

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



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Monthly Meeting  
July 14, 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.

**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 June 9, 2020 meeting. **RB/LPB, all ayes**

**3. Announcements**

none

**4. Comments from the Public**

none

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

RB – I have not done that, has anyone else? KJ – I have not, AK – me neither. LPB – I suggest we task each of us to take a turn once a month to review other commissions. KJ – Minutes can be found on the town website. KJ – to take BOS. RB – we should look at surrounding towns as well to see what they have been working on. I will do that. KJ – EM are there any that would interest you? EM – I will do Park & Rec. AK – I will take IWWC. LPB – I will take P&Z for this month. KJ – we can rotate and switch each month as well. EM – I will take P&Z next as my brother is a planner for Bristol so that would be interesting for me.

**6. Correspondence**

none

**7. Old Business**

- a. **Update on tree work at Lantern Ridge Park** – KJ – work at Lantern Ridge has been completed. We have been out twice. There is a path into the trail system and no longer blocked by trees. It is not perfect but manageable. I have some pictures and will place them on the shared google drive so everyone can look. We can view before and after. RB – it took a while to hear back from Rich Minnick about the chemicals used on invasive plants (knotweed). KJ – Rich reached out to DEEP and other groups to confirm chemical use was

safe and I can forward email to the board. AK – it looks good, at this time last year we would not even try to get back to the deeper trail system. Where it stands now, it just needs a volunteer effort to clean up and look nice. We also need to address the Kiosk and how to officially open the park. Can we vote on it to reopen the park? LPB – I think we can vote on it and send it to the BOS for final approval. KJ – that sounds right. AK – lets vote on it and then after the next BOS meeting we can advertise about reopening the park. RB – I have information for the Kiosk, and we have \$200 to replace the sign. Rich Minnick has given us much information on how to change the Kiosk to be bullet proof. We should get the Kiosk completed before we announce the reopening. AK – we could do more cleaning up and making it more family friendly, right now it is more rugged. KJ – over the long term we may have to install some boardwalks to keep the wetlands intact.

- b. **River Clean Up & Other Events** – KJ – I spoke with Kerri Vardon from the Library and they are planning a story walk the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> and her idea hopefully is to have it set up all weekend (weather permitting). The app used for the program is Read Squared. RB – our name is included as a sponsor. KJ – we were talking about how to do the clean up in conjunction and putting together a list of native plants and animals as part of the challenges. Maybe that could be a collaborative thing among the Board members. Do you think it is a good idea to do a clean up in conjunction with their event and then go into the following week? RB – we must involve the public. LPB – we must have a plan if we are going to do a clean-up. RB – we should contact Oak Ridge. Previously, we were told they would donate a container. KJ – should we vote on starting the clean up the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>? AK – of July? KJ – yes. EM – I feel it may be short notice. Board collectively agreed. RB – can Kerry help? Clerk – will contact Oak Ridge to obtain cost/availability of dumpster rental. KJ – that will help. KJ – should we pick a different date? EM – what about after around the time kids go back to school? RB – yes, we must involve them. KJ – back to school time would probably be better and not so hot. RB – I will contact local places to see if anyone would be interested in sponsoring the event. KJ – I will put together a checklist of items we need to do prior to the cleanup.

- c. **Diversity in conservation efforts going on and how to get involved** – KJ – reached out to CIRCA and have not yet heard back from them. I also want to have students involved so I will hopefully have more next meeting. RB – KJ did First Selectman get back to you about the ordinances? KJ – he acknowledged he received it, but I do not think there is anything specifically for him to respond to. Rich Minnick state that us as a commission need to stay involve with what is going on with P&Z in relation to developers. LPB – that is why it is important for us to review the minutes of other commissions.

## 8. **New Business**

- a. **CTP Project** - KJ - do we know who this item was tagged for? RB – Matt says he has the tools, so I want to set a date to finish this project. I think it would be best after COVID. LPB – do they have a deadline we need to adhere to? RB – yes, a year but will give us more time due to COVID. KJ – we did the last one in August so we can do another then and compare. RB – will try to set up a date.

- 9. **Land Conservation Criteria** – LPB – Andrew and I are meeting tomorrow to look at some things but tools we are looking at include the Housatonic Valley follow the forest program. A GIS mapping system showing the New England Core Forest areas. Areas that are and are not protected. I have compared to our town GIS mapping online and there are several large areas less than 50% protected. By the August meeting we will have more information.

10. **Petition from Commissioners** – AK – we did not come to an agreement/closing on the Lantern Ridge discussion. We need the pictures. I would feel more comfortable putting it to a vote if we had more pictures. EM – I am comfortable with it. KJ – should we take a vote to put it to the BOS? **AK - motion to bring opening the park to the BOS with the recommendation to submit package of pictures and current park status, LPB seconded, all ayes**
11. **Payment of Bills** - None
12. **Executive Session (if needed)** - none
13. **Adjournment**  
Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:28 PM. **RB/AK, all ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew  
Clerk, Conservation Commission