

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



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**June 9, 2020**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Subject to Revision)**

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

Vice Chair Kristen Jabanoski called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M. Introduction of new Board/Commission Clerk. RB asked KJ to chair the meeting.

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

**Members Absent:** Lou Santora (LS), Ivana Potje (IP)

**Others Present:** None

**2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Motion made to approve the minute from the March 10, 2020 meeting. **KJ/AK, all ayes, LPB abstained**

**3. Announcements**

none

**4. Comments from the Public**

none

**5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions Minutes**

KJ not sure other commission have been holding virtual meetings. KJ asked clerk if any other boards/commissions have met. Clerk confirmed BOS/BOF and various other boards/commission have met virtually and for the month of June most will meet virtually. Unknown if any would affect this commission. Clerk noted BOS report from park ranger is available on his own page via the town website.

**6. Correspondence**

none

**7. Old Business**

- a. **Budget Planning for FY 2021** – KJ this occurred with budget workshops and spreadsheet was reviewed by board members. KJ - we will get \$500 for the Commission. \$1,000 for open space and \$5,000 for open space maintenance.
- b. **Review open space & financial attention requirements with regards to proposed open space & financial consideration** – RB – I still have the emails with the notes of what we are entitled too whether it is monetary or open space that we approve of as a Board. I will send that to First Selectman Smith. KJ – I also spoke with Rich Minnick earlier today and it was helpful. He

knows a lot about the Commission and our ordinances. Rich stated he prefers in person meetings and when we can hold something in person, he would like to discuss this more. LPB – It will be interesting to see the response, because when this was first discussed it caught Chris Bielak by surprise and he did not know about it. RB – will send the documents to the Board so that we can discuss this at the next meeting.

- c. **Continuation of open space review** – KJ in the March meeting we were discussing a guest speaker with a background on open space valuation. LS was unable to make the meeting tonight and he is the commissioner primarily working on this. AK – this is for the towns plan for conservation, cataloging open space/land within Beacon Falls. RB- this was a project from Mike Opuszinski. Board members outlined criteria details which should be included moving the project forward. LPB – we could do some, if not all of this virtually now that the GIS map is online. AK & LPB will work together on this project and provide an update at the July meeting.
- d. **Update on tree work at Lantern Ridge Park** – KJ - Lantern Ridge tree work is underway. Cody Muth of CM Tree Services has been working there recently. I met with Gerry Smith and Tom Pratt down there when Cody started. I spoke with Cody yesterday and he expects the project to be completed Thursday. It will not be perfect, but it will be safer, and we will be able to access the trail. This will be a multiphase project to make more accessible. RB – I will talk to Rich about replacing the Plexiglass at the message center kiosks. KJ – I plan to take some after pictures after completion. RB – there is a little space between Lantern Ridge and a street in-between and they have sprayed there in the past for the knot weed. We should try to remove it without chemicals. KJ- spraying is a controversial topic in town and when I met Gerry & Tom, Tom mentioned spraying. I am not sure what they are spraying because it is a wetland. I do not like the idea of spraying any chemicals near wetlands and want to learn more about it. RB – not sure exactly of the substance but I know it was approved by DEEP.
- e. **Earth Day and river cleanup** – KJ - was cancelled due to pandemic and it was difficult due to it being the 50<sup>th</sup> Earth Day. We should brainstorm on a way to hold a similar event which would be safe and allow for social distancing. LPB – this is a good way to partner with other community groups, like the Library. KJ – hopefully, we will get a lot of participation with the River Clean up over the summer. I will try to put a plan together with different ideas, given the pandemic, for us to review.

## **8. New Business**

- a. **Discussion on Postponed/Cancelled Events due to COVID-19 Pandemic** – KJ we discussed this above. RB – I think we must wait and see what we can do and reschedule as time goes on.
- b. **Diversity in conservation efforts going on and how to get involved** – KJ – included to make sure that our efforts and programs include diverse groups. LPB – thank you for making this an agenda item to begin the conversation. KJ – I am not sure where to start with this, but it is important for the environmental field/conservation. If there are connections we can make and groups we can partner with, we can make a difference. KJ – I emailed CIRCA about programs/resources about this topic. LPB – we should begin with our mission statement and work with groups, like the Library to add more items (i.e. conservation books with other languages etc.). We can also review criteria for accessibility among our open space, to ensure it is accessible by all and working towards things like ADA trails. EM – maybe we can

engage the schools and have children involved in conservation. KJ – found an interesting article that I can send out that shows organizations that have made progress in this area.

9. **Land Conservation Criteria** – AK – I think this is the same thing as 7b.

10. **Petition from Commissioners** – LPB - May want to reach out to Park & Rec, I was at Matthies and to the left were two Pink Lady Slippers in bloom and the pink are not listed, but most, if not all are Federally protected. Steve Moffatt, from Public Works was on the lawn mower and I showed him them and he said he will be careful of that area.

11. **Payment of Bills** - None

12. **Executive Session (if needed)** -

13. **Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 8:08 PM. **KJ/RB, all ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew  
Clerk, Conservation Commission