



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Monthly Meeting  
April 12, 2022  
MINUTES**

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

Chairman Julian Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:44 P.M.

**Members Present:** Julian Thomas (JT), Kristen Jabanoski (KJ), Andrew Keane (AK), Cody Muth (CM), Lori Paradis-Brant (LPB)

**Absent:** Ruth Burritt (RB), Ellie McAdam (EM)

**Others Present:** 1 Member of the public.

**2. Read & Approval Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Minutes from March 8, 2022

**Motion made to approve the minutes as presented.** KJ/AK; Passed with 4 ayes; 1 abstention (LPB-absent for March meeting)

- 3. Announcements-** JT: from Rich Minnick (RM), making some moves, lots of maps, came to a small roadblock of getting the work and funding set. LPB: What project? JT: Lantern Ridge, for a walkway, bridge project. We were talking about Girl Scouts, Home Depot, Kriz Farms, going back and forth with Gerry Smith (GS), BOF, RM. RM said we need to get a permit, GS called back because of the amount encumbered to Ed the Treeman, but we use Cody Muth. Got a call from GS and email from Erin Schwarz (ES) and now it's sorted out. Reallocated money encumbered to Ed the Treeman and moved it to our general fund. There is a process, RM is doing the permit paperwork with ES. Have to talk to her, the town has vendors that they use, and if any don't fit our needs I can go off on our own but have to use the vendors they have already if possible. LPB: Is that how we had Ed the Treeman? KJ: The reason we used them was because the town uses them. CM: The contract with the town went out to bid, and he got the contract with the town. I'm sure I can do volunteer work, but I don't think I can get paid. JT: I don't think that contract with Ed is still valid for next year at this point. Before I procure anything I have to contact ES and see what the vendors are and if any can meet our needs, get an estimated cost, and create a PO. LPB: Any minimum number of vendors for quotes? JT: I don't think so, just have to let her know if any of the vendors meet our needs. GS called and said I heard you are in a financial bind. I asked how the Commission makes money and GS said we don't. RM had an idea years about permitting hunting and then we would get a majority of that revenue but focus was shifted. AK: good job on that. It's a lot of work. JT: And good job to CM, for what was in the

paper (Re: Citizen's News, about changing the zoning for livestock/goats). CM: And it helped out other people, too. People in current violation, and rather than throwing people under the bus, we just changed the rules. Took about a year and a half. JT: ES will send us a list of vendors for lumber in the coming days. My first choice is Oxford Lumber, not a big bog store. LPB: Also Buschka in Naugatuck. CM: Up in the industrial park. KJ: Is the plan to acquire the lumber then we build the walkway? JT: Went to the park. It's 136 feet, took the measurements. As you pass the muddy stretch, steep hill with quad tracks, 7ft diameter pool at the bottom of the hill, 8 inches of water in it. Either backfill it with some dirt or make a path, and then at 80 ft in, an area that is just a pool, 8 inches deep. LPB: Should use the kingsmark (?) review because if they were vernal pools... JT: I went over it with RM, they are not. I have these two maps, and just got 14 other maps, the kings files (?) AK: I think once you get down to the swamp area that is some kind of stream crossing JT: Way before the stream crossing, steep embankment that goes down to those pools. Asked RM, inland wetlands, if we can just take a shovel to it. RM thinks it's okay but he will go out and verify. CM: Even if we are going to put 5 or 6 medium rocks on each side JT: sSo that's not the area we want to do the walkway. AK: (retrieved Lantern Ridge Map). KJ: It shouldn't be a problem filling it because it's not a natural waterway, it wouldn't be there without the quad use. JT: RM is going to verify, make sure anything is okay LPB: Good, glad for his assistance because legally we cannot change the watercourse. JT: We had those three days of rain, and it raises about 6 inches up and down. Plan on 6x6 pressure treated lumber, 18 inch stakes, three feet wide each, three feet across, s-shape, and deck board going on top. Simple, clean, blends in with nature. LPP: Low-key. CM: Way better than what I thought. KJ: And very much what you see in places like Maine. JT: And like Matthies, directly behind the house there is an area like this. LPB: protecting from any further erosion. ak: Rockhouse sanctuary by Oxford High School, they did a lot of good boardwalks, similar. Will send a quick picture if I'm there for them to reference.

#### **4. Comments from the Public**

**No comments from the Public.**

#### **5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions minutes-**

About Minutes: LPB: I'd like to make comments about the minutes, under Petitions. It mentioned Pent road access. There is a comment in here that people don't know about, and that's true, but I do want to say that my dad and his hiking buddy hike it, so there are some people using it, so I wanted that to be known. I think it would be great if we put a sign on it, and just wanted to make a comment about that. And then just ask, if we could note what map we are looking at in the minutes that would be great.

JT: The newest map. I told RM that we needed something newer, up to date. I can get copies if you need that. LPB: I would like to see that each of the commissioners get a copy of this map, even if it's smaller. Doesn't have to be this big.

*Clerk should note they were looking at the Landform Surveyors map, Lantern Ridge Map and 2020 map.*

#### **6. Correspondence**

**Clerk distributed email from Erin Schwarz, Finance Department:**

April 30th will be "Beacon Falls Celebrates Earth Day": Fishing Rodeo, RACBL Opening Day, Transfer Station open, Electronics Recycling, Bottle/Can Drive for UDS and YMCA Healthy Kids Day and 5K. NVCOG is having a Compost Bin and Rain Barrel sale, and Aquarion is selling rain barrels.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Lantern Ridge Park Updates-**

AK: That tree you identified? JT: I don't think it's a problem, leaning in the opposite direction of the trail. KJ: The walkway is the more pressing thing. AK: We walked it a couple weeks ago. KJ: What is the status of Trails Day? JT: Waiting on t-shirts they were going to send us. Last time I had an email they were waiting to see if anyone else was signing up. CT Trails Day is something we signed up for, the website is CTWoodlands.org. That's why we're trying to get Lantern Ridge cleaned up. The Beacon Hose Instagram is going to share it closer to the date, and post it on the town website. LPB: And I think that we will get social media stuff from CPA, JT: And pamphlets, brochures to pass out that information when time comes. Worried about having enough parking. AK: Overflow on Lantern Ridge Road and have them park on the street. There is a description on the website of the trail, how long, June 5th, 10-12pm. CM: Lantern Ridge Road is pretty wide so parking should be fine. KJ: The sign faces Seymour, talked about a sign facing Beacon Falls, do we think now we are talking about the walkway we can also get a sign? JT: Should we just place another post, on an angle, make a triangle? CM: And those bright solar lights. I put some up on my workshop. KJ: That would be great, people can find it on Trails Day. CM: And if it becomes a popular spot we can move the lot back a little further, but yes, a triangular sign. I think it's just a 4x4 post. Pulling in there is a mess, too. KJ: One more thing. I can keep the Girl Scout troop up to date on the walkway. I know that they are interested in being involved and that the parents are interested in volunteering. CM: And that would be great to get some pictures. Like with the schoolhouse, having pictures that day of people helping was great advertising. AK: When are you targeting work on the boardwalk? JT: Need to get my proposal set to ES and do that within next week. The permit is happening tomorrow, and as long as I get my proposal to ES and get that down pat, how much we are going to spend initially, then the PO, and getting the lumber, then it's just getting out there to do it. About 5-6 people have said they'd like to help to do it. Have to decide on the best day of the week. LPB: Trail-work parties on Saturday morning work well for other organizations I've worked with. Then people can get it done and still have the rest of their day.

### **b. Current Development Projects in Town-**

JT: Burton Road AK: Are they fielding questions about prospective buyers of that land? JT: Talking about the actual road not Fairfield Place CM: they want to start mid- to end of summer and have at least part of the road open before winter shutdown JT: One of the big things they had a change on was they want to narrow it to slow people down, now the issue is removing and replacing/relocating the poles, and putting people without power, so that is a holdup. Blackberry is also at a halt, the condos on hold, big lawsuit there. It seems as though we are going to come out on top and they did some soil testing and the results were not good.

### **c. Fire Conditions Signage-**

JT: Emails after emails CM: This is going to be on the agenda forever. I talked to RM last night, Brian DeGeorge is going to get on top of it and let me know what is going on within a week. I asked if we could install it ourselves and he said no, he will talk to his son-in-law. I hope that's going to get down to it. LPB: Now is fire season so it would be nice to have that.

## **8. New Business**

LPB: a couple months ago I had put out a petition about Dark Sky. I'd like us to look at this some more, do some more research on it. Not sure we have much of an ordinance on light

pollution, but let's look into how we can reach our community about the effects of light pollution. I'd like for us to go back to that and add it to new business for the next meeting. They have a whole lot of information for municipalities. Light pollution, having different types of lighting, uplighting has a detrimental effect on wildlife, especially birds, and also an effect on personal safety. There is better lighting that is better for human safety, and for wildlife safety. So I'd like us to take another look at it KJ: We could do a social media campaign to get these facts out LPB: town lights, street and business lights, commercial and municipal lights JT: we have half the light pollution than Seymour and Naugatuck.. LPB: Is there an assessment we should be doing for our lighting, as a municipality? I don't know if we have the right kind of lighting. I mean street lights, town lights. JT: Fire Dept uses LED, often red, which is actually calming to the eye. CM: car lights keep getting brighter and brighter. That's a real problem.

## **9. Open Space Strategy and Planning**

## **10. Petition from Commissioners**

KJ: I had a thought following up on Dark Sky, maybe along with a social media campaign to get the info out, what about presenting to the BOS, letting them know that these are things we should consider. CM: This is the time to get in front of this, when there is going to be new commercial development. JT: I was in Shelton, talking to Jones Farms, and asked about the new development, the lights and they explained that people want safety. That's their rationalization. KJ: A lot of people are not really considering these ideas, they think more lights are better so presenting info to BOS is a good thing. LPB: It's a great topic for us to learn about and research a little bit more. KJ: In Hawaii on one of the islands, there is a big telescope, a lot of lights at night are red, lots of ordinances on lighting. JT: I learned when I got my chickens, those red lights calmed them down. Puppies. You'll see them in Alaska, a little red light at the doors as a bear deterrent.

## **11. Executive Session (if needed)**

**No Executive Session.**

## **12. Comments from the Public**

**No comments.**

JT: I'm still trying to get into the cabinet downstairs, but nobody has the key. AK: Kerry McAndrew had a key. JT: Trying to get a copy. Another thing, we have little white plaques, and if you want to put one on your car for when you are out there during conservation work, RM says he doesn't remember how we got them. CM: So cops know that you are on the job. JT: Also talked about painting the trail makers. When out there Sunday, here at lot 9, a neighbor saw me out there measuring and asked if we needed any help, and I explained to him what we were doing. Probably would have calmed him to see something that would have marked us with conservation initially. AK: All the neighbors are pretty friendly there JT: most have treestands for hunting in the backyard. That's when RM got on the topic of hunting permits.

## **13. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn at 7:44pm.** JT/KJ; all aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Vardon  
Substitute Clerk, Conservation Commission