

**Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
April 12, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman Gerard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Gerard Smith (GS), Mike Krenesky (MK), Chris Bielik (CB)

Others Present: 8 members of the public

GS – moment of silence for Frank Semplenski.

2. Read & Approval Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion made to approve Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 03.08.2021 & Special Meeting Minutes of 3.25.2021 the BOS/BOF Joint Budget Workshop held on 3.16.2021 and 3.23.2021, CB/MK, all ayes.

3. Budget Transfers – GS - 3 transfers all Fire/EMS related totaling \$11,500 to cover COVID certifications, 10 pagers and the FD ceiling on the apparatus floor repair. These transfers are coming from mandated equipment, EMS training and building maintenance. Motion to approve and forward to BOF MK/CB, all ayes.

4. Comments from the Public

Bernadette Dionne – president of BF Senior Center inquiring about when the center can reopen to the Seniors so they can have their meeting. GS – we are going to discuss that under COVID 19 tonight. The Center is currently open for town meetings, but we will discuss that further down on the agenda.

CB – point of order, since there is a large crowd here that is concerned with that agenda item, I would like to make a motion to amend tonight's agenda and move item 18c. to become new agenda item number 5 and adjust the rest of the agenda as necessary, seconded by MK, all ayes.

5. COVID 19 Update – GS – the update that we have is that we have been in contact with NVHD and following the CDC Guidelines. We have opened town, we are holding meetings, and are doing the vaccine clinics currently at the center. We have opened the Senior Center to various groups, therefore bookings for the Senior Center will be done by my office with a calendar. I would say that as far as the Seniors meeting at the Senior Center, they will have to check if it is available. I will follow up with NVHD as to whether cooking and/or serving food will be permitted. Booking the Center is key because once it is used, it is cleaned prior to the next event and we need to schedule that accordingly. Bernie Dionne noted that the Seniors will not be serving food. We just want to hold our meetings and maybe bingo. We are going to by all the guide rules. All of the Seniors attending have already had their two shots. We would like to get together in the

afternoons a few days a week. GS – only during the daytime? Bernie – yes. GS – how often? Bernie – we would like all 5 but we are happy with 3. GS – what times? Bernie – 10a-3p. GS – you will have to call Kerry and have her check the calendar. I want to hear back from NVHD and get their clearance. Bernie – on meeting days it could be about 12-15 people max. MK – we have always had a challenge with the way tables are set up. They will not be set up how you would expect them, because there are various events being held here. The room will never look the same and you may have to move tables. CB – given the membership of the Senior Center, I would be shocked if the majority if not all of them have already had their vaccines and passed the two week wait period which gives the CDC guideline levels of protection necessary to meet in small groups if they follow the same guidelines and they seem willing to do that. It seems like something that is doable so long as we follow the protocols. GS – give me a day or two Bernie to connect with NVHD because there are specific guidelines for Senior Center. I will get that flyer and information for you. CB – do we know what any of the neighboring towns are doing? GS – some never closed and others are still closed. It is all over the map. Bernie – thank you for listening to us and thank you for your awesome job.

6. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to approve Resident Trooper Report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes.

GS – noted Officer Markette has retired.

7. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report.

Motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Plant report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes.

GS – Tom Carey will start attending WPCA meetings. There seems to be miscommunication on both sides, so I believe having Tom there with help clear up confusion.

8. Report of Public Works

Motion to approve Public Works report as presented, CB/MK, all ayes.

GS – they have been doing a lot of work with the Engineers.

9. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to approve the report for the Fire Marshal as presented – CB/MK, all ayes.

10. Report of the Finance Manager

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes.

11. Report of the Tax Collector

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes.

GS – the numbers are up significantly.

12. Report of the Town Treasurer

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – CB/MK, all ayes.

13. Report of the Town Clerk

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes.

14. Report from Economic Development - No report provided.

15. Report of the Library

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – CB/MK, all ayes.

GS – they are really busy, and I think the Library is doing well, even open to the public.

16. Report of the Fire Department

Motion made to approve the Fire Department report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes.

17. Any other reports

- a. Report of the Custodian – GS – Motion made to approve the report as presented, CB/MK, all ayes.**

GS – I had a conversation with Peter about the cleanliness of Town Hall. We are going to be putting in additional elbow grease.

- b. Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly) Motion made to approve the report as presented, MK/CB, all ayes.**

GS – she has stepped up with conjunction with Kerry in handling the COVID vaccine clinics. It has been going quite well. Kerry organizes them and gets them rolling and then Sue is there during the clinic. Kudos to them!

- c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer** – GS – February and March report received. GS – it looks like a little of everything. Pat was looking to do a partnership for our dogs with Watertown, but Naugatuck is more than willing to take our Dogs. We need to submit a proposal to them, and they will get it passed. MK – in his written report it says dog of leash in all three parks. There are no details about fines, if they were let go, etc. Does our ordinance have a fine fee? Should he be fining them? GS – it is in both reports. We seem to have a big issue regarding roaming dogs. GS – on his report it does have a column for action taken. MK – there is a spot on his form for total infractions summons and it appears it is always zero. GS – ordinance states each violation is \$50.00, we just need confirmation on who would issue the fine. ACO needs to clarify how many infractions were issued and to please note them on the report. CB – maybe he is issuing warnings, but how many warnings are issued before corrective action. MK/CB, all ayes.
- d. **Park Trails Report** – GS – we had a discussion and have gone around about the stickers. There are some extra monies in the town line items and he has a variety of professional contractor willing to work with him and Steve from Park & Rec. and take a look and get a number of what it would cost to shore up the property at Carrington Pond. We are not spending a lot of money there. I told him if he has volunteers and we have some extra money and it is not a monumental task, we can shore up the roof and keep it from deteriorating any further. The spending limit is \$10,000. He is going to bring them out and compile a scope of work and then present it to us. MK – is the intend that any surplus funds in the Park & Rec overall budget makes up that \$10,000. GS – it is coming from Building Maintenance in Public Works budget. CB – it will be interesting to see what they can do with that budget. Motion to approve the parks report as presented, MK/CB, all ayes.
- e. **BOE Report** – GS – unable to open the report provided.

18. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

- a. Letter from the BHC No. 1 from the Treasurer. This letter shows the reconciled books and what the town will be getting. It also proposes what can be done with the extra funds. We can discuss this further at the BOF meeting to discuss how to utilize funds. This would not change until next fiscal year.

19. Old Business

- a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update** MK – we are moving forward and making plans for the event. I would like to put a motion on the floor to set Sunday, June 27, 2021 from 1:00PM – 5:00PM as our initial kickoff 150th celebration/birthday event at the Fire House. I am trying to do it 1:00PM – 4:00PM. At this point, I am estimating about 45 minutes to an hour for us to go through the opening remarks and speeches. The Lt. Governor, Senator Murphy and Nicole Klarides-Ditria have already committed to attending. As part of the overall program, we have Fred Simpson who has a program written on Beacon Falls which can be anywhere from 30-90 minutes. GS – this will be in the back of the Fire House? MK – yes, rain or shine. The Library will be doing events for the kids. The Lions and Rotary Clubs will be attending in addition to several food trucks. I believe we have enough to keep people busy for 3 hours. We could get 10 people or 1000 people, we do not know. Currently we have 3 legacy sponsors and numerous others. This event should be paid for. GS – what about the fireworks we discussed? MK – that is a secondary event that would happen around September and again we do not know yet if Family Day will happen, but Park & Recreation must use their fireworks money. GS – they still have the deposit from last fiscal year. MK - I need an accounting from Park and Rec. I would like to transfer those funds to our account if they are not going to

use them. However, if they have a project, they can use them on then they should. We are also looking to have people pick their decade and dress up, so we have a lot of events going to the June 27th date. GS – the fact that you have the food trucks and other things the time frame is good. MK – so the motion is to set Sunday, June 27, 2021 from 1:00PM – 5:00PM as our initial kickoff 150th celebration/birthday event at the Fire House, seconded by CB, all ayes.

- b. **Ordinance Committee** – GS – they are in full swing and inundating every Board/Commission with updating information, but they are getting through it. There is so much information to be changed/updated.
- c. **Burton Road Update** – GS – we just received that we have the COG's support to move the project forward while the road is closed. We cut some trees that were encroaching on the road. SLR is working to get the plans ready to go out to bid. This is a top priority. MK – Rob asked me to look because I have monitored this the last several years and he is correct that the wall over the brook has moved at least ¾ of an inch. I have been marking it. GS – and that is with no traffic going up the road. MK – and it looks like the road bucked and settled more.
- d. **Rimmon School House Land Surveying** – GS – we have approved to do the surveying. MK – yes, for Judson to complete the surveying. We asked them to hold off because we had some confusion with the property. I had Rob call CBYD for them to lay out the electrical, fiber optics and drains that go through that property. When you look at the property and the way it is mapped out, as you go up Church Street to where the stone wall is, that is where the boundary line is. At the front you have about 35ft of front that goes back in a pie shape. The bank would have to be cut out. The schoolhouse should fit there but we have some potential earth to move and/or put in a retaining wall. GS – yes, or they may be able to slope it, which would keep the cost down. MK – the recommendation is to have them go forward with the survey and then for them to provide the dimensions of the building and for them to provide the best location on site and cost. GS – please ask him to get us a proposed price.

20. New Business

- a. **Appointments & Reappointments**
 - **Brownfields Commission** – Still vacant.
 - **EDC** – GS – motion to extend current expiring members to 6.1.21.
- b. **Tax Refunds** – GS – **entertain a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$93.98 CB/MK, all ayes.**
- c. **Vote to waive the \$20,000 competitive bid threshold requirement re: Pent Road Athletic Courts**
- d. **Rehabilitation/Resurface project.** GS – the reason behind this is that our Financial Policy does give us the option to vote to waive this which makes it easier for us to get bids from those who use subs in the project, to move forward without having to go and get three bids which would slow the process. **GS-Motion made to waive the \$20,000 competitive bid threshold requirement re: Pent Road Athletic Courts Rehabilitation/Resurface project, MK/CB, CB** – we have done this before where it is economically interested in the town to do this and this situation is that. **All ayes**
- e. **Vote to award the 20-10R On-Call Tree Service**
GS - **Motion to award the 20-10R On-Call Tree Service to Ed the Treeman, MK/CB, all ayes.**
- e. **State grant program completion of preconstruction activities project certification**
 - **State Project No. 06-125 Reconstruction of Beacon Valley Road**
GS – we are inundated with things we need to do for Beacon Valley Road, and this is one of them. This was drawn up with our Engineer and will become a part of our STEEP Grant. **GS – entertain a motion to approve the State grant program**

completion of preconstruction activities project certification, State Project No. 06-125 Reconstruction of Beacon Valley Road, MK/CB, all ayes.

f. Fair Housing Resolution – GS – annually we must vote for our Fair Housing Resolution. I entertain a motion to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution for the Town of Beacon Falls, CB/MK, all ayes.

21. Executive Session – None

22. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:53 P.M. CB/MK, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk