

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



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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Selectman Betkoski (PB)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held October 18, 2021, as submitted: **MF/LD, all ayes.**

BE – It has come to my attention that some of us may have been posting things on social media outside the board. All discussion and decision should take place here and anything that happens occurs with the majority vote of this board. MF – what kind of stuff? BE – I do not read it; I have just heard about it. I rather you bring your concerns or discussions to this board.

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. New Business

2022 Facility Application Form – BE – last month I asked everyone to review it. I do not think there are a log of changes to make. DB – wasn't there permissions we needed to add? BE – yes, pickleball. The following should be changed:

- Change date to 2022
- Add permissions to reserve pickle ball courts
- Eliminate Park Ranger as a copy
- Pent Road Pavilion – removed fee waiver language. JF – I think we should leave it as a safeguard.

Motion made to approve the changes for the 2022 facility application MF/LD, all ayes.

2022 Chairman & Vice Chairman Nominations – BE – my term is up, and I have served 2 consecutive years. SM – I would like to nominate Don Ferretti, seconded by LD, all ayes. Don accepts Chair position nominee. LD - Nominated BE as Vice Chairman, seconded by MF, all ayes. BE – I am willing to do it for one year.

Library Events – BE – I received an email from Kerri and they would like to do holiday wreaths and they would like us to sponsor them again. They are asking if we would support them with \$150 dollars. We have the money in the budget. There is \$3,500 appropriation for the year, and we have only spent \$160. MF – how many people will that assist? BE – there will be 30 people. **Motion to approve \$150 towards holiday**

wreath activity MF/LD, all ayes. BE – next year Kerri wants to do a candy land style game through the parks. She is looking for a liaison on the Board to work with them.
Motion made that MF will be the liaison for Library events that take place in our town parks, LD/DB, all ayes.

5. Old Business

- a. **Matthies Park** – SM – the house is being sealed up by the contractor and is not complete yet. We have some roof and chimney to seal up. It should be completed on Wednesday. The light on the flagpole was broken so we are waiting for a light from the electrician. I walked part of the trail with our newer worker and discovered some small trees down that we will need to clear. MF – are any trails at Matthies still closed? SM – I do not believe so. The few that I walked are passable even with the debris. BE – be careful after this past weekend storm.
- b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – SM – fencing there is mostly complete. The big wait is for the gates to be fabricated and hung. Unsure when that will be. In a couple of weeks, the netting for tennis will be down. MF – so basically it was down for a year. SM – between supplies and contractors, yeah. DB – can someone take the soccer nets down? SM – yes, that is our normal schedule to take them down in the next week. Overhead netting will be removed in the next few weeks and the nets in the batting cage will be removed also. The sugar shack should be cleaned out in the next week or so. The Fire Marshalls were out there about a month ago and noted that one of the cooler is close to the door. We may need to move it over or get rid of one. The irrigation was winterized for the season. LD – did we discuss field 4 lighting? Can we just get generators? SM – Prospect has them and we have used them for the carnival. It may be an option we can look into. BE – my thoughts is that if we are going to do something it should be in the capital budget next year. LD – I will look into the cost. JF – I just googled it and they are about \$5,000 - \$8,000. BE – can you check into see if a new trailer is available for next year? SM – do we want to look into a connex box or a shed? For the summer camp we made do with the trailer, but I will look into the connex box and a shed for comparison. BE – we mentioned adding to the playscape so we will need a price for that as well. SM – I will get a revised quote.
- c. **Riverbend Park** – BE – Steve, Don, Angelo and I met and identified work that needs to be done. Steve was cutting back some of the walking trails and the paths along the water that had debris from when the water came up. SM – we cut the trails back and still have some more work to do, but it looks better and pretty good. BE – there were trees with debris from when the river came up.
- d. **Toby's Pond** – SM – we covered the sign where it says no gas boats. DB – I worked with Natasha to submit the grant and that was all submitted. We will get a handful of town people and companies to do work in the budget we have and then we will be taking money out of the Toby's Charter grant to do more of the heavy-duty work. One of the reasons that incident this past weekend happened was that the rock that used to be there for cleaning the ease way, was not put back. That is how that vehicle in question over the weekend was able to access the area. The gate most likely was not locked the night before. The police officer was from the Bethany Barracks. He could not give him a ticket because there is no signage that states no parking etc. MF – this was early morning? DB – around noon. MF – so why couldn't he be there? DB – he could but not in the position the officer saw him in. MF – what made you call the police? DB – because there was a vehicle purposely driven out there in the high grass so that it would not be seen. When the officer went over to him, he had to wait for him to get dressed. We do not know what he was doing there. BE – I just spoke with Gerry and he just hired 3 new police officers. DB – even in the interim locking and unlocking is not happening promptly. We should all take a shift to open and close when the police

can't. We should get their schedule. Allen used to be able to get that information. BE – with that grant what does it entail? We submitted it but it is not approved. DB – correct, they gave us a good guideline as to what we should be asking for. We only asked for about \$13,000 not the full \$20,00. Hopefully if it is approved, we can add some benches etc. BE – I spoke with Gerry, and he told me that he met with Jim Weed about clearing the north side of the area. DB – we should have a decision on the grant probably after the first of the year.

- e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – all the league sports are done. We went a little beyond what we normally do, but the weather has been great. BE – last month Jake asked about the town taking over basketball. The town would be willing to do it with some provisions. Someone from this Board has to be a liaison, all the money and registration fees would come into the town and all the expenses have to be paid out of that. If this goes forward, Jake would be a great liaison. It is possible to do. LD – I talked to Mark at the YMCA, and it is like other towns. I think it is something we should investigate this and be ready for what comes next. I would help in the future. **Motion made that JF be the basketball program liaison, LD/MF, all ayes.**
- f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – things are quiet. Captain Al proposed a revised job description to Gerry. I invite everyone to review it. Al would love to come back and a lot of us are pushing for him to come back. Gerry spoke with the Town Attorney, the Insurance company and Human Resources. The only way to bring him back would be to make him an employee. He would be answering to this Board and his duties would be a Park Ranger job. We have to draft a job description and fund the position. I was thinking about 20 hours a week. Al is willing to do it. DB – is there any guideline as to the Selectmen's decision? BE – it would have to go in as a budget request and the BOF and BOS would have to approve it. This would be a job that would be advertised to the public so it may not necessarily go to Al. Al understood that. MF – this would come out of our budget? BE – yes, it would be a new line item and he would work under our direction. The liability questions came up with the enforcement part of the position which would be eliminated. MF – what kind of budget would we need? BE – we will have to figure out hours and minimum wage. We need a couple people to come up with a description for the job and then we can submit that for review and approval. We have to consider the union contract also. DB – MF and I can work on this. When do you need it by? BE – before the end of the year. If the position is passed, then we could fill it effective 7.1.2022. DF – we also have to maintain the position if Al steps down or retires. Why won't he just become a member of the Board if we are covered for liability? BE – he does not want to be. MF – maybe that should be a requirement. JF – why would we fund that position if he could just become a board member. MF – he never had an issue being a volunteer. BE – he was offered to be a commission member but did not want to join. LD – can we make a board member ordinance change to accommodate this so that the park ranger is part of this commission? JF – if we can get the position for nothing then why would we use taxpayer money. PB – you just propose the change, and it would have to go through a town meeting. If we are going to do this, then we should think about the 7th guy for Public Works. BE – that is outside our department. PB – but Steve is Public Works and is on Park & Rec. BE – yes, but he reports to Rob for Public Works. DB – can we find out if the pool at WRHS is available for use or what the schedule is? How can we find out? BE – I will reach out and try to get some contact information.
- g. **Community Garden** – BE – I will be calling Todd to just confirm they are done for the season and to see how many plots were used etc.
- h. **YMCA Update** – LD- Wednesday is the Beacon Bee. I talked to Mark about the basketball. The survey results came back and a lot of it was looking for Summer

Camp. They do want to have a meeting with region 16 to discuss those results and see what they could do going forward.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Budget

BE – mentioned that the budget process will begin at the beginning of the year. Now is the time to put a list together of what we would like in our budget. Erin in Finance did give us a breakdown of how the summer camp went and I will share that email with the Board.

8. Applications

None.

9. Grant Information

Toby's Pond grant discussed under Toby's Pond item. No additional grant information.

10. Executive Session (if needed)

none

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08P.M. **MF/JF**; *no discussion*; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission