

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



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
June 8, 2021
MINUTES - REVISED
(Subject to Revision)

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

Chair RB called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M

Members Present: Kristen Jabanoski (KJ), Andrew Keane (AK), Lori Paradis Brant (LPB), Ruth Burritt (RB)

Members Absent: Ellie McAdam (EM), Lou Santora (LS), Ivana Potje (IP)

Others Present: None

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 11, 2021 RB/AK, all ayes.

3. Announcements – LPB – June is great outdoors month. AK – it was trails day last week and I have been meaning to submit something. LPB – typically registration is in February for events.

4. Comments from the Public - None

5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions minutes – AK – I went to the P&Z meeting in May. There was a transition zone proposal for the town to strategically grow. They are doing a legal reviewing that and there was not any public comment on the subject, but it was favorable. The activity on Burton Road, Tiverton has halted and some of the other applications consist of a two-lot subdivision that is on hold and there is another subdivision near Rice Lane Extension. LPB – I believe there is some protected open space up there. AK – yes, but there is no public access. LPB – maybe it is an easement. AK – I think that area does serve a specific function, but I am unsure of the reason. LPB – we should just pay attention to that property if a development is going on.

6. Correspondence – none

7. Old Business

a. Lantern Ridge Park Updates (Jabanoski/Keane)

- Tree Work – AK – there has been a lot of interest and some people asking for trail maps. We have put the kiosk window up and it would be great to put more content in there. It has been seeing a lot of use. There are some wetland areas, and the dry sections of the trail are in great shape. Some of the wetland areas are seeing some trail erosion due to ATV access so that is something we may need to discuss. RB – do we need any type of sign saying no ATVs? LPB – we should put that in the budget. RB – once we start the new budget, we can review that option. AK – the dry sections of the trail are not seeing any erosion, maybe where the trail erosion is occurring, the wetland areas/marshes, may need a sign stating severe trail erosion. RB – I think it is a matter of posting, because then people are more respectful about what they can and cannot do. LPB – legally we have to post it. AK – in general there are people

using those trails with motorized vehicles and I think most of the people that use the trails treat them well. There are also people entering from Lantern Ridge adjacent parcels. AK – there may be cost effective ways for us to get the signage. KJ – the Fire Marshall deemed the debris not a hazard. **Motion made by KJ to revise the previous months motion allocate \$600 from open space to remove leaning tree and debris to state that the allocate of the \$600 will be for the tree removal only, seconded by LPB, all ayes.** AK – the Lantern Ridge sign you do not really see from the Beacon Falls side. I think that in the next fiscal budget, we put a sign that is facing Beacon Falls. I will look to get a quote for next month's meeting.

- Lantern Ridge Plant Survey – RB – I have spoken with the company. LPB – they are the Guru of Native Plant people! They saw that Lantern Ridge has the habitat. AK – KJ has been in coordination with Sophie, and she will be going out with them. The Plant is on the ridge line, and they are targeting the date it blooms. KJ – the survey will possibly this weekend. If there are concrete plans, I will let everyone know.
 - b. Current Development Projects in Town (Jabanoski) – AK – I think we covered a quick overview in the beginning. I am not aware of any additional activities.
 - c. Fire Conditions Sign – RB – I have been fluent with letting you know everything. The FM said that we did not need a permit for this to be on the median. We did get a quote for a double-sided sign. I would just like confirmation from the FM and Gerry that it is good. Clerk confirmed confirmation from First Selectman went to Deputy Fire Marshal on 5.27.2021. Do you think we should just get it done? All ayes. RB – sometimes DEEP will pay for these signs and I am waiting to hear back from them. AK – this is something that you want to do this fiscal year? RB – yes. AK – do you know how much it is? RB - \$800.00 for double sided. LPB – I thought it was \$1,400. RB – the only other issue is putting it into the ground. **RB – motion made to whatever monies left in the budget should go towards the sign, seconded by KJ, all ayes.**
 - d. Beacon Falls Conservation Page- Town Website – KJ – Tabled and is it possible to get a subgroup/work group to go through the page. RB – in the meantime, we can put our ideas together for future discussion.
 - e. Beacon Falls 150th Anniversary Activities - KJ – that is coming up on June 27th at the Fire House from 1:00PM – 5:00PM. RB – do we know what they have planned? KJ – they are going to have some events and food trucks, but we can set up a booth with trail maps and park information. I will speak with the Park Ranger about assisting. AK – I have been working with the COG on updating our park and open space map. RB – is there a way to make it larger? AK – yes, the COG can print it on board versus paper and I think people would be interested in it. LPB – we can even give out “where are you” pins so people can put them on their maps.
8. **New Business** – none
 9. **Open Space Strategy and Planning** – AK – we did adopt a first version of the document to build a road map and strategy to see what opportunities are in the Town. KJ – what do you think the next steps should be? Should we present it to Town Officials? LPB – do you feel there are any other things we need to do with this in terms of other areas of open space. AK – I think it is current. There is always room to develop it further.
 10. **Petition from Commissioners** – AK – I was meaning to print the Conservation Ordinances as a reference for the Commission. Some members have been on the Commission for a while, and some are newer and maybe have not reviewed them in depth. Those are the guiding light for the Commission. KJ – Training Conferences are this weekend. CCLC are doing their workshops this week.
 11. **Payment of Bills** - None
 12. **Executive Session (if needed)** - None
 13. **Adjournment**
Motion made by RB to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM, AK seconded by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Conservation Commission