATION REGULAR MEETING IN PERSON AND ZOOM

# **TOWN HALL**

#### **334 MAIN STREET**

# **GREAT BARRINGTON, MA**

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 20 2023**

5:15 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR

PAUL GIBBONS, VICE CHAIR

**THOMAS NORTON** 

WILLIAM MEIER via zoom

ILANA SIEGAL Not Present

SRIDEVI REDDY Not Present

TERRANCE CHAMBERLAND

JULIE ANIDJAR

STEPHEN BANNON

# 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

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

Karen noted that since the appointment letters haven't been done yet, we will re-organize at the July meeting.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of May 15, 2023 Discussion/Vote)

MOTION:

Terry Chamberland to approve as written

SECOND:

Stephen Bannon

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 

Karen Smith Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes
Thomas Norton Yes
William Meier Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes

MOTION PASSED

7-0

Minutes of May 31, 2023 (Discussion/Roll Call Vote)

**MOTION:** 

Paul Gibbons to approve as written

SECOND: Te

Terrance Chamberland

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 

Karen Smith Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes
Thomas Norton Yes
William Meier Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes

Stephen Bannon

Abstained

## 3. PARKS USAGE REQUEST:

A. <u>Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative</u> to use the Housatonic Community Center for a fall flu clinic on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Jill Sweet was present to explain the request. Jill noted that she would change the 2 hour period from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. They would begin setup at 12:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE: Karen Smith Yes

Paul Gibbons Yes
Thomas Norton Yes
William Meier Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

B. Town of Great Barrington Summer Concert Series to use the Gazebo on Thursday and Saturday from 5:20 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for possible rain dates. (Discussion/Roll Call Vote) Lee was advised to contact St. James of any schedule changes.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE: Karen Smith Yes

Paul Gibbons Yes
Thomas Norton Yes
William Meier Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes

MOTION PASSED 7-0

#### 4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A Joe Aberdale – He noted the mats at Lake Mansfield have been removed, cleaned and put back. Bill Meier said that the mats around the swim area are lifting up because of the vegetation under them breaking down. Usually they put down weighted PVC pipe to hold them down.

Karen said there has been some difficulty with the survey. She requested Ellen Lahr contact Lisa about setting up a survey monkey. Tom said that two of the trees at the Housatonic Playground have died. Joe noted the trees will be replaced. Karen said to get the costs of the trees and how many would be needed and where they are to be put.

Tighe and Bond is going to come up with schematics for Dewey and Grove Street in July. Paul asked if the pot holes in the road going to Olympian Meadows can be filled in and leveled.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

A. <u>Soft ball field at Olympian Meadows</u> – Paul asked if the softball renovation is going to be included in the Memorial Field project. Joe said in a conversation with Foresight – we can refresh the Senior Softball Field. The infield needs some work and dugouts are needed. We can increase the quantities in the contract. Paul said the softball people need to have a plan if we do spend money to

renovate the field. Sheri Ross said we can present something to the families. Karen told softball to get a list with what they want to her and Joe. Sheri asked if someone is running a town tractor, who is liable for it? It was noted that the town has liability insurance. There was a training on the mowers.

- B. <u>Berkshire South Regional Community Center</u> Mark Del Signore Things are off to a great start at the lake. Housatonic is getting ready to open. We are buying materials for activities and Joe Aberdale and he are figuring out to best store what we have.
- C. <u>Railroad Street Youth</u> Molly Lovejoy there was a skate park orientation for the 6 skate park attendants who will be at the skate park this summer. They will also be first aid trained. Full time staffing will begin on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Devon Wagner is a new hire who is the skate park coordinator.

## 6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Christine Ward submitted a letter in regard to the bench that Simon's Rock Swim team donated in memory of Ruth Meier. She said it is greatly enjoyed so the GB Land conservancy would like to add two more benches to the beach area and they have the funds to cover the costs. They would like to donate one in memory of **Chrissy Moro** and her dad and the other one to the many community members who have given their time so generously in care of the lake. Karen said she is going to have Christine get in touch with Joe Aberdale so the correct benches are ordered.

MOTION:

Terry Chamberland to approve.

SECOND:

**Thomas Norton** 

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 

Karen Smith Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes
Thomas Norton Yes

William Meier left (6:00 p.m.)

Terrance Chamberland Yes Julie Anidjar Yes Stephen Bannon Yes

**MOTION PASSED** 

6-0

Joe Aberdale said that there will be no changes to the campus behind Town Hall. The gazebo is going to be moved to the back of the park.

Chris Rembold was invited to meet with the Fish and Wildlife people at Old Maids. The department is looking into making improvements to the river. They want to remove the dam. The deadline for submitting the grant is the end of July. The Fish and Wildlife will write the grant.

**MOTION:** 

Stephen Bannon to endorse the grant.

SECOND:

Julie Anidjar

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 

MOTION PASSED

Karen Smith abstained
Paul Gibbons No
Thomas Norton Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes
4-1-1

Joe noted he would write up the letter stating support.

#### 7. CITIZEN SPEAK:

A resident at 1026 Main Street, North said she would like to see more trees at the Housatonic Park rather than the shade sails. Maybe purchase more mature trees. She also said the fitness equipment is very well used. Karen said they have a donator who wants to donate additional fitness equipment. Julie said she would like to discuss the placement of the shade sails. The fence could be an anchor point.

#### 8. **COMMISSIONER SPEAK:**

Tom noted that the instruction stand for the exercise equipment is missing at Housatonic Park.

Paul said he would like to be included in the conversation for Memorial Field renovation.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to adjourn

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

ROLL CALL VOTE: Karen Smith Yes

Paul Gibbons Yes
Thomas Norton Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann Recording Secretary

4