

**Beacon Falls Conservation Commission
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
October 13, 2020
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31P.M.

Members Present: Ruth Burritt (RB), Kristen Jabanoski (KJ), Andrew Keane (AK), Lori Paradis Brant (LPB), Lou Santora (LS), Ivana Potje (IP)

Members Absent: Ellie McAdam (EM)

Others Present: None

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion made to approve the minute from the July 14, 2020 meeting. **RB/AK, all ayes**

3. Announcements

none

4. Comments from the Public

none

5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions Minutes

RB – I looked into Seymour & Oxfords minutes and Seymour has had nothing and Oxford had about 9 pages. Nothing of real interest.

6. Correspondence

none

7. Old Business

- a. **Update on tree work at Lantern Ridge Park** – RB – I saw Kristen's most recent email to Park Ranger Al, about what we can do to get the park open. KJ – I can forward the Park Rangers email to the board. He thinks we can just vote to open it, versus not having the BOS permission. I did call and leave a message for First Selectman Smith to find out the reopen protocol. LS – what kind of condition is it in now? KJ – it is in decent condition for open space. Since the tropical storm, there is one large hanging branch and the Park Ranger recommended blocking it off. Andrew and I had the same feeling. So long as you stay on the trail, you should be fine. I just want to make sure we are following the proper process. AK – I think we should write up our current assessment of the park and present it to the BOS. We had leaning trees removed earlier in the summer and then the tropical storm came. I think we should move towards opening it and marking the hazard so that the public is aware. RB – I looked up the place Rich recommended for the message center plexiglass, Modern

Plastics, I will stop there the next day or so and get a quote for what the cost would be, it has already been approved at \$200. IP - we have a pick-up truck and would be able to pick it up. Board members set up a date/time to meet regarding plexiglass. LPB - Modern Plastics website states they are not a retail store. LS - There is another company called Inline Plastics in Shelton. RB - we can always call and ask. I will do that. IP - once its approved and all open, then what? Do we take turns making sure its clean and safe? RB - there are some issues with the knotweed. AK - I think we can take any initiative we want there. It is a beautiful trail. For anyone that has not been on it, we can meet and hike there. LS - do any of the trails need to maintenance? AK - not really, currently you can go in and explore just fine. IP - we are in the process of getting our quad fixed and that may come in handy later. AK - we can put up information about the wildlife, boundaries etc. in the message center kiosk. RB - I do recall that the Kingsmark study noted that we should not have motorized vehicles on the trails but I know that if/when the Fire Department has needed to get in there, they are using a quad. AK - it would be good to recruit the Park Ranger for his support. He has done a great job with other trails in town. He completes a Park Ranger report to the BOS and I have looked back and he states he has not received a maintenance report from our committee. KJ - I will take that as an action, I will reach out to the Park Ranger and find out what he is looking for from us. AK - right now there is a gate versus the chain that used to be there. It is completely blocked. RB - the times I have been there, there has been a lot of trash. KJ - the last time I was there was when Cody Muth was removing the trees, and I cleaned up so many mini alcohol bottles from all over the ground. IP - I am all in favor to schedule a clean up there.

- b. **River Clean Up & Other Events** - KJ this has not really moved forward. IP COVID really through a wrench in this. LBP - I believe in July we were brainstorming some ideas about setting up self-guided clean ups. I would not say we should forget about it but there may be other ways we can promote this or take on. I would not advocate for any gatherings but if there is a way we can do it using a digital platform and have people sponsor an area to keep clean for a certain month, or do we hold off until April around Earth Day? KJ - we could do a small one this fall and then plan a larger one in the spring. LBP - America Recycles day is November 15th of each year so maybe we can do something on that day. We can just ask people to pick up trash & recycling around their neighborhood or the open space areas in town. IP - we can do a flyer with tips and ask people to participate. Just to clarify, the goal is to have residents clean up their own neighborhoods. KJ - should we keep it limited or have people do a specific street/area. LBP - it is a great idea but if we leave it more simple/general for now and then work to have a more complex structure for the spring clean up event. AK - I think the hashtag is a great idea and it will help get the word out and people can take a picture and see everything posted under that hashtag. LBP - #beaconfallscleanup. IP - I like that also.
- c. **Diversity in conservation efforts going on and how to get involved** RB - this kind of ties in with the river clean up. KJ - I do not have anything to report on this but will make a note to reach out to the schools on assisting with this.
- d. **CTP Project** - RB - I have not heard from Matthew and will follow up with him on this. I did go online and all the pictures that I took are up. RB - I will follow up with him, I know he just went back to school. KJ - Matt has a spreadsheet of the data and emailed me Sunday that he is working on it. Part of this is their learning. LBP - what are they supposed to do as the students? RB - they picked out the project. AK - is there a deadline? RB - yes, it was a year,

but I do not think we will be faulted due to COVID. LBP – I thought that our role is supporting and mentoring them, as it is a student project. KJ – someone from the program followed up and then I followed up and then Matt responded that he was working on the spreadsheet. I will respond and offer any assistance we can provide without overstepping boundaries.

8. New Business

KJ – the Library has been in touch with me and they are interested in doing a decorate a scarecrow event. They were looking for materials. RB – how did the last story walk go? KJ – I thought that it went well. I know they are going to put in for funding to have podiums for a more permanent story walk. LPB – I am happy to share a contact that I have for those podiums. KJ – yes, if you could send that to me, I will pass it along to Kerri. RB – in the past we have always donated \$200 towards a Story Walk. Should we budget that in? LPB – I would not want to fund a generic Halloween Story Walk. We should put together some parameters. KJ – we want to make sure it follows our Conservation mission. LP – is there a deadline that we have to make the donation? RB – the end of the fiscal year, June 2021. IP – I wonder if the Library will be doing anything special in December for the Holiday season. KJ – I will reach out to Kerri and let everyone know what I find out. LPB – maybe we can partner with them to check out a Nature Backpack and fill it with different items. KJ – I received information from CCL regarding training. It is virtual but it is a great way to get our training in. I will make sure to forward that email to everyone.

9. Land Conservation Criteria – LPB – Andrew and I met back in July. We had a good conversation and looked at the GIS together. AK – I have not made any progress since then. Let us get together before the next meeting and get a preliminary package together. LPB – sounds good, but for the record we each looked at the GIS information and Ms. Woody Facet recently passed away and I know that from GIS mapping, the families property is in PA-490 and to my recollection, is only protecting the land in its current form, for the current property owner, so I am not sure what will happen. I believe its over 60 acres and its beautiful. This is certainly something we should discuss as a Conservation Commission.

10. Petition from Commissioners – RB – I would like to send something to Pete Christensen's family, he has been very ill lately and the second think, Lori – I am so sorry hear about your mother and I think as a Commission, we appreciate you and your family and we would like to make a contribution on behalf of your mothers family. RB - motion made to send something to Pete Christensen's Family and to donate in honor of Lori's mom, seconded by LS, all ayes LPB abstained.

11. Payment of Bills - None

12. Executive Session (if needed) - none

13. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:45 PM. **RB/AK, all ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Conservation Commission