

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
December 21, 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), Jake Fernandes (JF), Desiree Brooks (DB), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Don Ferretti (DF)

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky, Park Ranger (AB)

Member Absent: Steve Moffat (SM)

BE welcomed Jake Fernandes to the Commission.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on November 16, 2020 as submitted: **MF/DB**, all ayes

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. New Business

None

5. Old Business

- a. **Matthies Park** – BE – SM told me nothing going on. His report to the Board of Selectmen was routine maintenance. We are looking at new locks for all the parks. We are going to make them one lock all the same for each park. MF – are the trails open? AB – yes, I posted it after the storm and Kerry shared it on the website again today. AB – we had CIRMA come do an assessment for liability at Toby's and Matthies Ponds. We received a great report from them. AB – read the report from CIRMA siting no recommendations needed. AB – we will be putting up winter signage when the weather gets colder and the water freezes. MF – what are the can and can not do's? AB- there is no ice skating, fishing, or any other activities on the ponds. BE – that was a CIRMA recommendation.
- b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – no activities; closed for the winter. Open for walking.
- c. **Riverbend Park** – BE – nothing going on there, just routine maintenance. AB – we put up a sign originally stating there were no activities on the river regarding inflatables etc. I submitted the information to DEEP and they got back to me saying we have no control of the river, only to the shoreline. I revised the verbiage on the signage, and we have reposted it. MF – I thought originally, one of the activities we wanted was so that people could launch kayaks etc. BE – it was set up with a modified J hook where the boat launch is. MF – when was it changed? BE – we did but we could change it back. MF – but now the signs are going to say people cannot. BE – AB and I will have to discuss because it defeats what we were trying

to do there. AB – when we put the signage up regarding watercraft, we said inflatables. We are not restricting kayaks; we are restricting inflatables.

- d. **Toby's Pond** – DB – Requested Toby's budget. MF – the report has Toby's pond listed on it. BE – we paid for the signs and that came out of there. This budget document is current. DB – when will Toby's be reopened? AB – I am not sure. Snow removal from there is difficult due to the road conditions.
- e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – JF are you playing basketballs? BE – no we are paused. As soon as schools open, we are jumping back in.
- f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – the Library is looking for us to sponsor their New Year activities for kids. They are looking for something between \$300-500. I think we have about \$1,500 left. MF – do they know what they want to do? DB – is it only going to be for the Library? BE – New Year's Eve party at home. Bags filled with noise makers, games, crafts, candy etc. DB – will there be any credit provided to Park & Rec included with the bags? BE – they usually do recognize us. MF – They want between \$300-\$500? BE – they did not provide an amount, that was my recommendation. **MF I make a motion to provide a \$300 donation, JF seconded, all ayes.** MF – if they say \$300 is not enough, can we build in there that we can give them more without coming back to the Board. **LD I make a motion to modify the motion above to cap the donation at \$500, seconded by DB, all ayes.** BE – I do not know what will happen for next year, we are still in limbo. I know we met with Selectman Krenesky about the 150th but nothing was implemented because we do not know what we can do next year. DB – for park and rec purposes, the 150th will do a lot for the town, like the Fire House. Maybe when the time comes, we can do something like the Believe signs etc.
- g. **Community Garden** – BE – Money was transferred to the account. Waiting on names from Mike Krenesky for potential volunteers.

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Budget**

BE – budget due by 1/15. It must be completed online. They want the operating budget and capital items for the next 5 years. AI has asked if we can reimburse his mileage. He drove about 500 miles this past year. I do not have an objection to it because his presence is known. The BOF will probably have to approve this request. DB – that will still give us around a \$9,000 balance and maybe we can revisit the security cameras. Even if they are inexpensive waterproof. BE – putting up cameras has been an ongoing discussion and AB is getting numbers for us to include in our budget. We have voted for security cameras, but it must be approved by BOS and Police. There is a lot of legality to it regarding archive's, etc. DB- if it is town property and we can have one at the Town Garage, then why not at the parks. MF – Don spent a lot of time and energy getting the information we needed but could not get BOS approval. BE – I approached Gerry when he first took office about this. DB – other towns do it so if we must reach out to them for guidance then so be it. BE – we voted to use this year's excess funds to the new playscape. AB – I have nothing to do with the Commission, but I was not happy seeing the funds go to the Playscape. We could have done a lot with cameras for money going to the playscape. LD – but the playscape is heavily utilized. MF – its already done. LD – didn't we all talk about it and approve it? MF – I did not. BE – the cameras are not on the backburner; we just must get the financing and work out the logistics. It is just like asking for items to get fixed. MF – would it do us any good if we went directly to the BOF and not the BOS? BE – the budget goes to the BOF and will be reviewed by both boards. I did update the costs for a new TPA study based on last year's budget recommendation. AB – if you are going to prioritize things it would be the Matthies house, cameras, etc. BE – again, if anyone has anything to add, please get it to me by 1/11 so I can get it in on time. AB – one other thing regarding the parks, I submit my report to the BOS and have been including park stickers. If

is hard for me to enforce control at Matthies without a sticker. I have put this in my report every month and we need to address it and decide if Toby's will remain public or private to residents only. I am following up with them every month.

8. Applications

BE – 2021 Facilities application is updated and on the website. Kerry completed that and updated the Commission members on the website.

9. Grant Information

None

10. Executive Session (if needed)

none

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40P.M. **MF/DB**; *no discussion*; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission