PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES
Regular Meeting via Zoom and in person at 334 Main Street
Great Barrington MA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023
5:15 OLYMPIAN MEADOWS 551 MAIN STREET FOR A SITE VISIT
5:45 REGULAR MEETING IN SELECTBOARD'S MEETING ROOM

****ALL VOTES ARE ROLL CALL***

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**
   A. **Roll Call Vote** – Present: Karen Smith, William Meier, Sridevi Reddy, Stephen Bannon, Terrance Chamberland, Julie Anidjar, Ilana Siegal (via zoom) Tom Norton (not present)

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
   A. Minutes of March 20, 2023 (Discussion/Roll call vote)
   **MOTION:** Terrance Chamberland to approve the minutes as written.
   **SECOND:** Stephen Bannon
   **ROLL CALL VOTE:**
   - William Meier: Yes
   - Stephen Bannon: Yes
   - Paul Gibbons: Yes
   - Sridevi Reddy: Yes
   - Terrance Chamberland: Yes
   - Julie Anidjar: Yes
   - Karen Smith: Yes
   - Ilana Siegal: Yes

   **MOTION PASSED**

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**
   A. **Great Barrington Land Conservancy for Summer Volunteer Workdays:**
   Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to clean outside of garbage/recycle containers and repaint the tops of picnic tables.
   **MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.
   **SECOND:** William Meier
   **ROLL CALL VOTE:**
   - William Meier: Yes
   - Stephen Bannon: Yes
   - Paul Gibbons: Yes
   - Sridevi Reddy: Yes
   - Terrance Chamberland: Yes
   - Julie Anidjar: Yes
   - Karen Smith: Yes
   - Ilana Siegal: Yes

   **MOTION PASSED**

   Saturday May 20th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for litter clean-up, mulching of trees and shrubs, beach area and planting of annuals.
   **MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve.
   **SECOND:** William Meier
   **ROLL CALL VOTE:** William Meier: Yes
MOTION PASSED

Saturday, June 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for litter cleanup, clearing limbs and invasive removal.
Saturday, July 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m./preregister/group size limited to 10 to search and identify fern species.

(Discussion/Roll call vote)
MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
SECOND: William Meier

ROLL CALL VOTE:
William Meier Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes
Sridevi Reddy Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Karen Smith Yes
Ilana Siegal Yes

MOTION PASSED

8-0

B. Great Barrington Land Conservancy:
Sunday, August 27, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a fundraiser at beach and picnic area featuring live bluegrass and food (Discussion/Roll call vote) Christine Ward was present to explain. She noted they would obtain the proper permits. They would ask for a donation as it is a fund raiser.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
SECOND: William Meier

ROLL CALL VOTE:
William Meier Yes
Stephen Bannon Yes
Paul Gibbons Yes
Sridevi Reddy Yes
Terrance Chamberland Yes
Julie Anidjar Yes
Karen Smith Yes
Ilana Siegal Yes

MOTION PASSED

8-0

4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

A. Grove Street Park and Dewey Park – Julie and Sridevi said they would present photos of what they are proposing at the May 15 Parks Meeting. They noted they would like to focus on Dewey Park. It was noted they would tentatively schedule a meeting for public input on May 31, 2023.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Schedule a dedication to credit the donors of the New Playground Equipment at Lake Mansfield.
MOTION: Karen to schedule a dedication to credit the donors of the playground equipment at Lake Mansfield.
SECOND: Paul Gibbons
ROLL CALL VOTE: William Meier  Yes
Stephen Bannon  Yes
Paul Gibbons  Yes
Sridevi Reddy  Yes
Terrance Chamberland  Yes
Julie Anidjar  Yes
Karen Smith  Yes
Ilana Siegal  Yes

MOTION PASSED  8-0
Karen said she would contact Chris Rembold about doing it.

B. Lighting at Olympian Meadows - Joe noted to replace 3 banks of lights (2 lights per pole) would be $6,500. It was noted that the lights are not appropriate for baseball.
MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve spending $6,500 for the lights at Olympian Meadows.
SECOND: William Meier
ROLL CALL VOTE: William Meier  Yes
Stephen Bannon  Yes
Paul Gibbons  Yes
Sridevi Reddy  Yes
Terrance Chamberland  Yes
Julie Anidjar  Yes
Karen Smith  Yes
Ilana Siegal  Yes

MOTION PASSED  8-0

C. Restricting the use of Glyphosate containing chemicals on Town owned and/or managed land.
MOTION: Stephen Bannon to restrict the use of Glyphosate containing chemicals on Town owned or managed land.
SECOND: Terrance Chamberland
ROLL CALL VOTE: William Meier  Yes
Stephen Bannon  Yes
Paul Gibbons  No
Sridevi Reddy  Yes
Terrance Chamberland  Yes
Julie Anidjar  Yes
Karen Smith  Yes
Ilana Siegal  Yes

MOTION PASSED  7-1

D. Berkshire South – Report on Housatonic Park/Lake Mansfield and discussion for FY24 – Mark Del Signore was present via zoom. Joe Aberdale noted that the contract that was issued last year has a one year extension. Janise Lucey in her report said the lifeguard salaries may have to be increased. The estimated cost to run the Housatonic Playground is $17,000. Mark also noted that it has been a challenge hiring lifeguards and the rates have increased for retention reasons. The cost for 78 days of service for two lifeguards and one park attendant for parking control is $49,000 or $622 a day. Berkshire South will return to the May 15 meeting with an abbreviated plan for the Housatonic Program. The opening of Lake Mansfield and closing may be altered as well. There is also a possibility of eliminating the park attendant.

6. OLD BUSINESS:
A. Lake Mansfield Task Force - No updates.
B. Railroad Street Youth Project – Regina said they have a new senior mentoring coordinator – Her name is Molly Lovejoy. She will be overseeing the skate park coordinator. They will be doing the reports each month. Interviews for the attendants are starting. There will be a half day orientation for the attendants. They are in the process of hiring a mentoring skate park coordinator.

C. Pickle Ball Pilot Program Update – Ann spoke about the pickle ball program. Currently it is Tuesday and Friday, there is 2 slots, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30. It would be nice to expand it into Saturday.

MOTION: William Meier that Great Barrington residents can bring a guest as long as they sign a waiver. Additional hours will be open at the Housatonic Community Center to be decided by Team Reach Advisory Team. The additional hours are not to interfere with Basketball or the Farmer’s Market

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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MOTION PASSED 8-0

D. Update on Olympian Meadows repurpose – Bill Meier and Tom Norton – It will be lined. William said in the future we will need a registration sign up. We can produce a calendar for Olympian Meadows. If someone wants to use the field, they would have to appear before the committee. There should be no organized groups. Paul said we have to make sure there are no defects in the field. The bases that are there should be removable or set in.

7. CITIZEN SPEAK Vivian Orlowski noted appreciation on behalf of the Agricultural Commission on the parks support of not using the Glyphosate containing material on town owned and managed land.

8. COMMISSIONER SPEAK

Terry Chamberland said he went by the Housatonic Playground when there was a ½ day of school and there were approximately 50 or 60 kids there.

9. ADJOURNMENT – ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to adjourn.

SECOND: Terrance Chamberland

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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MOTION PASSED 8-0

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 15, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.

Carolyn Wichmann, Recording Clerk