



**Town of Beacon Falls
Beacon Falls Parks & Recreation Commission
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**

**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Special Montly Meeting
February 21, 2023
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: D. Ferretti called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: D. Ferretti, L. DeGeorge, M. Carroll, P. Monti, B. Egan, ME Fernandes

Absent: S. Moffat

Public: Sheri Beck (representing YMCA)

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings: Motion to approve the January 2023 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. LD/MEF, all ayes

3. Comments from the Public: none

4. Old Business: S. Moffat left a rundown of the parks business for D. Ferretti to share.

a. Matthies Park- Orange, pink and white trails cleared of brush and trees.

b. Pent Rd. Complex- Work on field 4, and received a price for lighting- estimate going to PW. M. Carroll said grants should be explored for the cost. S. Moffatt also reported that they removed a few tree hazards, redid gravel parking lot, new guardrails. Cleaning company coming in to clean Sugar Shack- that's scheduled. Reasonable price. Got an estimate for paving the walking track along the fields. ME Fernandes asked if they only get an estimate from one company for the lights? Are they searching out others? D. Ferretti confirmed just one came in so far, but going out for three bids. Have to have three proposals. This was from the company that did the original lighting.

c. Toby's Pond- Routine maintenance.

d. Riverbend Park- Routine maintenance and trash maintenance.

e. Community Garden- Nothing.

f. Park Activities/Misc.- Nothing going on right now.

g. YMCA Update- M. Carroll gave an update from Monday's meeting with the Y and town departments, and raised concerns that have not yet been answered about the budget provided, effectiveness and partnering with other town departments. Asked about the possibility of keeping the budget for senior programming and altering the rest. P. Monti asked what are the terms of the contract, how many years and can we amend it? M. Carroll said that L. Fennell gave them one, and it has no end dates. L. DeGeorge said part of the agreement was to assume part of the administrative work, all of the paper work end of programming. ME Fernandes assumes the contract would come to an end soon with this administration. L DeGeorge said a part of it is on the town, a lack of involvement on our end to get it up and running. S. Beck reported that she formed a subcommittee to direct the camp, working on trying to get a

subcommittee for the cardboard boat race, and just hired a zumba instructor for the kids. In the process for the onboarding for the STEAM programming. We will be doing resume workshops here quarterly. Discussion followed regarding getting the details of the contract, and if it is up for renewal each fiscal year. D. Ferretti was going to ask about terms and conditions for the next fiscal year.

h. Playscape Update- D. Ferretti shared that the playscape was installed, differently from the original layout, but it was done and it looked nice. M. Carroll commented that the spinner made a loud noise and asked about steps for the glider. Steps have been ordered, and PW will assemble and install them.

i. Park Ranger Position- D. Ferretti shared that the issue was brought up for discussion again and felt that his opinion on it, was go back to the way it was. The commission discussed the possibility of volunteer positions, and the liability issues around them, including the possibility of having them sign a waiver or exploring liability insurance for the commission that would cover approved volunteers. L. DeGeorge suggested adding a resolution to the park ranger issue to New Business. B. Egan notice they forgot to mention the fishing rodeo under park activities. P. Monti has been working on planning the event for April 29th, since the last weekend in April usually works for weather and attendance. Can alert the men's club.

j. FY2023 Budget- All that is left is some remaining funds from the fireworks. B. Egan said they will be spent this year with increased prices from the vendor and adding on to the end of the show.

5. New Business:

a. FY 2024 Budget – Discussion & Action- D. Ferretti was going to budget meeting after this meeting, putting in for summer camp, two additional counselors, and capitol for the swing set at Matthies Park. Also should apply to Matthies grant for that, too. ME Fernandes asked if the budget included the YMCA money for next year? L. DeGeorge confirmed that It's a line item, for 15,000. ME Fernandes asked about what happened to the difference from the part-time camp director, it was more than 15,000, so where did that get moved to and did this commission vote on it to move it somewhere else? B. Egan said it was done two years ago, and it went somewhere else. D. Ferretti said he would ask about it.

ME Fernandes made a motion to add the Park Ranger discussion and resolution to the Agenda. P. Monti seconded the motion. All ayes.

Chair added park ranger discussion resolution to New Business. D Ferretti: The question is, is the parks and rec commission interested in pursuing a volunteer or paid park ranger position?

Motion: Parks and Rec Commission does not see the need for a paid or volunteered position at this time. PM/MEF, all aye. Motion passed.

b. Event Ideas- S. Beck sent an email about bringing back the cardboard boat regatta. M. Carroll agreed to head a subcommittee to run the event. ME Fernandes agreed to help. D. Ferretti has trophies, used to give out different categories of awards to recognize as many participants as possible. Discussion followed about what tasks needed to be done, contacted the FD for assistance, and reaching out the company that previously provided kayaks, etc. July 22nd was selected as a date. M. Carroll brought up planning for the Bike Rodeo. D. Ferretti said he would reach out to the PD to team up on that event. June 3rd was selected as a date. B. Egan gave a summer concert update- four concerts have been booked out of eight total events.

6. Correspondence: Letter from the attorney about Matthies Park confirming that the park is open to the public. B. Egan commented that it opens us up for more grants, town was restricted before when we believed it was for residents only.

7. 2023 Facility Applications: 3 Applications for approval have been submitted:

- a. Kornblut
- b. Smith
- c. Philosophy, Inc

D. Ferretti also received a call about a small, weekday afternoon wedding ceremony which was verbally approved for February 28th. Applications A and B were approved, and C was declined as it pertained to a basketball tournament/organization that could conflict with current events and local leagues. Would also require more information if they applied for reconsideration.

8. Grant Information:

a. CT DEEP Recreation Trails Grant – P. Monti gave an update about moving ahead with trail grant. Steve and Bob will go to Toby's Pond site to determine if it's something PW can do, or if they need to involve Ed the Tree Man. Also will talk with R. Minnick about the spillway area. When looking at the flat area, it's not clearly defined who owns it at this time. R. Minnick had also mentioned the possibility of people donating materials to make that a usable area, like an all-purpose field with picnic tables. Need to price out materials for a boardwalk, no contractor has put in bids at this time, but there is the possibility of going through the state to solicit bids from someone with experience along those lines. N. Nau will wait to get the report back on what PW can handle or needs to be contracted out and then the final touches can be put on the application to submit.

b. K. Matthies Grant – Due 5/1/2023 – Swing set @ Matthies Park- D. Ferretti gave update.

9. Executive Session (if needed): No Executive Session held.

10. Adjournment: B. Egan made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 PM. L. DeGeorge seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Sincerely,

Kerri Vardon
(Substitute Clerk)