

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
February 18, 2020
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Present: Bob Egan, Steve Moffat, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Don Ferretti, and Laura DeGeorge

Not Present: Steve Ruhl and Desiree Brooks

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky

Chairman Bob Egan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on January 21, 2020 as submitted: **Ferretti/DeGeorge**; no discussion; ayes by B. Egan, S. Moffat, M. Fernandes, and D. Ferretti. L. DeGeorge abstained since she was not present at the meeting.

3. Comments from the Public

Yevgeniy Teplitsky, 133 Essex Court, was present at tonight's meeting to inquire on a pickleball league. Y. Teplitsky explained that Oxford has a place but it is pricey and was looking to see if there is any place in Beacon Falls to start a league. B. Egan noted that the town does not have a gym and you would have to inquire with Region 16 on the use of the school gyms.

B. Egan indicated that there is preliminary discussion on redoing the courts at the Rec center and could be part of the discussion. M. Fernandes asked if Y. Teplitsky was looking for this Commission to fund the league and Y. Teplitsky mentioned that he is looking for a place to hold the league and perhaps a rec league. D. Ferretti asked for Y. Teplitsky to come back with more information on what is needed for equipment, size of the court, etc.

Eric Pulkkinen, Robert A. Cole Baseball, was present at tonight's meeting to submit the baseball application and to inquire on the status of the batting cages. S. Moffat indicated that a meeting was held in regards to having the baseball cages up and running for the spring. S. Moffat mentioned that a quote from Atlas Fence was received and provided a copy to the Commission. S. Moffat noted that to replace the bent poles, and not adding any additional poles, would be approximately \$800.00. If any additional poles would need to be added, an additional \$300.00 would be added to the \$800.00. S. Moffat noted that the batting cages fall onto the leagues for upkeep and maintenance and wasn't sure if the Commission would contribute any funds towards the work. E. Pulkkinen indicated that the batting cages are baseball/softball, not the town's. S. Moffat indicated that in 2015, the cages were resurfaced from grass to clay and the maintenance has not been kept up.

After a brief discussion, B. Egan asked for the Member's thoughts on contributing towards the cost. M. Fernandes noted a concern that basketball doesn't receive any funds from this Commission and may not a problem with this Commission supporting baseball/softball and not them. B. Egan asked to table the discussion to the next monthly meeting.

Mark Swercewski and Riley Muricchio were present at tonight's meeting to discuss their senior project. Their idea is to work on the trails at Matthies Park, work on drainage problems, mapping, etc. S. Moffat indicated that Allan Banyacsky would be a good contact since he is the Park Ranger. A. Banyacsky gave his contact to the students for a later discussion on their senior project and possible work that needs to be done at Matthies Park.

4. Old Business

a. Matthies Park

A copy of the Parks and Trails report was provided by Allan Banyacsky. A. Banyacsky indicated that the Orange Trail is now clear but the Blue Trail remains closed. A. Banyacsky also indicated that he decided not to process with NikLyn Corp. in regards to the powder coating the blue metal Matthies Park entry sign.

Allan Banyacsky indicated that he has spent approximately 75 hours on the Matthies Park Signage Project under the Katherine Matthies Grant. A. Banyacsky also indicated that a new trail will be added and named the Good & Plenty Trail, having pink and white trail markers. A. Banyacsky mentioned that he and Steve Moffat had explored and charted water feeds to the settling ponds, Carrington Pond, and explored future trails.

S. Moffat mentioned that graffiti removal is being looked into as to what is the best method. S. Moffat also mentioned that there are suspicious vehicles and is being looked into. B. Egan indicated that the police are locking the gates at night and the hours will change based on the daylight hours in summertime.

b. Pent Road Recreation Complex

B. Egan indicated that R. Pruzinsky received two quotes regarding the basketball courts at the Rec Center. The quote was for approximately \$80,000 to replace the courts and for approximately \$110,000 to redo the court for this climate. S. Moffat suggested that perhaps one of the courts could be repurposed for something else and redesign the courts in a different position.

S. Moffat indicated that on Field 2, there's a flagpole and a tree is in front of the flagpole. S. Moffat noted that there is a suggestion to cut down the tree and plant a new one in a different location. S. Moffat also indicated that pricing was received for wood for new benches and other options may be entertained.

c. Riverbend Park

S. Moffat indicated that a plaque was received for the Oak Tree and will be mounted on a nearby rock.

d. Sports League Reports

B. Egan noted that an application was received tonight from the baseball league and an application from softball was approved.

e. Park Activities / Miscellaneous

B. Egan indicated that there is no one to run the Sugar Shack as of yet. B. Egan also noted that some concerts have been scheduled for the Summer Concert Series.

B. Egan also indicated that Alison Sirowich and Heather Deegan will be switching positions with the Summer Camp – H. Deegan will be running the Summer Camp and A. Sirowich will be assisting.

f. Toby's Pond

S. Moffat noted that there is backfilling being done for the potholes as well as the police are closing the gates at night.

5. New Business

D. Ferretti indicated that there is a meeting on Monday regarding cameras in the parks and town buildings. Pricing will be obtained for solar powered cameras in remote areas.

6. Correspondence

B. Egan indicated that a letter was received from Region 16 regarding the limiting of the weekend hours of the school gymnasiums for use.

7. Applications

B. Egan indicated that there were applications from baseball and softball received for tonight's meeting.

8. Grant Information

B. Egan noted that there will be some more work to be done for finalizing the signage grant for Matthies Park.

9. Review and Payment of Bills

There was one invoice from the Commission's clerk received for tonight's meeting – for the January 21, 2020 monthly meeting in the amount of \$56.25.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the Commission's clerk as submitted for tonight's meeting for a total amount of \$56.25: **Fernandes/Ferretti**; no discussion; all ayes.

There were no other invoices received for tonight's meeting.

10. Budget

B. Egan noted that the budget was received for tonight's meeting. B. Egan also noted that he submitted the budget last week. B. Egan noted that a request for more money for the Summer Camp was included due to the increase in minimum wages. B. Egan also noted that an increase was added for the summer concerts as well as for a part time Facilities Director to run programs. B. Egan informed the Members that the Budget Meeting is scheduled for March 5th at 6:45 PM.

11. Executive Session (if needed)

The Commission did not enter into Executive Session tonight.

12. Adjournment

B. Egan asked the Members if there were any other discussions for tonight's meeting and there were none.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 P.M.: **Fernandes/Ferretti**; *no discussion*; all ayes.

The next regular meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2019, starting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission