

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
June 21, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Chairman Bob Egan called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Members Present: Bob Egan (BE), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Don Ferretti (DF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Desiree Brooks (DB), Jake Fernandes (JF)

Members Absent: Steve Moffat (SM)

Others Present: Selectman Krenesky (MK)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held May 17, 2021, as submitted: **MF/LD, all ayes.**

3. Comments from the Public

MK presented a watercolor portrait of the house at Matthies Park that was completed by Assistant Town Clerk, Denise Hendricks.

4. New Business

- a. Matthies Park Podium Installation Approval** – BE – the Library has put together podiums for events that they have had at Matthies in the past. They want to have them installed and they would be up through fall of next year. They are just looking for the approval from us to put them up. They will work with Jeff and Steve at Public Works on placement so that it does not interfere with any work. MF – they can't just bring them the day of the event and take them home? They will probably get vandalized. BE – currently they are in Kerri's garage. LD made a motion to approve the podium installation. MF – I think we need to know more first. How many? Are they going to stay in a building when they are not in use? DB – they are going to stay up. We should find out a little bit more. LD – would you not approve if there was something else that would go against it? MF – I am not against it, but I just think we need to know more details. JF – one concern may be the break up of nature if there is a lot of them. I think the idea is great, but we need to know how many. **LD – amend motion that BE will get more information prior to approval of installation, seconded by MF, all ayes.**

5. Old Business

- a. Matthies Park** – BE – Doug Bousquet submitted a proposal for securing the house. Purchase order was signed, and Steve Moffat will be working with Doug to set up a date to complete the work. MF – do we know how long the work will take? BE – no, but once he gets started it should be quick. MF – how is Doug getting out there? BE – Steve will take him out on the boat.
- b. Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – the playground is up and is still closed because the landscape is not yet finished. Tennis courts have the first course of pavement, and the second course is scheduled for the end of this week. Then the fencing and pavement will be done. DB – has anyone seen the playscape? It is

pretty small and not what I was imagining. There is only one small slide, and we spent a lot of money, and it was not what I was expecting. There is nothing to really do in there and not a lot of shade. JF – do they have an idea when the courts will be painted and lined? BE – not yet, but Steve thought in the next couple of weeks. DB – there is still a lot of activity, and I noticed the water is not yet installed. BE – there is a leak in the water line. They are working on it and had to shut the water down. MF – what are the kids doing for bathrooms? BE – there are outhouses. DB – will there be an actual quote for repairs or is it a town thing? BE – that is under Public Works. They have to complete a pressure test.

- c. **Riverbend Park** – BE – nothing going on there.
- d. **Toby's Pond** – DB – Since last Friday, there has not been any trail maintenance and there is a lot of things that are overgrown. There are many ticks. You can not walk through without getting hit by brush. Are we doing a mow job? It is all overgrown. I also want to propose that we install a no swimming sign. I asked 3 families this weekend to stop swimming. I had one person, who we have asked to get out of several times, with a motorboat to stop swimming. The Park Ranger was not available and there were about 3 families swimming. They were young kids under 10. I did not want to argue with them. BE – if the Park Ranger is not around just call the police. DB – so can we get a motion to put a sign up? MF – if they are not expensive, it cannot hurt to put another sign or two. **DB – made a motion to install one no swimming sign, MF seconded, all ayes.**
- e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – Robert Cole had their awards banquet this Saturday. WRHS is using the pavilion this Wednesday for their awards night. LD – July 9th Valley Fusion softball will have their end of year party.
- f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – concerts start this Wednesday. Next Wednesday is the town's 150th anniversary and the Men's Club will be purchasing a sheet cake to celebrate if anyone wants to stop in for cake. Fireworks are July 10th. We have applied for permission to have residents park at WRHS and be bussed. Busses will start running at 6:30PM. There will be music, the sugar shack will be open as well. MF – what if Region 16 says no? Would we be able to use NEJ and get a plan B? MK – you could also ask Kolga. BE – I am sure the Region will say ok. LD – permission for the Facebook, Kyle Brennan is going to help me to post information. I am an admin because I get all of the information. DB – I can post as well because I always take pictures at the parks etc. I think we should all have permission to post on the page. LD – also at some point, would we be willing to sponsor an event for Beacon Bee to come out and explain how they do bee keeping etc. DB – absolutely! LD – Jeremy Rodorigo and I were discussing having a medical professional to do a night or evening Q&A session regarding what the park does, our town nurse does etc. This would be an event that is sponsored by us as a community event. BE – that is a great idea. LD – great, I will run with that. DB – a lot time ago, someone asked me about CPR classes and I wanted to know if we can do things like that. LD – just an FYI we are certifying and recertifying camp counselors. These are things we can do in conjunction to the community event. MF – how much does it cost? LD – about \$50.00.
- g. **Community Garden** – DB – Todd was sick, but he has been doing things with folks. He needed to get a new lock. BE – yes, and a couple of other things and that is all taken care of. All of the plots are taken, and people say that it is going very well.
- h. **Park Ranger Report** – BE – he has been patrolling and he also sent out some pictures today about cracks in the track at Pent Road. Public Works is aware.
- i. **150th Celebration** – MK – the event is this Sunday from 1pm -5pm. We have the programs put together and I just got confirmation that Senator Murphy will not be able to attend but will be sending a citation over. As far as we know, all other dignitaries will be here. We have Erlaina Michaud singing the National Anthem. We

have free pizza, ice cream, cannoli's and beverages. The Firehouse is selling hotdogs. Friends of the Library will have events for the kids. The Valley Arts Council will have tents set up and the middle section will have tables and chairs for people to sit. Update on the September event, our Attorney and the vendor's attorney are going through the contract, and we are still working that through. We have not yet put the deposit down. MF – will the street be closed? The streets will be open and everything is going to be done within the fire house grounds. There will be police patrolling.

- j. **YMCA Update** – BE – LD is our liaison with the YMCA and as of last Friday, we are not supporting the volleyball camp. Jess DeGennaro was able to get insurance and sponsorship through the Booster Club. LD – the YMCA is all still in the works. We are trying to still work with Laurel Ledge and Chatfield. We need to get the survey's back to find out what people are interested in. Once I have more information, I can let you know. MF – can you clarify something, the volleyball insurance can you explain that? BE – last month we approved being the sponsor so that they would be covered under the town's insurance. Because Jess is not an employee of the town or part of the board, she would have had to have her own insurance. We were trying to work with the YMCA to assume liability, but it did not work out. MF – so us sponsoring means it is not our program? BE – it is but they would need to have their own insurance (\$1M in liability). DB – how much does that cost? BE – it depends on the event and how many people. JF – for basketball it ends up being about \$7 per person. DB – so as a commission we could not cover that for her? JF – she already has coverage. BE – she has coverage through Boosters. MF – so park and rec has nothing to do with it? BE – no, we have disassociated from it. LD – this is something we can discuss further with Mark at the YMCA as we discuss programs. They would like to back up anything we want to bring to the town.

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Budget**

BE – budget was approved. DF – were both capital items approved? MK – everything that was in the budget was approved.

8. **Applications**

BE – I approved one for the Laser show and Robert Cole awards. There will be a Make-A-Wish 5k on July 3rd which will start at the Rec field.

9. **Grant Information**

BE – nothing current

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

none

11. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54P.M. **MF/DF; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission