

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
MASON LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
OCTOBER 9, 2018
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

KAREN SMITH, CHAIR

PAUL GIBBONS – VICE CHAIR

THOMAS NORTON

PATRICIA SALVI

CHRIS WILTSHIRE – NOT PRESENT

ILANA SIEGAL – ARRIVED AT 5:10 P.M.

STEPHEN BANNON

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of September 17, 2018

MOTION: Paul Gibbons to approve.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Dylan McCormick to use Memorial Field for a pick-up softball game on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. After discussion, it was decided he didn't need permission to use the park for a pick-up game.

3. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent –Sean said he will be meeting with Tom from Mahawie Tent to take measurements at the Town Hall Park to see if we can change the way the tents are laid out to accommodate the extension of the park. Ed Abrams, Karen and Amy Rudnick met because the Mahawie Theater was concerned what effect the expansion of the park would have on the way the tents are put up for their galas.

Sean noted the trees in the parks don't fall under the Tree Warden's purview, so he suggested we put a line item in the budget next year under tree installations and removal of trees in the parks. It could also be added to the Tree Wardens budget. We have not checked the trees at the parks or the cemeteries. Tom said there are some crab apple trees in the Housatonic Park need to be trimmed. Karen asked that the Tree Warden give a report on the trees.

Peter Jensen has started working on the River Walk Trail. Sean said he gave him permission to put his equipment at the Little League Fields because he will be doing work in both sections.

Dig Safe has been called in and we will be putting the last two foundations in for the bike racks.

The ropes have been pulled in at the lake. The lifeguard stand and picnic tables will be moved to the cemetery.

The Gaga Ball court has been delayed because of the price. The South Street exercise equipment can't be moved because it has been set in 4' footings and bolted in.

B. Berkshire South – Steven Leonard – Steven said he did some research on the American Academy of Dermatology website and they have information for patrons in regard to sun protection. We are thinking of doing a summer kick off at the Housatonic Park and Lake Mansfield to educate on sun protection and inform people of programs we are offering. He said they would like to do a grill out next year to get people to come to the parks, i.e., grill hotdogs, have soda, etc. There is some help to get some shade equipment, but we are required to have a program in place for a year before we can apply. Steven will e-mail the end of year reports to the secretary who will forward them to the parks commissioners. The lock on the shed at Lake Mansfield needs to be replaced.

C. RSYP – Sean McTeigue – No incident reports. At the beginning of the summer one kid had a broken wrist. He just headed out. The mini quarter pipe has two holes in it and needs to be fixed. Karen said we need pictures and more detail. Sean said some of the equipment can't be fixed in house. He also submitted a skate park report dated 10/9/18.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Dewey Park – Community Input – East Mountain Neighborhood – Karen said we would like input as to how the residents of the Dewey Park neighborhood envision the use of the park. A site map would be good to have so we can see how much room there is. There is a swing set there but it was hit by a car and needs to be replaced. Nick Diller said he asked Martha Klay to e-mail people and we got some great feedback about what could be added.

Robert Slonaker, 12 Gilmore – the open field to the left of the court house had a backstop that hasn't been replaced. A pollinator garden was also a suggestion.

Andrew Blechman – 14 Gilmore – he suggested putting up a basketball hoop on one end of the parking lot, something for young children, shade area with benches, swings, grills and trees. It was noted that a fence is being proposed to be put along the road where the backstop was.

Fionn, (age 6) 37 Cottage Street – he said he would like a playground in one area and an open space to play Frisbee, kickball or tag.

Martha Klay read responses to her e-mail to various neighbors.

Christine Congdon – swings, space for bike riding. Activities for young children as well as more challenging equipment for older kids. Open space is also important.

Neil Hirsch – elements good for multiple stages of development.

Emily Devoti – 37 Cottage – open space for just running around/water fountain.

David Carter – 133 Cottage Street suggested hiring a professional park designer.

Tom Norton asked the neighbors develop a wish list with a site plan. Then we can look at the cost.

A sign with a temporary name would be a good start. Sean will send a site plan to Nick Diller. Ellen Smith said that she knows some people who would be interested in weeding the Town's gardens under the Senior Work off Program.

B. Handicapped Swing - Karen said there has been a request by 5 parents, who have physically and emotionally challenged kids, if we could purchase handicapped accessible swings. The cost is \$245.00 each. They would be put in at any existing parks. Karen asked that the commissioners consider this. One would be put at Dewey, one at Giggle and one at Park Street in the spring. They are plastic but they are high in the back so the kids have support and you can strap them in. They are three different sizes, so we would start with the mid-size.

MOTION: Stephen Bannnon to approve purchasing 3 swings.

SECOND: Pat Salvi

VOTE: 7-0

Karen said we are starting with these to see if they are acceptable. She noted because we have a number of challenged children that we may want to start thinking about equipment for. Kristen Flynn will come back with some information.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Library, if available.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Recording Secretary