

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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