

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
February 16, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Chairman Bob Egan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Bob Egan (BE), Jake Fernandes (JF), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Don Ferretti (DF), Steve Moffat (SM)

Members Absent: Desiree Brooks (DB)

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky, Park Ranger (AB)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on January 19, 2021 as submitted: **MF/DF**, all ayes.

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. New Business

None

5. Old Business

- a. **Matthies Park** – SM – nothing new to report, it has been quiet. MF – no new damage at the park? SM – nope.
- b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – SM – we did take down the swing set and the playscape from the other pavilion area we previously discussed. SM – regarding the lock discussion we previously had, with the money we were allotted, it will not get us much of a lock system. We can go back to the basic pro-series lock which is good quality, and it would be around \$30 per lock and we need about 6. AI and I thought that would be the best route to go. MF – so you are going from the keypad to a pad lock and a key? SM – what we have now is a master combination lock. They get corrodes and it gets hard to spin in the combo. I reached out the garbage and port o potty company and they prefer the key as well. We will just be eliminating the combo. **DF made a motion to purchase the new locks, seconded by JF, all ayes.** BE – Steve, where the road splits on the left-hand side, there is a sign that points to the upper pavilion. I think we should take that down. We only use the lower pavilion.
- c. **Riverbend Park** – BE – I was down there, and everything seemed ok, I did not see any wildlife, but it is a quiet part of the year.
- d. **Toby's Pond** – BE – I saw on the website today that the gate was locked due to flooding. SM – it is all slush and icy. We had the gate open last week so people could at least walk, and we plowed a small area for people to park. The problem was the melting slush. I drove down in 4 wheel and had a hard time. So, we decided to close it until further notice. SM – in previous discussions, we talked about dog waste receptacles and trash cans. We do have signs there that say carry in/carry out. If we provide the receptacles, then the signs should be removed. We

have found in the past with Matties that having the trash near the parking lot, creates a magnet for litter and trash. Without them we had less trash. I wanted to see what the group thought about making a small dog waste receptacle on the pole, not an actual trash can. BE – that may work. JF – if there is a smaller receptacle will not it get filled quicker? SM – no, it will be on the post next to the dog waste bags. We were even thinking about attaching PVC pipe. DF – they make dog receptacle baskets, but you need to have a lid on it, so it does not fill with rainwater. SM – to order them its expensive but I think public works is creative enough to make one. AB – based on our conversation today, what is different between Toby's and the rest of the parks? SM – the difference is that other parks have them, and they are near a garbage receptacle. AB – how about Matthies? SM – we have not had any issues over there and they do have the dumpster and garbage cans. We could make one for there, but I figured we would start with Toby's being that we are having an issue there now. DF – we have them at Matthies, one by the dock and two by pavilion. JF – when are they emptied? SM – when the weather gets nicer, they get emptied weekly and the rec is daily. SM – we can build a third one for Matthies.

- e. **Sports League Reports** – JF – basketball is going on and we have 4 teams going and 2 session clinics every Sunday. Clinics are at the high school and all the travel teams' practice at Laurel Ledge during the week. Everyone, every second is wearing a mask.

- f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – I have received some calls about the concerts and have put them on hold because no one is doing anything yet. If everything loosens up, we can try to schedule something last minute. They are all willing to work with us. MF – why can't we have them at Matthies? There is plenty of room to social distance. BE – they used to be there, but we received complaints about the walk into the park and bugs. BE – the governor is loosening things up next month so hopefully we can schedule something. MF – we can even do something at Pent Road. BE – yes, so long as it does not conflict with sports. SM – we could use the upper pavilion. BE – yes, that could work. LD – that is a great idea. BE – the fishing rodeo is usually in April. I do not know if we can have one this year due to the crowds. St. Michael's Men's Club provides the manpower, but they are not doing events as of now. I was thinking of stocking it even if we do not have the rodeo. MF – what does that usually cost us? BE - \$3,000 worth of fish. The Men's Club provides all the food, manpower and prizes. AB – the year before last, I was not involved in the regulation of checking residency etc. What would we do this year? BE – we use the honor system, other than the rodeo because there are prizes. MF – I do not think it is that big of a deal. BE – I do not either, but we are not even sure that we can have the rodeo. I would still like to stock it though. BE – 150th committee has not met. MF – we have and there is a standard meeting every Wednesday from 6:30PM – 9:00PM. We have not gotten much further because we do not know what we will be able to do. We have not done any fundraising because we may not be able to utilize the funds. We have gotten a couple more volunteers but that is about it. BE – the last meeting I attended we were in the same spot. BE – same thing with summer camp, we are up in the air. MF – when does that start? BE – just after 4th of July and ends in mid-August. We usually have over 100 kids. BE – someone called me and reached out about offering Chess lessons during camp. If we do it, it would have to be after camp because they need the pavilion. I informed him we could not commit to anything just yet but would stay in touch.

- g. **Community Garden** – BE – still waiting to hear from Selectman Krenesky.

- 6. **Correspondence**
none

- 7. **Budget**

MF – didn't you have to meet with the BOF? BE – I have a date soon to discuss. MF – are we trying to get more or stay the same as last year? BE – I had to increase the rec camp line because minimum wage is increasing. I believe I kept the rest steady. The capital includes the study for Matthies Park and we also put in a request for security cameras at the parks. Park Ranger – what about the \$10,000 that I requested for the Bernard Matthies house, did that go in? BE – I do not believe so, I never saw that information. Park Ranger – I submitted several line items to you. MF – is it too late or can you get that information in there? BE – I will have to reach out to Tom Pratt. SM – I do agree that we must put maintenance for the house. We need to seal it up. MF – I agree.

8. Applications

BE – Robert A. Cole application is at town hall. Woodland Valley is supposed to be working on theirs. Valley Fusion sent it in but needed more information. They all must provide their COVID guidelines in addition to the application.

9. Grant Information

BE – First Selectman Smith is working on something for the playscape.

10. Executive Session (if needed)

none

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41P.M. **MF/LD; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission