

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
May 17, 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), Steve Moffat (SM), Don Ferretti (DF), Laura DeGeorge (LD)

Members Absent: Desiree Brooks (DB), Jake Fernandes (JF)

Others Present: Selectman Krenesky (MK)

BE entertained a motion to add the Park Ranger Report to the agenda for today and moving forward, MF/SM, all ayes.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Comments from the Public

MK – 22 Maple Avenue – in conversations with the First Selectman and Chair of BOF and the activities that the Park Ranger has been doing regarding the house at Matthies, because I am working on the relocation of the Rimmon School House I had Stacey Varo from the CT Preservation Trust out of Hamden here looking at the School House. We drove to Matthies and I showed her the park and she did not know it was not listed on the historic registered of places in CT. She asked why it was not and how soon we could put it on. I have started a nomination to put Matthies park, specifically the house on the State Register of Historic places. It will allow us to go after State historic preservation grants. The preservation grants do not impact residency. It does state however, that you have to open the park at least 12 days a year to the public. I have been working to create the registration and even if we do not follow through with grants. Stacy said there is nothing in the State like Matthies Park. The Park is so unique. I just wanted to let the commission know that as the town historian I am working on this. I am open to any comments. MF – I think it is a fabulous idea, I am just concerned that our deed says no, you cannot have outside town. How do you get around that? It is not a matter of us changing, its not that simple. MK – the question I would raise, it is the letter from Matthies that everyone has keyed off of to say it is resident only. If you read the letter closely it never says resident only. MF – I thought it was one the deed? MK – unless something was changed from the letter to the deed, which is something to verify. If you read the letter closely, right now, we are not fulfilling the requirements on maintaining the park. BE – It sounds good. We tried about 10 years ago and never heard a word. MK – I have been trying to get High Rock on the list for the last 10 years and it fell on deaf ears. I just wanted you to be fully aware that I am working on the application. SM – that is for the whole park, not just the house, correct? MK – yes, correct. BE – I am in favor of it. SM – me too, right now we are in the process of trying to seal it up before it gets worse. BE – back then we looked for grants but had difficulty because it was

not a public park. MF – it still is not. SM – we would have to open the park 12 times a year, we do not have enforcement now. BE – Mike can you keep us informed. MK – once I have the nomination form completed, I will bring it forward to the committee.

4. New Business

150th Anniversary – MK officially will be held June 27th and we are holding an event at the Fire House from 1-5. There will be food, dignitaries etc. The next major event that we are putting on as the Town and the Historical society is on September 25th, we will be using the Pent Road Recreation Center to launch a drone lightshow. The company is out of Detroit and it is called Firefly. I have all the information and the PO for the Committee and we have to put a deposit down asap to lock in the date. The total will cost us around \$36,000. They were looking for us to put 50% down, however, they broke it out so that we can put 25% now and 25% after July 1. We have already put \$25,000 in the budget for this event in the FY22 budget, there is \$4,000 sitting in the 150th account, which is why I am here. It is listed under Special Activities and Park & Rec. controls those monies; therefore, we would need approval to send the check. We need an additional \$5,200. Finance told me you have \$11,000 sitting in your special activities accounts that are unencumbered.

I am asking that you authorize \$5,200 out of your special activities line in an addition to the \$4,000 we have to lock in the September date. Any funds left over from the June 27th event will be put towards this show as well. I have the purchase order for signature with the information filled out and I have the use facility agreement filled out for the 9.25.2021 date. The key piece is obviously the funding.

BE – anyone have thoughts, discussions? I am in favor of this. We do have money that we have not spent. MF – where is unspent money? BE – There is already \$4,000 in the 150th event budget line. We have \$11,000 left over from the Independent day celebration fund from last years fireworks. We still have a deposit from two years ago.

MF made a motion to approve the purchase order of \$5,200 towards the 150th drone show, LD seconded, all ayes.

5. Old Business

a. **Matthies Park** – SM – nothing new. BE – fishing rodeo was held in April and it went well, and a lot of fish were caught. LD – I heard it was a great day. BE – the Men's Club was able to hand out food. Big thanks to St. Michael's Men's Club and the Barksdale family. SM – signage is also all open now. The signage was an effort by the Park Ranger and they look great.

b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – They started construction on the courts, the playscape was delivered and should be installed in the next few weeks. SM – after the playground is installed, we will finish mounting the benches and tables. Summer camp is coming up and we still have the old shed that had to be moved away from the construction zone. We have to do something with this thing, but we need a plan on what we are going to do with that. BE – I will talk to Erin and see what is left and then we can decide what to do. SM – its mouse infested, and we should take it out of there. There are a lot of open holes. BE -if we have the money would you want to replace them? SM – last year we priced it out around \$2,400. BE – I will find out what we have and then we can decide. BE – Fireworks will be on July 10th with the rain date of July 11th. The band is set, we still need the buses and ice cream. We have to see if the nonprofits are interested as well. SM – we had a contractor come out and provide an estimate for field lights. BE – Rec Camp is starting July 12th. She is aware of what needs to be done. Registration application and fees are online. MF – are they accepting applications for Counselors. BE – I think she had everyone she needed but I am not sure. The school did reach out to us about Summer School, but I think it would have been too hot to have summer camp in the afternoon.

c. **Riverbend Park** – SM – it is usually pretty quiet. There was no one down there when I was sitting in the car drinking my coffee.

- d. **Toby's Pond** – SM – the road under the bridge was regraded with gravel. The dog waste bag centers seem to be working well.
 - e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – nothing new to report
 - f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – we have 7 concerts lined up. June 23rd is the Bernadette's, June 30th is 60's Satisfaction, July 14th – Kathy Casey Band and July 21st is Polish, July 28th is Kerry Boys, August 4th is TUB and August 11th is Measured Soul. Jess DeGennaro reached out to me about running a volleyball camp. She would like us to sponsor this camp. It would be grades 6-9, August 9- August 13th at the High School from 9a-11a. The cost would be \$90.00 per kid. LD – I think that is a great idea. **LD – I make a motion to approve this camp, seconded by SM, all ayes.** BE – I received a call from Brendan Heller, and he coaches at WRHS and he would like to have swim classes in the fall and spring at the High School. It would be 12 weeks from August 30 – November 19th and April 4th – June 10th for two age groups in the evening. Again, we would be the sponsor, he would run it, but we do not have the cost yet. MF – why would we sponsor it? BE – So they are under our insurance. We will have to get more information, but I think they are great ideas. BE – Erin and I met with Naugatuck YMCA and he wants to offer more programs here and work with us. They put together a survey that will go out to town residents to see what programs people would be interested in. They YMCA has several activities and we discussed it for quite a while. They have scholarship opportunities. One of our issues for activities is space. Mark has reached out to the Region about more activities there as well. The YMCA would run the activities; they have the personnel. LD – it would be the spectrum of ages. BE – tomorrow I will send you the survey that will be going out to residents. LD – what did Al want to request with our Facebook? BE – he just wanted to change the photos, make it into a slideshow and change the photos with the season. I am in favor of giving him that permission. **DF made motion to have Park Ranger as admin on Facebook page, seconded by LD, all ayes.**
 - g. **Community Garden** – BE – no plots left! It looks great. MF – yes, they have spent a lot of time there.
 - h. **Park Ranger Report** - BE – Al sent this report out, he conducted 8 patrols, was at the fish stocking, attended and posted photos of the rodeo, Steve camped out overnight to keep an eye out at the park. Open sign center. Discussed painting speed bump at Matthies. We have a proposal for Matthies, to secure the house. Total cost is about \$7,800 and the contractor is Doug Nick Construction. MK – that was approved by the BOS and the BOS voted to put \$10,000 towards that project on securing the house.
- 6. **Correspondence**
None
 - 7. **Budget**
BE – budget hearing is Wednesday.
 - 8. **Applications**
BE – I have not approved any since the last meeting.
 - 9. **Grant Information**
BE – nothing current
 - 10. **Executive Session (if needed)**
none
 - 11. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04P.M. **MF/SM; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission