

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
March 9, 2020
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: Mary Ellen Fernandes, Gary Komarowsky, Citizens News, Dino Varelli

2. Read & Approval Minutes from Previous Meetings

Minutes from February 10, 2020 regular monthly meeting.

Motion made to approve the minutes as presented

MK/CB, all ayes

3. Comments from the Public –

Gary Komarowsky – Unable to find achievements for past meetings, minutes and/or agendas on new town website. Notifications are not being pushed out to public and more of our residents should be involved in the town government. Kudos for adding a Park Ranger in the town and what happened at State Park was terrible. Hopefully, having a park ranger will assist with issues like that moving forward.

Dino Varelli – Thank you for the substantial increase in police on the roads. I have been to meetings for the past 8 years and have always asked for more police on the roads. I am a runner and the additional presence has been helpful in slowing down drivers. Thank you for putting them out there for all our residence safety. 2nd comment to the public is, I read an article in the Citizens News and I am dumbfounded on how the former First Selectman can hire two engineering firms for the same work, and still be sitting as a board member from an ethical standpoint. Quoted by the Citizen's News, that you were "busy at election time" is a dumbfounded response on that mistake and you should resign as Selectman. Now, we have this pandemic in town and must take money from other items, to cover your mistake. You are supposed to have the best interest in the town. Why if the work was identical is the price different?

Mary Ellen Fernandes – None of us know what went on by the Board of Selectman, but I do know that there were two Selectman currently here that were on the Board then and we shouldn't be finger pointing.

4. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to approve Resident Trooper Report for February as presented

MK/CB all ayes

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**
Motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Plant report as presented
CB/MK, all ayes
6. **Report of Public Works**
Motion to approve Public Works report as presented
MK/CB, all ayes
MK - Street Sweeping will be in April and bulky waste is 4/27. CB – Hazardous Material Collection is scheduled for 4/4.
7. **Report of the Fire Marshal**
Motion to approve Fire Marshal reports for January and February as presented
CB/MK, all ayes
8. **Report of the Finance Manager**
Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting
MK/CB, all ayes
9. **Report of the Tax Collector**
Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting - None
10. **Report of the Town Treasurer**
Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting
MK- we should note that the Treasurer has but the percentage of interest in the report per BOF recommendation.
MK/CB, all ayes
11. **Report of the Town Clerk**
Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting
CB/MK, all ayes
12. **Report from Economic Development** - No report provided.
13. **Report of the Library**
Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting
CB/MK, all ayes
14. **Report of the Fire Department**
Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting
CB/MK, all ayes
Seymour and Naugatuck all responded at today's brush fire on Feldspar. Great job done by all.
15. **Any other reports**
 - a. **Report of the Custodian**
Motion to approve the report as presented - MK/CB, all ayes
 - b. **Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly) - none**
 - c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer**
Report is going in the right direction but still need more detail. GS – Kerry please obtain ACO report detail from other towns.
Motion to approve the report as presented - CB/MK, all ayes

- d. **Community Media Center Building Committee (Previous Meeting Minutes) NONE – Mtg Canc.**
- e. **Park Trails Report** – GS this is from our newly appointed Park Ranger and he is ambitious and a true asset. He is doing a great job and works closely with Steve Moffat from Park & Rec/Public Works. CB – Steve is assigned to the parks department of Public Works with makes that relationship more synergistic.
Motion to approve the report as presented - CB/MK, all ayes

16. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

- The Registrars have changed their office hours – Kathy usually works 10a-12:30p on Thursday and will now work 11a-1:30p on Tuesday.
- Letter from Region 16 regarding surplus issues.
- Letter from residence on Oakwood Drive – having a big problem with ATV, quads, dirt bikes etc. Police went to each house with the letter and urged them to call us if they see more ATV, quad activities. CB – that is a habitual problem in that area.
- Letter from United Day School asking for our permission to run the annual Lemonade Stand – **Motion to grant permission for lemonade stand on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 10:30a – 1:30p** CB/MK, all ayes
- CT Water has an advisory member opening that is needed. Advisory member must be a CT Water user, which means the member would have to be from Beacon Valley Road or Cotton Hollow Road area. CB – maybe reaching out to the president of Beacon Hill Condo Association and put it on the website.

17. Old Business

- a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update**
MK – supposed to have a meeting last Tuesday, but the communication did not get out to everyone, so we are rescheduling.
- b. **Budget Meeting Workshop Dates** – next meeting is Thursday 3/12/2020.
- c. **Beacon Valley Road – Update** - GS met with Milone and McBroom and they are figuring out cost. Task order has been signed and the project is moving along.

18. New Business

- a. **Appointments & Reappointments** – GS we must appoint someone for the Western Regional Tourism Association for the State of CT. Someone who will act as a liaison and since most of information comes into my office and I have a capable, smart person, I recommend and entertain a motion to appoint Kerry McAndrew to that role. CB/MK, all ayes
- b. **Bond/Ban Resolution – Discussion & Action** ¹
GS First Step in many – our task is agenda item 18b and the next page is the resolutions for the Board of Selectman, item 18B. We are going to do a Town Meeting on April 8th at 7pm at Woodland Regional High School. **GS - would entertain a motion to adopt the resolutions for the agenda items dated March 9th and the language as written for Bond Council** CB/MK, all ayes

¹ Note: The actions taken under Agenda Item 18.b. were reconsidered and adopted at the Board's Special meeting of March 18, 2020, due to concerns regarding compliance of the agenda item with the requirements of FOIA.

c. Wolfe Avenue House – Discussion & Action

GS - We must decide about burning or knocking it down. We should have the price for both before we decide what to do and Eagle will provide us with that price. We will leave this as agenda item, and we will have the info at next meeting to discuss further. CB - I believe we have been under the impression that if we demolish and remove, it would be more expensive than doing the burn. MK - one of the other challenges is are we including the carriage house or not. As the carriage house sits, it may not be a burn and would probably be a demo.

d. Beacon Hose Company #1 EMS Training Fund – Discussion & Action

GS - They are going to take some of their EMS money for training of new recruits. They want to use \$10,000 of the money to train new recruits. Tom Pratt and I agreed that if we take money to train you, outfit you, then we expect a minimum of 2 years of service. McInnis will be drafting the agreement and it is revenue neutral to the town. In the spirit of transparency, they bought this agenda item to us, even though they did not need too. **GS entertain a motion to approve this, MK/CB, all ayes**

MK – if the funds are theirs, they shouldn't have to come to us to use them. At the end of the year, when the accounting is done, they provide the town with surplus funds on an 80/20 split. CB applaud them for coming to us first and it's a good idea to use the surplus but in the long run may affect that 80/20 split.

e. Ordinance Proposals – Discussion & Action

GS - we do have one and I did get the question answered from the attorney, that if we as a Board decided to forward to council or not is at our discretion. CB as we discussed, this is a democracy, but not, it's a representative public. The public votes for leadership position to act in the best interest of the community. If we left local ordinances up to the voting public to decide, civil rights acts would have never been passed, etc. and other items wouldn't be as they are currently written. Any attempt such as this one, to limit anyone from the ability to run for office, is wrong. It is bad civil rights government. It is a bad precedent to go down and I would like to know of the 169 municipalities, how many have ordinances on the books that limit who in the public can run, regardless, of what the state statutes say. MK if you remember I proposed an ordinance very similar to what this one is and at that time we took it to the town attorney to see if it was plausible. That was about 4 years ago. I am making this motion, because I want this to go back to our attorney to get the language and to determine if it is legal. No one at this table can make that decision and that is why we are sending it to legal counsel. Kerry to follow up with CCM and provide ordinance to town Attorney. **GS entertain a motion to move this along to the attorney for review and possible public hearing action, MK/GS, CB opposed.**

19. Budget Transfer Requests (if needed)

GS - Beacon Hose wants to transfer from Service Award to Software/IT to cover invoice for Spotted Dog and to purchase battery back-up and server. My only questions are was Service Award already paid out, and is this a surplus? CB – I am under the assumption that this is the year end surplus. GS – I will confirm with Natasha tomorrow. GS - **Entertain motion to approve – CB/MK, all ayes for BOF review at the meeting tomorrow.**

20. Executive Session (if needed) none needed

21. Comments from the Public

Mary Ellen – Regarding Wolfe Ave – is there money to take the house down? Can ordinances be suggested to be changed if they do not live in the community?

22. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7.51 P.M.

CB/MK, all ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk