

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



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
April 13, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

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

Co-Chair KJ called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M

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

Members Absent: Ellie McAdam (EM)

Others Present: None

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2021, KJ/IP, all ayes.

3. Announcements – KJ – CT Land Conference held virtually throughout June. This will count for annual training and once I get more details, I can pass it along. LPB – I cannot recommend this training enough. There is a range of items to choose from.

4. Comments from the Public - None

5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions minutes – RB Seymour has a Land Trust so I will get in touch with them. AK – P&Z has a public hearing scheduled for Thursday regarding floating residential area. IWWC also has a meeting tomorrow night at the Senior Center, and I can attend that, they have a few applications before them for approval.

6. Correspondence – KJ – I spoke with Joanna at the Congressional Church and they are doing welcome maps for new residents and I thought it would be great to provide them with a trail map and open space information. I spoke with Park & Rec and the Park Ranger and they will lead the charge with that. IP – that will be nice. KJ – yes, it took us a while to find the parks when we moved here so I think this would be helpful. AK – I can reach out to the COG and get updated Maps as possible. KJ – I think Park & Rec will be sending us some content as well.

7. Old Business

- a. Update on conditions at Lantern Ridge Park (Jabanoski/Keane) – KJ – a whole group of us have been there. IP – we were there on Saturday. LS – the trails are pretty clear, but I feel that they should be marked according to intensity. We did come across a lower section that is about a good 12-14 inches deep water/mud wise. There should be a sign put up so that someone does not get hurt. The ATVs are helping clear the trails. From my experience. The people with ATV's even though they are not supposed to ride there, they are taking care of the trails and I can tell they are locals. LPB – many of our species breed there and the ATVs disturb that process. LS – we can take the natural logs as natural bridges, so people do not disturb those areas. KJ – there is one area in the Kings Mark report where it is muddy, and the tracks are obvious, so I think we need a way to handle that. I do agree that they ATVs are helping. LS – I think we should put a sign up that warns of the deep water. Besides that, it is a

nice area. AK – when the Girl Scouts reached out to us last month, we opened the gate, cleared the parking area, and created a small map. KJ – there is signage when you enter. AK – the boundary lines are marked as well. KJ – it is private land on the other side. RB – how was the parking lot? KJ – it was good, we cleaned up some garbage. I spoke with the Park Ranger about the kiosk as well and he can assist us with updating the one that is there. He said that it would cost about \$200.00. RB – I have the whole thing. AK – great, we can come grab it this week. They have been putting up new kiosks in town parks, so they have the knowledge of getting them done. KJ made a motion to allocate up to \$300.00 to update and restore the kiosk at Lantern Ridge, seconded by RB, all ayes. KJ – the Girl Scouts are planning a work party on Earth Day. They will be doing some trail maintenance that day. KJ – we have \$5000 for open space maintenance that is going to expire at the end of June. I think we need to figure out priority projects beyond our volunteer level. LS – all the trees at the entrance can go for free if you contact a mulch company. They do it by tonnage and if all they must do is mulch it up, they don't mind coming out to mulch it. LPB – I wonder if there is a percentage of downed trees for ecological purposes. KJ – maybe we can consult a forester and the Fire Chief. LS – there is a hollow area when you walk in that will turn into a sink hole if it is not taken care of. There is a lot of dry timber too. LPB on the CCLC website they have a list of resources and consultants. Maybe we can have someone come out and do an assessment. I rather use the funds than lose them. KJ – I think we need to prioritize items. AK – is that specific to Lantern Ridge? KJ – I believe it is. LS – one thing I noticed, is with the damage that came through and the damage that was done, we should plant some samplings and bring that forestry back. They contribute to the environment and help stabilize the soil. LPB – another potential use is looking at a highly invasive species, barberry. We should remove that and then could use maintenance money at that. Several years ago, it was discovered that the barberry creates more ticks that carry Lyme. KJ – these are all great ideas, and we can find a forestry expert from CCLC.

- b. Conservation education efforts and how to get involved (Jabanoski) – KJ – I am going to count that as working with the Girl Scouts. Maybe next year it will be back to closer normal. RB – those kids are doing litter patrol around town. KJ – the Scouts are also interested in a clean up so maybe in May we can organize a small clean up, it does not have to be a big event.
 - c. CTP Project – RB – they never got back to me. AK – I make a motion to remove this from the agenda, seconded by IP, all ayes.
 - d. Current Development Projects in Town – AK – the Shared Town Planner, Keith is very knowledgeable about projects in town. I am hopeful he could provide us an update monthly to ensure that designated open space is set aside.
8. **New Business** – KJ I will be attending the budget meeting on 4.20.2021. This will just give me a chance to review our budget for the next fiscal year. Natasha recommended we provide details of where we see with our finances for the next few years. RB – every year we were transferring \$1,000 into open space. Has that been done? KJ – yes, we took care of that. I believe the budget meeting is open so if anyone wants to come and participate that would be great.
9. **Land Conservation Criteria** – AK – this is something that Lori and I have been working on and I printed a draft of what we are working on. We are putting together our inventory of open space and open space criteria. This will help with planning and short/long term open space development. We need to have a concrete plan on how to evaluate certain parcels to acquire. The template criteria we pulled from the Town of South Windsor and this could go into our strategy to evaluate land to acquire. LS – why don't we do a buy back? When a developer comes in and is interested in for example, 20 out of 24 acres, we have them buy all 24 and sell 4 back to us. LPB – the legislature is currently reviewing and previously reviewed allowing municipalities to charge the real estate conveyance transaction for new homes, based on designated amount, so that when that bill passed the town was ready so we could start accepting those transactions. AK – we can also be strategic with our open space. KJ – I think the buyback idea makes sense, but we are not currently

consulted at that level and I think it would be great to talk to the Selectman about. RB – we are supposed to have some input on what developments are acceptable. AK – I spoke with Keith, the town planner and he offered to attend out next monthly meeting. He said it would be good to draft a list of questions in advance. If you have any questions, please send them to me and I will compile them. AK – Lori and I would like your feedback on the criteria, and we would like to adopt criteria at the next meeting.

10. Petition from Commissioners – IP – maybe we can do something with the FD Carnival. KJ – there is a fishing rodeo coming up on 4.24.

11. Payment of Bills - None

12. Executive Session (if needed) - None

13. Adjournment

Motion made by KJ to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM, RB seconded by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Conservation Commission