



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
10 MAPLE AVENUE
BEACON FALLS, CT 06403

MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2018

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ruth Burritt called the meeting to order at **6:34 pm**.

Commissioners Present: Ruth Burritt, Sophie Zyla, Mike Opuszynski, Kristen Jabanoski, Lori Brant

Commissioners Absent: Tonya Gutierro, Ashleigh Doherty

2. Announcements

General interest in the current condition (public safety wise) of Lantern Ridge Park. It was agreed upon by all to follow M. Opuszynski's recommendation to continue with the parks closure due to leaning trees and tree bound branches.

Motion made by M. Opuszynski to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating the need to make Lantern Ridge Park safe for the public. Seconded by L. Brant. All in favor. Motion passes 5-0.

3. Comments from the Public

Sue Keating from the Laurel Garden Club requested a representative of the Conservation Commission attend their next regular meeting to better explain the responsibilities and function of the Conservation Commission. S. Zyla will be attending the Garden Club meeting.

Yvonne Posick, also from the Laurel Garden Club spoke very highly of Alan Banyacsky and all his hard work on the trails at Matthies Park.

Rich Minnick explained that the "Osprey Situation" at Toby's Pond is not on Town property and currently under the auspices of Eversource. The incident involving the campers was conveyed to State DEEP and the Audubon/Osprey group.

4. Approval of Minutes

R. Burritt moved to accept the minutes of July 10, 2018. Seconded by S. Zyla. All in favor with 1 abstention. Motion passes 4-0.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Old Business

1. Surveying of damage at Lantern Ridge Park.
2. Work with Park & Rec on the status of all the town parks. (Opuszynski)

7. New Business

1. A “River Clean Up” day tentatively scheduled for Saturday September 15, 2018 to include civic groups such as Scouts, Garden Club, Lions Club, and Beacon Hose Co. among others. (K. Jabanoski/M. Opuszynski)
2. **Special Election: M. Opuszynski nominated Kristen Jabanoski for the open Vice-Chairman position. Seconded by L. Brant. No other nominations. All in favor. Kristen Jabanoski is now the Vice Chairman of the Beacon Falls Conservation Commission by a vote of 5-0. (Burritt)**
3. General discussion re: NVCOG Regional Planning Committee regarding digital data for GIS/GPS trails/parks info. (M. Opuszynski)
4. **L. Brant made a motion that if the Chairman, after contact with Commissioner Tonya Gutierro, fails to obtain a written letter of resignation from her by August 16th. the Conservation Commission will, by letter, request the First Selectman remove her from the Commission. Seconded by M. Opuszynski. All in favor. Motion passes 5-0.**
5. **L. Brant made a motion to notify, by letter, the Board of Selectmen regarding the dangers of the Japanese Barberry bush which is known to harbor ticks. These bushes are located throughout the town and possibly on town property. Seconded by R. Burritt. All in favor. Motion passes 5-0.**
6. S. Zyla updated the Commission on the tremendous progress of the Matthies Park Native Park Project. With the much-appreciated volunteer work of Steve Moffat, Jeff, and others, massive amounts of knot wood were cleared out creating a great space to host the native park area. Sophie has been posting regular updates with photos on FACEBOOK and urged everyone to “spread the word”. The Commission all joined in on thanking Commissioner Sophie Zyla on spearheading this worthwhile endeavor.
7. S. Zyla will be meeting with the Science Dept. at Woodland High to discuss ideas on getting the kids and teachers involved with the gardens.
8. R. Burritt is planning on attending the next meeting of the Laurel Garden Club. S Zyla is planning to attend the next Park & Rec meeting.

8. Petition of Commissioners

L. Brant advised the Commission of the program currently in place by Eversource involving “right of way” construction under wooden high-tension transmission lines. L. Brant voiced concern regarding the disruption of wild life habitats because of construction in these areas.

9. Payment of Invoices

M. Opuszynski moved to pay the Clerk’s invoice of \$77.50 for August 2018., seconded by L. Brant. All in favor, motion passes 5-0.

10. Adjournment

The next Conservation Commission regular monthly meeting will be held **Tuesday September 11, 2018 at 6:30 pm** in the Beacon Falls Senior Center, 57 North Main Street.

With no other business **L. Brant moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Seconded by M. Opuszynski. All in Favor, motion passes 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Christensen

Clerk

CC: Conservation Comm.