

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
November 16, 2020
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Chairman Bob Egan called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Present: Bob Egan (BE), Steve Moffat (SM), Desiree Brooks (DB), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Don Ferretti (DF)

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky, Park Ranger (AB), Selectman Michael Krenesky (MK)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on October 19, 2020 as submitted: **DF/DB**, all ayes

3. Comments from the Public

BE invited Selectman Krenesky to join to discuss the 150th anniversary celebration. It does not look like there is much to plan due to COVID. MK – I am trying to get a meeting together for Wednesday night. Every year with the fireworks on Family Day, we put on a decent show. There are typically a lot of ground fireworks. With COVID we do not know where we will be, so the suggestion was made to change the way the fireworks are. The change would be to have all ariel fireworks. This would allow more residents to stay home and view from home versus going to Pent Road. If all we do is Fireworks, then we put all the money into the fireworks display. I will be discussing it with the Committee. DF – would you still shoot them off from Pent Road? MK – someone recommended asking O&G to use field on their property, closer to the center of town. If we put it in an area more centralized, then more people would be able to see the display. We may do smaller events but the main thing we need Park & Rec's assistance on is the Fireworks. MK – two other things, Jake Fernandes has been appointed to this committee and he did get an email about the meeting tonight, he has not been sworn in but could attend. Second, I sent a list to Bob regarding the Community Garden. BE was unable to open the document so, I will resend the information. I will also speak to the Finance Manager to move the \$1,100 to special activities. BE – Jake was sworn in but had a prior commitment. He will be attending the next meeting.

BE – another note, Stan Osowiecki passed away. He was a previous Board member. Our deepest sympathies to his family.

4. New Business

a. Nomination of Chairman & Vice Chairman for the 2021 year

MF nominated BE as Chair, seconded by LD, all ayes.

SM nominated DF as Vice Chair, seconded by MF, all ayes.

b. 2021 Facilities Application – Review & Discussion

BE – I review the application and I do not think we should change any of our fees. This year there was minimal use. Minor housekeeping changes on the form, add a check box for the Park Ranger and the rates for the Police needs to be updated as rate changes were updated at the BOS meeting held on

11/9/2020 and the final change is just to update the year. The form has been reviewed by CIRMA already.

5. Old Business

- a. **Matthies Park** – AB – regarding Matthies Park, we finally got the main entry sign mounted. I spoke with Gerry about writing a thank you letter to Ansonia Steel and that was posted online. SM – been very busy with the fall season and we have had no real issues other than opening the trails coming down from Rimmon Hill. AB – the white trail is the main trail, and it is unable to be used due to blockage. Riders coming in from the top of Rimmon Hill are unable to pass because the red trail is blocked. SM – excavator should be on the white trail Thursday and plan to have that cleared by the end of the week. MF – technically we have been able to hold the horses out, but we have people walking all over the place. AB – we cannot stop everyone. MF – it has been taking so long to clear these trails and there are no other activities, so people do not understand why the trails are not clear. SM – two of the big reasons are, the tool that we need most has been being used where we are doing paving and we can not put a machine on the wet muddy trails. The other reason is we had a tree service taking hangers down and he must climb the tree. I have been trying to get in contact with him for a couple of weeks. It has been a long time but that is a good part of it. AB – plus the machinery is shared by several towns. I agree it has been way to long but there have been issues between machinery and manpower. DB – I was bit by a tick, and I had it tested. That tick was not lime born carrying.
- b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – all sports leagues are done. Equipment (tables & chairs) we ordered through grant are coming in tomorrow and may put them up in the spring. SM – graffiti was primed and painted. AB – There were some issues regarding playground safety, Gerry asked if I would write up a checklist for CIRMA. I went through the Consumer Safety handbook and wrote up a checklist for Public Works. I sent it to Gerry who forwarded it to Rob. We now have a safety checklist that public works will conduct monthly for each playground in town. The checklist will be kept on file.
- c. **Riverbend Park** – SM – nothing new to report. BE – there are people using it. AB – in September, Mike Krenesky mentioned if the town has authority on the Naugatuck River. It took me about 6 weeks to get an answer from DEEP and they stated that the town cannot post a sign of what can and cannot be done on the river. The new sign will say that you cannot launch, swim or wade from the shoreline. The shoreline is under our control so that language needs to be specified.
- d. **Toby's Pond** - SM – AB just filled up the new message center that we just put up and the no parking sign in front of the pavilion was installed along with the no blocking turn around signs. DB – the only thing we still have people doing is parking in front of the pavilion. AB – I do rounds there twice a week. DB – what about getting the dog waste receptacle. SM – we have an order in with Berco for product and I can get you an update. DB – was there any follow up on the millings for filling? SM – Public Works knows of the issues and I do not know if we have any millings available. DB – did we get Toby's Pond final account balance? BE – I will get a copy of that from Finance and will call tomorrow to get it. DB – I want it in the minutes that I am requesting it and we need to have it next month. As we move forward with COVID and colder weather, it is the perfect opportunity to put things in there. AB – Gerry sent an email to SM and I regarding having CIRMA come out to review potential liability for water activities that take place at Toby's & Matthies. The CIRMA rep is looking for boundary markers. SM and I are going to meet with him and review both sites. DB – can you clarify boundary markers? AB – the boundaries lines for Matthies and Toby's to determine liability for water activities.

- e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – done for this year and we will have to see what happens in the spring with COVID.
 - f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – AB and I met with Gerry to discuss enforcement of the parking stickers at Matthies. There are some thoughts and possible changes going around and the BOS would like input from us. They are considering going to an annual sticker and it would include Matthies and making Toby's residents only. The sticker would also be good for the dump. There would be a different color sticker for an employee of a business in town as well. There would be no more fees at the transfer station. As we all know, it is not enforced right now. This is just preliminary, but they are looking for our input. MF – one of my suggestions would be if we go to a sticker than we need to go with a card not a sticker because I can't take it off the windshield of one car and put it on another. AB – this was brought up because through my patrols, I found that almost 30% were not residents. I cannot check license plates to verify residency. BE – I raised the concern if someone replaces their vehicle, how we would handle that. DB – a lot of parks just have a pass you can place on your dashboard. AB – on my report, I also submitted examples to what other towns do as well. MF – we are going from a nice open town to needing a passport to go from one street to another, this town is really changing. AB – we just want to get a sticker for residents. DB – when the time comes, I think we should vote on it. Things tend to be getting done not at meetings. AB – its up to the Board of Selectmen. DB – how do we give our input? BE – comments can be submitted in writing like we do. BE – I have no idea what will happen next year with events. We will have to determine those as we go.
 - g. **Community Garden** – BE – I do not see a problem putting the money in our special activities account. Regarding us running it, we should find someone involved with the garden to run it. If they need Chair approval to write checks, then I can provide that. We do not have to decide tonight. We can review the list when MK send it to us. DB – I do not even know how they disperse plots or how big the plots are. MF – lets wait until you get the list and then contact someone on it to run it. DF – they should report to us while the garden is active.
- 6. **Correspondence**
None
 - 7. **Budget**
BE – finance will send info early next year regarding budget planning process for 2021.
 - 8. **Applications**
None
 - 9. **Grant Information**
None
 - 10. **Executive Session (if needed)**
none
 - 11. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57P.M. **LD/DF**; *no discussion*; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission