

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR
PAUL GIBBONS, VICE CHAIR
THOMAS NORTON
PATRICIA SALVI
ILANA SIEGAL- Arrived at 5:15 p.m.
STEPHEN BANNON- Left at 5:10 p.m.
WILLIAM MEIER

NOT PRESENT:

LIZ HIRSH
CHARLES BOUTEILLER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. RE-ORGANIZATION

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to nominate Karen Smith as Chair.

SECOND: Patricia Salvi

VOTE: 5-0

Karen accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to nominate Paul Gibbons as Vice Chair.

SECOND: Patricia Salvi

VOTE: 5-0

Paul accepted the nomination.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes August 12, 2019

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Paul Gibbons

VOTE: 4-0 (Paul abstained as he was not present at the August 12, 2019 meeting)

3. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. GB Independent Story Telling request to use the Town Hall Park on September 26, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (continuation of Parks Usage Request from the August 12 meeting). Discussion/Vote – Jeff Van de Visse of GB Independent Story Telling was present. He explained that he is withdrawing the September 26, 2019 request date because of lack of attendance at the August 29th event. He said he would probably return next summer.

4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent -- Sean said he had a meeting with Tighe and Bond landscape architects to discuss creating an online data base of all the parks and the usage of the parks. Also they could create an asset management data base by compiling a list of all our equipment and capital costs associated with the replacement costs based on 5 to 10 year time lines. Originally there was a proposal to help us create a masterplan for Parks and Recreation as well as interacting with the community. They can help us with what the parks are used for and what age groups. Stephen said he would like to see the proposal. It could be part of the CPA funding.

B. Memorial Field Maintenance – Karen noted there has been a retaining wall put in. Sean advised it is on Power House property. There is going to be a meeting with the Town Manager and Benchmark. Jennifer Tabakin gave them permission a year ago to finish their section of the project prior to ours. Sean noted that last year it was discussed to have a landscaper come in to deal with the weeds on the field but it was never followed up on. Sean said he would obtain a proposal on the cost.

C. Dewey Park Review – Liz Hirsh. Nick Diller said they haven't met.

- D. Open Space and Recreation Task Force – Liz Hirsch – Karen read a statement from Liz that noted they haven't met and there is nothing new. The next open space meeting is September 19, so she will have more information for the October Parks meeting. We are in the process of setting up a stake holder meeting and survey.
- E. 5 Year Capital Plan/Discussion of operating budget – we will be approaching the budget season in the next few months.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Location of Gaga Ball Pit – Ilana said she would like to see it at the South Street Park or Dewey. We have to see how movable it is. Chris Tucci said if he looks at the type of pit it is, he could see how movable it is. It should be accessible to town. Karen said we could look at it in the next two or three months and decide where we want to put it. We could also look at Grove Street as the next capital improvement. The swings are going in at Dewey Park in the spring per Sean. Development of games at parks will be on the next agenda.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Berkshire South – Nick noted that the parks programs have ended. There were no major events. He said he would send a report to Karen for next month's meeting.

B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Sean McTeigue said he would have a report at the next meeting. The town could look into surveillance of the park. Karen asked what needs to be done structurally at the skate park. The skate-lite on the bowl needs to be painted. We could replace the rim pieces to the mini pad. Sean VanDeusen said he would look into the cost of the inflatable skating rink in a couple of sizes.

C. Police Presence at Memorial Field Skate Park – Officer Storti was there in July.

D. Extending Swim Area at Lake Mansfield – Sean said he contacted New England Aquatics about the removal of the weed fabric and also the cost of extending the swimming area. This measurements will be taken to see what the cost per square foot is to extend it. Stadium Systems is getting him a quote on the cost of a new basketball hoop for Grove Street Park. Nick Pol and Bill Meier went down to the lake and noted a whole section with all cat tails. Sean noted that the lake is under the conservation commission and DEP. Equipment can't go anywhere near the wetlands. Sean said you could possibly remove the weeds by hand. He noted he would see what can be done by the next meeting. Sean advised Bill to bring up the weed situation to the Lake Mansfield Task Force. Bill said he thinks we could do chemical treatment, but the ecology of the lake changes. The other way is with the weed harvester. Sean said he would need to discuss it with the Conservation Commission agent. The other way is weevils but it doesn't work.

E. Policy on Private Parties – No policy as private parties do not fall under the parks jurisdiction. There should be no large groups from camps as it would overwhelm the lifeguards at the lake and cause a liability issue.

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

None

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:**

Ilana asked why the Housatonic Community Center was not under the parks jurisdiction. It was noted that the Community Center was never included in the RFP. It was noted we should obtain community input. The gazebo behind Town Hall is also under the jurisdiction of the Select Board.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Next Meeting is **Tuesday**, October 15, 2019 – Mason Library 5:00 P.M.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Carolyn Wickmann, Recording Secretary