

Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission  
10 Maple Avenue  
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



**BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**September 21, 2020**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance**

Chairman Bob Egan called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**Present:** Bob Egan (BE), Steve Moffat (SM), Steve Ruhl (SR), Desiree Brooks (DB)

**Not Present:** Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Don Ferretti (DF)

**Others Present:** Allan Banyacsky, Park Ranger (AB)

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on August 17, 2020 as submitted: **DB/SM**, all ayes

**3. Comments from the Public**

None

**4. New Business**

Social Media – BE – Kerry reached out to me wanting to know who is responsible for updating the Park & Rec Facebook page. AI is looking to create a Park Ranger Facebook page and we want the two pages to be able to work together. SR -I think I the owner of the Facebook page. I will give access to AI.

**5. Old Business**

a. **Matthies Park** – SM – trails are still closed and waiting on the proper machinery from Public Works. Cody Muth came in and took down some trees on the orange trail. He donated this time and work. He is going to come back hopefully by the end of next week to see what we are up against. Hopefully after the rest of the trees are cleared, we can open the trails towards the settling pond back up. SM – AB spoke with Gerry regarding the message center unveiling. AB – I am still waiting to hear back from Gerry on that. The white trail is really mission critical because that really opens up the park. It would be nice to be able to clear that first. SM – that is the main trail that goes behind the pond. AB – the equestrian riders coming in use that trail and would be best to try and open it first.

b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – SM and I met to review grant fund items. SM and I came up with 2 handicap accessible tables, 4 benches and 2 foresided tables, which spends most of the grant. I think we should go with the metal wire coated benches to prevent vandalism. Composite would allow people to carve into. SM – I spoke with the Park Ranger too and he is familiar with the benches. AB – Natasha wanted to go with some other benches through Kirby, who we purchased the signs from. I agree that the metal perforated benches are the way to go. I ordered some in 2009 and they were around \$1,000. They were not powder coated, they were plastic and have held up good. DB – did anyone see the post online that asked about the playground? Is a playground going to be reinstalled next to the pavilion? AB – I am not part of this Commission but what I can say as the Park Ranger is that when SM, Gerry and I got together to review the CIRMA report, it was decided to be taken down because we could not get replacement parts

and the playground was unsafe. I am unsure of any other plans to put up a new playground. SM – as of right now, I spoke with Gerry and got some quotes for him. I think they want to do something sooner than later to get the ball rolling regarding replacement. BE – I spoke with Gerry too and he does want to replace it. We have money we are not going to spend due to COVID. Gerry and the BOF want to take those funds and put them towards the landscape and then the town will cover the difference. I have reached out to get a copy of our budget to determine how many funds we have left. I am waiting for a reply. They are still working on a price for a new playscape. I think they are between \$30-\$60K. It will be ADA compliant. We can discuss this morning once we know what is left in our budget. DB – I wanted to respond but did not have all the details. AB – I try to respond to the Facebook comments when I can. DB – great job on fixing the fence. SR – does the stairs going up to pavilion have a tree on it still? SM – yes, the stairs are unsafe. DB – we should probably put a sign up. AB – we should put some caution tape across the top and bottom to flag it. SR – will the stairs get ripped out? SM – the stairs get slippery when they are wet and there is no use to the pavilion anymore so there is no purpose for them anymore.

**Motion made to purchase the pass-through surface metal coated benches through Barco in the color of hunter green DB/SM, all ayes.**

- c. **Riverbend Park** – SM – signage up for water and park rules. AB – SM mentioned that we work together day by day regarding our parks. The signage went up and there was some discussion on social media. Someone from Trout Unlimited that we need to fish. I informed them it did not have anything to do with fishing. The issue is for people that want to swim. Selectman Krenesky was concerned as to what jurisdiction the town has on the Naugatuck River. I have reached out to DEEP and am still waiting a response. As the Park Ranger for the town, my responsibility is to work with the Park & Rec Commission and the recommend and enforce the park rules and regulations. I report directly to the First Selectman and Resident State Trooper. I do not make the rules up, I only enforce them.
- d. **Sports League Reports** – SM – some are done, and some are still playing. BF Basketball will be using the courts for conditioning on Monday and Wednesday nights until the end of October. I am waiting on the High School for Soccer application. Just to clarify, all the responsibility and decisions of the applications are mine. I have had several conversations with Gerry and the Health Department. We were going to stop many things but after another review, there are certain activities allowed. The only programs we have shut down are Woodland Jr. Hawks tackle football and cheerleading. The only allowed program allowed is the Woodland Jr. Hawks flag football per the State guidelines and guidance from Naugatuck Valley Health.
- e. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – last month we discussed the Library having an event for the week before Halloween at Matthies and we previously approved the \$500 donation. Once I get the details, I will let everyone know. DB – will it be a pre-registering event for residents only? BE – I believe so, it is being held at Matthies. DB – will we need to be on site? BE – I do not believe so. The Library is very appreciative of the support.  
I received a call from resident named Lindsay on Laurie Lane who would like to build a library box. I told her it would be best at Matthies. It would be like the one near Oxford Bakery. We previously gave other residents an approval, but they never did anything with it. I think it is a good idea and I did invite her to listen to our meeting tonight. DB – did you have a location in mind? BE – near the tennis courts and sugar shack. There is more activity there when the park is open for normal activity. I prefer plexiglass versus glass. It is a good place for public works to

maintain it and is very visible there. **Motion made to approve placing library box built by a resident at Matthies Park. DB/SM, all ayes.**

AB – going back a couple of weeks ago, I reached out to BE about an amateur photographer looking to do photos of the Milky Way. We went through the whole process to get him access. The same guy asked to go again on another date, and I informed him it was a one-time pass. BE – I did have a photographer reach out to me regarding doing engagement photos for a couple in town. I have been playing telephone tag with him. I do not see this as an issue.

- f. **Toby's Pond** – DB – there are too many cars blocking the pavilion and gate. We do not have any signs. One day when I was walking there was a little issue with a woman who parked there. A Metro North truck kicked up a lot of rocks pulling out of the lot and her car got pinged. We have no control when Metro North goes in and out of there. AB – it would not be a bad idea for some of us to go look at what you are speaking to and come up with a solution. SM – there are a few no parking signs down along the way, but we may need more towards the turn around. BE – I can meet too. DB – I think we get a lot of things taken care of in other parks and when it comes to Toby's it falls short. AB – Toby's is an orphan and that is why we are working on things. We are going to be putting up message centers, etc. BE – I think we should vote on Al's proposal to get the signs and we can add the no parking signs into that. DB – I think there are some wonderful things we can do to make this park more user friendly. AB – we are starting fresh; this is a new regime and we are working on it. DB – lets make sure we are addressing these items/upgrades on the agenda going forward. DB – what day can we meet to go over signage and parking. I am available after 1:30PM. Wednesday at 2 works. SM – one thing to add is the biggest issue with that park is the driveway. DB- yes, big holes. SM – not so much the holes, but the sharp rocks. They are a huge safety thing that we should address with the town and explore the use of millings. DB – the manhole cover that is a quarter of the way up is not level and sticks up about 4-5 inches. SM – yes, we should address the entire lot. SM – just an FYI we are still getting active graffiti at the park. **BE entertained a motion to approve funding for message center purchase to come out of special fund SM/SR, all ayes.**

6. **Correspondence**

BE – item from the Library previously discussed.

7. **Applications**

BE – reviewed above under sports league.

8. **Grant Information**

BE – discussed under Pent Road.

9. **Review and Payment of Bills**

None

10. **Budget**

None

11. **Executive Session (if needed)**

none

12. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56P.M. **SM/DB; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission