



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

**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**July 17, 2023**  
**MINUTES (Subject to Revision)**

1. **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance:** D. Ferretti called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Members Present: D. Ferretti, P. Monti, L. DeGeorge, M. Carroll, ME Fernandes, R. Egan (7:05 PM)  
Members Absent: None  
Public Present: S. Beck from YMCA, J. Delenick, M. Krensky (7:45 PM)
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Motion to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes as presented. L. DeGeorge made a motion to approve the minutes. V. Santos seconded the motion. All ayes.
3. **Comments from the Public:** J. Delenick of 243 Bethany Road noted that at the BOS meeting there was a discussion about traffic at the Rec center. The last 3 times that she was there, she could not find a parking spot and she asked the commission to consider seasonal signs, reminding people to drive slowly around the Rec area. She found some regulation signs to consider which state Drive Slowly Recreational Use Area. Some are year-round signs and others are for busy seasons. D. Ferretti asked her to forward him this information and the commission will look into it.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. Matthies Park – S. Moffat sent D. Ferretti a text today on what is going on at the Parks. The island had brush removed and mowed. House had broken plexiglass repaired. Graffiti problems on the buildings at the parks continue.
  - b. Pent Road – One basketball hoop mount needs to be replaced. There is a crack in the basketball court being quoted for repairs.
  - c. Toby's Pond – They have added gravel to the entrance area to prevent washouts. They completed some mowing for the DEEP fishing event.
  - d. Riverbend, Veterans and Volunteer Park – There has been routine maintenance and brush mowing.
  - e. Community Garden – R. Egan reported that he spoke with Todd Waldron. The plots are full, and there is a waiting list. S. Moffat was able to get him mulch, and a bench and he is appreciative. They are just waiting for things to grow.
  - f. Park Activities. –
    - i. Independence Day Fireworks – It was a spectacular show, the best we have had. R. Egan provided D. Ferretti with his list of contacts on file for the event. Everything went well and people seemed to enjoy themselves. The inflatable obstacle course arrived late, and we needed to turn him away. S. Beck had confirmed the time and date, but the company did not arrive in time. The face painting was very popular and inundated. Popcorn started early. Magician

show was cute, and he lost some of their attention. S. Beck suggested a Science Guy which may be good for next year. YMCA now owns an obstacle course that the Town can use in the future. Hula hoops are with summer camp. There was someone selling light sabers without permission, so they were turned away by the police. D. Ferretti noticed a strong presence of younger children. This was also the most expensive fireworks program to date.

ii Concerts – R. Egan reported that they are going well so far. Last week there was a new group “What It Is” and they were great. Bernadette’s is Friday August 4<sup>th</sup>. The last 2 concerts were hot, and the music has been good.

g. YMCA Update – For the Cardboard Boat event, the life jackets are set, and S. Beck wanted to know how long lifeguards are needed. Lifeguards are needed during the race. Lifeguards should arrive by 9:30 AM.

S. Beck also noted that the YMCA Babysitting class is next Monday at Beacon Falls Senior Center and there are only 3 teens registered so far. She asked that we get the word out to register as soon as possible.

Girls on the Run might be a program to bring to Beacon Falls, as an after-school program for girls, working together and running together to finish the race. It is a program run by volunteers and we would need volunteers from Beacon Falls to come and be coaches. There is a fee for the program and S. Beck thinks the program can be subsidized.

h. FY2024 – 2023 Budget closed out, and there was some surplus remaining. The new budget opened on July 2023. ME Fernandes asked about monies remaining in the 2023 budget. E. Schwarz reviewed the Parks monies which were unspent as of 6/30/23: \$1000 for concerts, \$2200 for Parks Activities, \$150 for the Independence Day Celebration.

i. Bulletin Boards/Publicity: D. Ferretti was able to have signs for the Cardboard Boat Race donated by Barrett Outdoors. The commission would like to explore the cost of cardboard yard signs.

## **5. New Business:**

- a. Cardboard Boat Regatta – There are 5-7 boats registered at present. D. Ferretti has had some inquiries about registering. The commission discussed prizes for the regatta, adults and children in separate heats BassPro would sponsor in the future with more notice. V. Santos stated the Beardsley Zoo would not donate, but you can buy a pass as a prize. So, it is late in the game to secure prizes: The commission discussed gift cards: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for 2 heats and then gift cards with certificates. \$100 First Place, \$75 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$50 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and then \$25.00 for the certificates for a total of \$600 in prizes. Music for the day will be Noah Rodorigo and he is charging \$250.00 **D. Ferretti called for a motion to spend \$600 in prizes on Cardboard Boat Regatta. P. Monti made the motion and L. DeGeorge seconded the motion. All ayes.** Canoes and kayaks through Puddletown/Mainstream Kayak will cost \$800 and will be there Saturday. Cuckoo Kennys will also be there.
- b. Haunted Hayride: D. Ferretti would like to confirm a date for the hayride to begin artwork and signage. They will need volunteers and personnel for this event. YMCA suggested using the same date for the event every year.
- c. Family Fun Day: V. Santos asked if there is there a rule that we could have food trucks at the event? P. Monto noted that you can either charge trucks per spot or you can charge a percentage of their profits. In the past the commission did not want to conflict with non-profits, and we did not want the vendors to take business away from the non-profits. Food trucks can be considered moving forward. Parks & Rec can consider them for next year. Antonio’s has a pizza truck. Local businesses like the Beekeeper or Molly’s Bakery might want to be part of the event. P. Monti suggested a survey asking for feedback as to what people liked to get ideas from people. Next year, the event would be 7/6/24 - Saturday after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- d. Parks Signage: The kiosk at Toby’s Pond signage is gone due to vandalism. Veterans and Volunteer Park signage looks terrible. P. Monti, V. Santos and L. DeGeorge are interested in reviewing the parks’ signage to determine what is needed at all the town parks. P. Monti was wondering about the Exit 24 signage, and potentially engaging the community to Adopt a Spot, with these projects and sponsor maintaining the signage. He noted that people are willing to pitch in townwide. PM, VS and LD will go to the parks to figure out what’s needed and start from there.

**6. Correspondence:**

- a. D. Ferretti was contacted by a Prospect student who wanted to do a fundraiser at Pent Road for another student with health issues. He wanted to use the field and have a color run for 200-300 people. D. Ferretti is not sure we have parking or facilities for this type of event. Portolets would be needed, insurance, policy coverage. He is looking for an event in September when Fall ball and soccer will be starting down there. The Commission was in consensus that we cannot accommodate that many people, so D. Ferretti will tell him now and point him to Region 16, with Woodland as a potential location.
- b. The Lions Club would like to hire a vendor to repair the scoreboard. D. Ferretti is waiting for more information from the vendor for the next meeting. He is waiting for insurance paperwork for the company redoing the scoreboard for the field.
- c. D. Ferretti also spoke with the Lions President about resurrecting the duck race for next year.

**7. Facility Applications:**

- a. D. Ferretti approved the application from Region 16 Woodland Hawks Soccer for the Fall, 2023.
- b. This past weekend there was a Birthday Party cancelled due to weather, so insurance was cancelled, and fee refunded.
- c. The Lions would like to use the parking lot at Pent Road for overflow parking for their Car show. 9/24/23

**8. Grant Information:**

- a. K. Matthies Grant – Application was submitted prior to the 5/1/23 deadline for a new swing set at Matthies Park. The grant request was for \$10,000 and the town's portion is \$2500. No word yet on approval of the application.
- b. As part of the close out for the last Matthies grant, the Commission and Finance wanted to know if S. Moffat lowered the handle on the track slide and got the grinding fixed on the new spinning wheel.

**12: Other Business:** None at this time.

**13: Adjournment:** P Monti motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM. V. Santos seconded the motion. All ayes.

Sincerely,

Erin A. Schwarz