PARKS COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: KAREN SMITH, CHAIR
PAUL GIBBONS, VICE CHAIR, ARRIVED 5:30 P.M.
STEPHEN BANNON - LEFT AT 5:20 P.M
TOM NORTON
PATRICIA SALVI - LEFT AT 6:10 P.M
CHARLIE BOUTELLEUR

ABSENT: ILANA SIEGAL
WILLIAM MEIER
LIZ HIRSH

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
   A. Minutes September 9, 2019
   MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
   SECOND: Patricia Salvi
   VOTE: 5-0

3. PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:
   A. Berkshire International Film Festival to use the Town Hall Park on May 28, 2020 to May 31, 2020 to celebrate BIFF’s 15th anniversary season. (Discussion/Vote) Lauren Ferin was present to explain the request.
   MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve.
   SECOND: Patricia Salvi
   VOTE: 5-0

   B. Festival Latino of the Berkshires 25th Anniversary to use Town Hall Park on September 26, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. to celebrate Hispanic heritage. (Discussion/Vote) – Tabled until insurance certificate is available.

   C. (Not on the Agenda) Betsy Andrus, Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, to use Memorial Field for Fireworks on December 14, 2019. – No Action - Tabled until next meeting in November.

4. PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:
   A. Updates from Sean VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent. – A Needs Assessment of the Parks was received from Tighe and Bond. (This will be on the November Agenda). Minor league field has been rebuilt. Progress has started on the Giggle Park expansion. We are waiting to hear on the weed fabric removal and the fabric extension cost. The nets have been ordered for Memorial Field Baseball. The extension of the trail along the river from Searles Castle south to the Little League Field has started.
   B. Memorial Field Maintenance – There are no plans to do anything right now
   C. Dewey Park/Grove St. Park Review – Liz Hirsch and Karen Smith - Karen read an update from Liz Hirsch. The residents of Dewey Park would like a fence, water and benches. The timetable for work is the following: October survey development, issue the surveys in November, meet with partner organizations in November and December and a community meeting in January.
   D. Open Space and Recreation Task Force – Liz Hirsch – same as above.
   E. 5 Year Capital Plan/Discussion of operating budget – Tabled.

5. OLD BUSINESS:
   A. Development of Games at Parks – Location of Gaga Ball, Tether Ball – February or March agenda.
   B. Housatonic Community Center and Gazebo – should it be under parks jurisdiction –
   MOTION: Tom Norton to propose to the Town Manager to put the administration of the Gazebo and the Housatonic Community Center under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation.
   SECOND: Patricia Salvi
   VOTE: 5-0

Karen said she would talk to the Town Manager about this.
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
   
   **A. Berkshire South** – Nick Pohl reported on the attendance at the lake and the needs. He noted the attendance at the Housatonic School playground was sporadic. He noted that one request was for sun protection in the form of shade. Pat noted that there is a grant from the American Academy of Dermatology for shade structures. She noted she would forward the information to Nick. A garbage can and a recycle container at the Housatonic Park along with a permanent rules board are needed. Nick noted he would work on the rules board.
   
   **Lake Mansfield** – It was noted that the average number of people at Lake Mansfield is 232 per day. Sundays were the busiest with an average of 300 to 400 people in attendance. The parking is an issue. Karen noted she would speak to the Town Manager about the parking issue. Nick noted that a new umbrella is needed and the changing area needs some repairs. Nick noted he would return to the March meeting with some prices on binoculars. A code lock for the shed door and a thermometer to check the water temperature would also be good.
   
   **B. Railroad Street Youth Project** - Not Present
   
   **C. Extending Swim Area at Lake Mansfield** – waiting to hear from the people who install the fabric.
   
   **D. Skating Rink** – Memorial Field – tabled

7. **CITIZENS SPEAK:**
   
   Chris Wiltshire – He would like to plant Chinese chestnuts at the skate park area. The commissioners noted more detail is needed. More information is needed. It was suggested he contact the Tree Warden for input.

8. **COMMISSIONERS SPEAK:** None

9. **NEXT MEETING**
   
   Next Meeting is **Tuesday, November 12, 2019** – Mason Library 5:00 P.M.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**
    
    6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

Carolyn Wielmann

Recording Secretary