

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
April 19, 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), Desiree Brooks (DB), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Jake Fernandes (JF)

Members Absent: Don Ferretti (DF)

Others Present: Selectman Krenesky (MK)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on March 15, 2021 and motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on March 18, 2021 as submitted: **MF/LD, all ayes.**

3. Comments from the Public

MK – I showed up to talk about the 150th. At this point we will officially be announcing June 27, 2021 from 1:00-5:00pm at the Firehouse is going to be the kickoff. We already have commitments from the Lt. Governor, both Senators, and local reps. So, the plan is for us to have a ceremony 1-2pm. We have Antonio's providing pizza with their pizza truck and numerous other food trucks. The Firehouse will discuss opening their beverage trailer. The Library, Lions and Rotary are all planning on attending and participating. With the announcement from the Governor today, this will allow organizations to serve food etc. The first 150th people may eat and/or drink free and the cupcake truck will be there so, we will have a cake. We are planning something else in September, prior to the Carnival. We discussed fireworks, and I am in negotiations with a drone laser lightshow company. We would have to do some fundraising for either the drone shows or fireworks. This is going on rain or shine. The official anniversary date is the following Wednesday, June 30th. The committee meets every Wednesday, and the next meeting will hopefully be held at town hall. DB – do you have any fundraising that you think you will be doing before? MK – we have a donor form. DB – are there any items to purchase? MK – the municipality cannot collect donations; the Historical society is running the event and all funds are being collected by us. So, we have the coins, the brooch of the brush pins, left over coins from 125th etc. You can order items through Paypal. MF – and the bricks too, right? MK – the intent with the bricks was for the schoolhouse. We are still looking at the location at the end of South Main. We completed a Call Before You Dig. The fundraiser is ongoing for the bricks. The State conveyed the property contingent on the survey showing how much property we are taking. The survey should be completed within the next two weeks. In the meantime, I am in discussions about taking the schoolhouse down. There is another hole in the roof, and we are thinking about folding the walls in and storing it at another location. SM – do we have someone who is able to move it if the walls are removed? MK – we had Greg Farmer from the CT Preservation Trust who looked at the building and believed that if

we did do that, we could store it temporarily. My only concern is that it will still be stored outside.

4. New Business

None

5. Old Business

a. **Matthies Park** – BE – Fish being delivered Thursday for the fishing rodeo this weekend and St. Michael's men's club will be serving food and providing prizes. They are following the CDC guidelines. 7th annual Barksdale Family Rodeo and we are grateful for the family and men's club for helping. The park will be closed Thursday – Saturday. SM – we had a local contractor; Doug Nick Construction do an evaluation on sealing the house and preserving it. The evaluation was that structurally it looked good, and he felt he could tighten the soffits in the back and then seal the windows with plexiglass. He also mentioned getting a group of volunteers together to clean up and then lock the doors. I am waiting on more details from him. The Park Ranger and I were going to do the project together, however Al has removed himself from the project. I am keeping Bob updated on progress. With the fishing rodeo coming up, are we going to do a grand opening for the signs? We put it off due to COVID. Would the fishing rodeo be a nice time to reveal the signage and make an announcement or were we trying to plan a formal ceremony. BE – I am waiting to hear back from Gerry about that. SM – talking with him briefly about it, he seemed on board with it during the fishing rodeo. BE – I will speak with Gerry tomorrow to follow up with him. SM – where are we with the Resident Sticker? DB – I asked at the last meeting that we needed an answer. How many times do we have to ask as a commission? Selectman Krenesky – Finance did ask for an update today because we did get a quote from the company that does are tax bills for them to issue stickers to taxpayers. The conversation is stuck on if we are sending two stickers in the mail or what the quantity should be. Both Gerry and I replied to keep it status quo this year because of the cost, which is estimated to be around \$5,000, but we would be open to continue the discussion into the next fiscal year. There are additional questions needed as to how the stickers will work, is it just for Matthies, will it be for Public Works etc.

b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – Steve and Jeff are working on benches and tables we received from Katherine Matthies grant. The playscape, basketball and tennis courts construction will begin on May 1st and be done by June 30th, tentatively. SM – base on field 2 and I talked with Jeff and we replaced the base. All the fields were raked and dressed today. DB – it was sad to see the stumps there though. SM – they were removed because of the new construction and they ran over powerlines. BE – we will be having the rec camp this year. Heather will be getting information over to Finance and First Selectman's Office. BE – Laura will be working with counselors for CPR Certification. SM – what is the status of the bathrooms? BE – we should have them open for camp so they can wash etc. We either open the bathrooms or provide a wash station. SM – how often do they need to be cleaned? I wish we had a slop sink for the camp because we always have clogged drains from the crafts and paint brushes etc. BE – we did not schedule fireworks, but I am not sure if it is too late. DB – why don't we combine with the 150th? BE – we have the deposit still from last year. JF – I think we should offer it and if people want to come, they come. BE – I will reach out to the fireworks company to see what dates are available. Board unanimously agrees. MF – what was our deposit? BE – I believe \$4,000.

c. **Riverbend Park** – SM – nothing to report.

d. **Toby's Pond** – DB – a lot of activity and I have seen a lot of people fishing. Our osprey is under attack by a bald eagle. The eagles are finding free game on the

osprey. The osprey is now on the power line and not on their platform. There are many ticks there as of last Saturday. I have been telling people I see too. Things are starting to grow. SM – we have a machine that we use throughout the year to cut the knotweed. DB – it is an invasive thing there. SM – how are the waste containers? DB – good, I am using them.

- e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – sports teams will begin playing soon. LD – first tournament in town in a year coming up.
 - f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – we got the ok to start the concerts and I have 4 already booked and calls out. MF – who do you have so far? BE – the Bernadette's begin the series on June 23rd, 60 Satisfaction on June 30th Rich Krevinsky on July 21st and the Kerry Boys on July 28th. DB – I love how the church helps us out with that, but many people have reached out to me about having a variety of food trucks. Is that something that we can allow? MF – the church lets us use the site for nothing, so they probably want to make a little profit. DB – they would not have any money if we did not hold the concert. BE – I am against that. JF – that has been working fine. BE – Kerri from the Library wants to hold a Tie Dye event sometime in June and wanted to know if we would sponsor 10-20 kids for this craft event. **MF – motion made to sponsor the cost of 20 children (\$300.00), LD seconded, all ayes.**
 - g. **Community Garden** – BE – I met with Todd at the Garden and I turned over the book to him and I know that some people have plots who did not before. DB – I am working with him on the Pathway to Pollinators, but he needs the Tax ID number. We are going to Beacon Valley Nursery picking up some of the plants needed for the Pathway program. BE – reach out to Erin in Finance for that information. DB – what is the budget? BE - \$1,133 I believe. DB – the plots look great; Todd has been out there every day.
- 6. **Correspondence**
None
 - 7. **Budget**
BE – The town has not scheduled a budget date yet.
 - 8. **Applications**
BE – I signed a bunch of them over the last few weeks. WRHS uses field 5 for JV and Freshman games.
 - 9. **Grant Information**
BE – we are finishing up the benches and tables and once that is complete, we will submit the final report which is due soon.
 - 10. **Executive Session (if needed)**
none
 - 11. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45P.M. **MF/DB; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission