

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
December 20, 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), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Jake Fernandes (JF), Steve Moffat (SM)

Members Absent: Don Ferretti (DF), Desiree Brooks (DB)

Others Present: Selectman Krenesky (MK)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held November 15, 2021, as submitted: **JF/LD, all ayes.**

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. New Business

2022 Chairman & Vice Chairman Elections – Motion made by SM to elect Don Ferretti as Chair, seconded by JF, all ayes. Motion made LD to elect Bob Egan as Vice Chair, seconded by MF, all ayes.

5. Old Business

- a. **Matthies Park** – SM – the house has been sealed up and is all set.
- b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – SM – activity is low now and the fencing is a work in progress.
- c. **Riverbend Park** – BE – nothing new to report.
- d. **Toby's Pond** – SM – it has been quiet.
- e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – Basketball is ongoing. JF – we really get rolling in January. We are mixed with Prospect.
- f. **Park Activities/Misc.** – BE – I have been getting calls about concerts already but that will not be worked on until after the new year.
- g. **Community Garden** – BE – that is all buttoned up.
- h. **YMCA Update** – LD – I reached out about Pool access and reached out to the region, and they did not get back to me. Mark said that the YMCA is trying to do a once-a-month free community swim for Beacon Falls. JF – have you tried Jill at the high school? LD – I am not sure. JF – she is a great resource and very helpful. LD – we did two bee programs and will be doing two more in the Spring.
- i. **Park Ranger Position** – BE – Desiree was completing the position description. MF – I did not get in contact with Desiree. My concern is that while the position is needed, I think we need someone more on Public Works than a Park Ranger. If we can get the BOF to approve a budget for a part time worker, then let's get a part time worker for Public Works. He is not going to do what the Town crew member would do. I just think our money is better spent. I am not saying we could not contribute to it in some way, it could still be attached to Park and Rec, but I do not think it should just be a

Park Ranger thing. We can fill that position in a different way, like by a Commission member if they are willing to do it. It is not a wise use of money right now. BE – The Park Ranger cannot do what Public Works does because it violates the union contract. SM – I have worked with Al in the past and Al was a huge help, and we wouldn't have the trails we have today without him. With the job description, why don't we have him volunteer to mark trails, but I agree, we need more day to day on the work force. Al is an asset to us, but I think we can put the money somewhere else. LD – how long has this position been open for? MF – it has been a while. LD – what is the hold up? MF – money. SM – years ago when a crew member retired, the position was never filled. We have been operating a person down all these years. LD – I feel like we cannot do a lot of volunteer work because of the issues with the union contract and the vacancy. JF – if that position was filled, then you could go back to summertime help etc. BE – nothing is guaranteed. MK – my recommendation would be to make it apart of your budget. BE – this person is not part of our budget, so we could just write a memo supporting the position being filled. MF – after this discussion I am going to add to my statement, I cannot support or get behind trying to get a part time person for a Park Ranger. I do not think that we should be asking for money for that, we need it other places. I get it is not our place to ask for a 7th person on the Town crew, but I am not going to advocate or help someone get a part time position for someone who has the means to do what he says he wants to do but now has to be paid for it. I cannot get behind that at all. BE – I will reach out to her and have her send the description out to everyone. We will table this for next month.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Budget

BE – budget will be coming up soon.

8. Applications

BE – Kerry updated the application for 2022 and updated the police fees because that changed.

9. Grant Information

BE – Desiree is our contact on the Toby's Pond grant, and she is not here tonight so we will discuss next month.

10. Executive Session (if needed)

none

11. Adjournment

BE – Thank you for the last two years as your chairmen and your support. It was a challenge with Covid, but we got through. Thank you and I look forward to working with Don in the future. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20P.M. **JF/MF; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission*