

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



**BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**March 15, 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), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Don Ferretti (DF), Steve Moffat (SM), Desiree Brooks (DB)

**Members Absent:** Laura DeGeorge (LD), Jake Fernandes (JF)

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on February 16, 2021 as submitted: **MF/DF**, all ayes.

**3. Comments from the Public**

None

**4. New Business**

None

**5. Old Business**

- a. Matthies Park** – SM – not much going on there. BE – I got a call today and some of the guys interested in the fishing rodeo are interested in doing it. It will not be sponsored by the Men's Club. AB – what are the social distancing rules with Covid and how or are we going to check residency? MF – we discussed that last month and determined the honor system. AB – well I am bringing it back. BE – I must check with NVHD on the guidelines. The kids that attend register and provide their name, phone, and address. If they are not from town, we turn them away. AB – how do we verify that? BE – For the most part we know of the kids. AB – so we will be using facial recognition? MF – I do not think we need to be that strict. DB – a lot of families bring friends etc. AB – I understand that, but I have been involved in other Derby's and there were adults fishing too. MF – it is a family fun day. DF – after 12pm everyone can fish. The kids fish start to noon and then it is a free fish. BE – kids typically fish 7-11a and if we see adults fishing, we ask them to hold off until the kids are done. DB – who will be there that day? BE – people from the Men's Club. MF – when are we doing this? BE – probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in April. SM – regarding free fish, we are getting a lot of out-of-town residents. When we did all the signage, it does say residents only. Are we going to enforce this or ask for formal patrol? DB – I think we just need to come to a decision on all of our beautiful parks, is it resident sticker? If the surrounding towns can do it, I do not know what the push back is for ours. AB – back in November, I expressed issues that I am having enforcing. You have a rule and cannot enforce it if you cannot verify it. That was brought to the BOS in November and December with no action. I brought it up again in January and Selectman Krenesky was going to take the lead on this topic. We were going to discuss it with Bob, Bert, myself, and a few others regarding a

resident sticker. I wrote up on how other towns do it etc. DB – I do not know why as Park & Rec it's not on our agenda and we do not have the authority to vote on that. I do not know why we do not just do it. AB – I am not speaking for Park & Rec but this has to be an Ordinance and has to go through the BOS. The Park & Rec has established rules for the park. MF – I am not sure why we are pushing this so hard but Allan, you're the one who is pushing it the most and yet you personally emailed someone when the trails were back open, and they are not a resident. One of the horse people do not live-in town and you have texted them. AB – the only way to verify residency is by drivers license or sticker, excuse me for saying the park was open. MF – that is not what I am saying so do not twist it, but it is difficult to verify residency. AB – Bert was involved with this and we have been in communication with others, and we are waiting to have a meeting to decide how it will be done. My job is to enforce it. BE – I have not responded to the email comments but besides the fact, there have been a number of weddings and pavilion rentals and they have out of town guests, so how do you manage that? AB – that is different, but like SM said, there are many out of towners. All I am saying is we are either going to enforce the rule or remove it. BE – no decisions have been made and Bert's last email was lengthy. It is not that it has not been addressed, there is just no simple answer to it. AB – we ought to make it simple. If someone is going to have an event, then that is an event, but we are talking about the day-to-day visitors. MF – what do we do about the Oxford residents who just walk in through Oxford? BE – we own it and technically they should not be in there, but we cannot stop them. AB – the orange trail that leads into Oxford, I have stopped numerous people who were Oxford residents and I just remind them that its residents only. AB – there is not meeting scheduled Wednesday for this meeting correct? BE – that is correct. MF – does that have to do with Park & Rec? BE – yes, it would involve the town clerk too. MF – can I request that instead of side meetings it should come to this board. AB – BE is representing Park & Rec. DB – you find out there is a side bar, and we have no idea what is going on. BE – I have it on my list of things to discuss. We cannot all meet without it being a formal meeting. This would be a meeting during the day. MF – I think the public should be in on this. BE – it is being worked on and not finalized. DB – all the commissions should have a say or vote with those decisions. SM – I think you have explained it well BE.

- b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – SM and I met a couple of weeks ago and there is a proposal to replace the garage with a new storage facility where the upper pavilion was. This is being reviewed by the BOF and there are some safety concerns that need to be addressed. This would free up storage space and shelter if there is bad weather. It probably will not happen this year. SM – we are just looking into our options and what to use it for. Mr. Pratt had some questions and there is some work in there that needs to be done. We are trying to come up with the most efficient plan. BE – last year we bought several tables and chairs. They will be put up soon. SM – by next week we will start putting them in. We had to change the locations of some, due to the work that will be starting on the playscape and courts area. BE – the playscape is supposed to be going up and I signed the transfer request. The BOS needs to schedule a town meeting to get it approved. It will be able to be used this year. Gerry called me tonight about the basketball and tennis courts. They have a hard figure of \$285,000 and it includes all the engineering cost, fencing etc. Gerry wants to get this done starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and having it available for use this year also. They are looking for funds from LOCIP and other sources. Are there any questions? We have discussed this before, and we were in favor of replacing everything. This will include everything. AB – where is the money coming from? BE – LOCIP, part is from capital project funding and I know that Gerry has been searching for grants. SM – speaking of the courts, as our discussion the

other day, we only have 1 hoop up and as of now we are going to hold off on anymore. MF – I thought Park & rec was doing this and funding it? BE – we are funding the playscape. MF – so I am confused, why did we need to know the \$285,000. BE – he wanted me to let the board know what they were planning and the final figure of cost. MF – but except for the playscape we have nothing to do with the rest of this? BE – they did come to us and ask for our blessing. DB – speaking of wear and tear, is there anything that will be done around the divots in the asphalt? SM - that is in the talks now, I did mention that to the Road Forman. It is a hot topic right now with everything going on. BE – there are also roots pushing up in spots as well. SM – the track needs attention.

- c. **Riverbend Park** – BE – I have been down there, and it was quiet. SM – nothing new to report.
- d. **Toby's Pond** – SM – as we speak Jeff, and I are building trash receptacles for the dog waste. DB – I was down there, and that white piping was filled. At least they were being put in there, but we need something else. I noticed it is a popular dog place, but I have seen many dogs off the leash. Do we have a leash sign, or can we get one stating dogs must be leashed? SM – I believe we have one. DB – if not, can we put one near the gate? SM – if not, we can also have the dog warden take a walk through. DB – it is important for people to leash their dogs. MF – everywhere I go this seems to be an issue and when you confront people, they get mean. BE – do not approach people, just call the dog warden. BE – I approved the application for a gentleman in Milford to operate an RC boat. He has been doing it for many years, since 2001. He is the only one to my knowledge that does this and is careful of wildlife and fishers. DB – Whether its family day or not, can we do another kayak day on Toby's? BE – the State is opening things up as of Friday and I will check with NVHD. DB – I know that other towns released dates for summer concerts etc. and I do not know why we cannot have events at other parks. If we get the sports league schedule, lets look at the dates and maybe we can find a couple. BE – the church is just more convenient. SM - We cannot have sport events and concerts on the same night. MF – well they have other choices. BE – if you want to do it go ahead, I will give you the names of the bands and you can take care of it. MF – wow.
- e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – SM will let them know when the fields are ready.
- f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – I checked with NVHD about opening Rec camp. Camp is opening. Heather is interested and I have not yet heard back from Allison. Regarding the 150<sup>th</sup>, I know they have something scheduled for the ceremony, but do they have anything else? MF – I missed the last two meetings. DB – do we have a specific date for anything major? BE – Mike mentioned a ceremony at Veterans Park, but I do not remember the date. I will follow up with Mike.
- g. **Community Garden** – BE – Todd Waldron who has some plots is willing to run this and I have got some information from Mike. I am meeting with Todd tomorrow and will give him all the information. DB – can I join and introduce myself to discuss the Pollinator Pathway Program? BE – yes and if you can not make it, I will give you his contact information.

#### 6. **Correspondence**

none

#### 7. **Budget**

BE – there was a budget workshop via Zoom and we discussed the numbers. No feedback really, there are more workshops with other departments. AB – I did a request for the monies for the camera's which is \$3,456 and this is what Don was working on. He spent a lot of time on this, and I am wondering with the monies left over for this year, we probably have around \$30,000 that we could use before the end of the year. Can we look at using

some of this money? There are \$5,000 left over for Settling Pond maintenance, there are the summer concerts etc. If we do not expend this money, can we purchase the cameras? There are 10 of them and we can put them at all the parks. I spoke to Natasha and this money is still here in tack. BE – we can look into it but some of that is being transferred for the playscape. DB – remember Toby's has its own money too. AB – this is a minor expense. BE – we also need money for recurring expense to go with it. AB – it is only \$1,200 a year. BE – it still needs to be appropriated. DB – make sure it is in the minutes because I do not want it to go months and months. SM – good point AI, they would be good to have especially with the new signage. AB – Don and I discussed this in December and if the Commission decided which areas need camera's Don would check the signal strength etc. BE – your concerns are noted.

**8. Applications**

BE – I have received three, Valley Fusion Softball, The Fire Department and Robert Cole.

**9. Grant Information**

BE – Katherine Matthies is still open for benches and chairs and once those are installed the final report will be submitted by Natasha. AB – one of the things that I put in with the BOS is a decision request to have an official opening for the message centers. There was no action on that from the BOS. BE – I did speak with Gerry and he wants to do this during the time of the fishing rodeo. I will reach out to him and if there is no rodeo then we will select another date.

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

none

**11. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59P.M. **DB/DF; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew  
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission