

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
October 18, 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), Desiree Brooks (DB), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Jake Fernandes (JF)

Members Absent: Steve Moffat (SM), Don Ferretti (DF)

Others Present: Michael Krenesky (MK), Steve Knapik (SK), Rich Minnick (RM)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held September 20, 2021, as submitted: **LD/DB, all ayes.**

3. Comments from the Public

Maureen Carroll, 90 Burton Road –I emailed the First Selectman regarding the lights on field 4 at the rec. Is there any chance to put lights on the pole that is there or face one of the lights towards the little league field? BE – it takes a little bit more than 1 light. You have to balance the field so there are no shadows. That could be dangerous. I am not going to say no but cannot say yes. We can get pricing and add it to the capital items for next years budget. LD – Steve could probably offer more insight on that. JF – maybe like two or three sets of the lights on the generator trailers. BE – we can check into it.

DB made motion to look into the cost of lights further, seconded by LD, all ayes.

4. New Business

Toby's Pond – BE – Rich & Steve requested to be here tonight. Rich has been heavily involved with Toby's Pond since it started. A little summary, it was acquired from O&G several years ago and there are provisions of maintaining it. We are responsible and so is O&G. Last month a couple of us met and looked at different things that need to be done. Again, it comes down to money to do them. The BOF and BOS and are Board are aware of the things that need to be done.

Rich Minnick, 147 Cedar Lane – we were able to get some updated maps. RM gave a brief overview and history of Toby's Pond. BE - Before the Pond was expanded O&G tried to get a piece of the parcel from the owner and they could not get a settlement from the owner. The design they had down river and the way the berm extended washed out. DOT, DEP and Army Core of Engineers were able to make a settlement with the owner. They were able to excavate the material from the pond and a new design was formed. At that time, the quality of the water at that time was not that good. It was designed for two reasons, first when it gets to a 25-year storm the water should flow out the spillway to provide a flush. With that, during high waters you are necking down, and it would tend to flood out the elevations at Old Turnpike Road. Typically, the water is at the spillway and upstream its about 15–25-foot elevation. That slows down the water down and spreads out

and loses energy and is traveling both places. The water level typically is at the spillway of the rocks. The rocks were placed, and the road was built up so that the water would not flow in. At that time, the Town through Planning & Zoning received \$40,000. Since we received that money, it flooded 3 times. Currently, it is not flowing correctly. Material jams up and is acting like a dam. Downstream, if you get a big storm, the water level comes up and flushes. The Town is liable for any damage because we are not maintaining it. Suggestion is, that the ruts need to be leveled and seeded, something that you need to mow 2-3 times a year. We must maintain the trail without putting the town at risk. In subsequent settlements with O&G, they provided material and we are to maintain the mowing. The Scouts have done a lot of work and have brought tools and material in with wheel barrel. The sealed prints are now down in the Town Clerks office. I would like to ask that the fishing restrictions sign and the signs allowing electric motors. DB – I know that Steve mentioned that they do not have the manpower to maintain it but if this is our responsibility as a Town, we need to take care of it. We cannot get volunteers because it a union issue. RM – right now, I have an IWWC permit as the open space land use steward to maintain and do the leveling work. I am not going to hold this permit anymore. It is too much of a liability for my family. The Town can apply for the permit without a fee. MK – is there any value in including the Conservation Commission in any of these conversations about Toby's? You do sort of merge with topics in this conversation. RM – yes, there should be and used to be.

DB – I can't do this by myself. BE – we should draw up a plan and see what we can do. We can get quotes and see what money is available. Next year we can add items in our budget. DB – by applying for the grant, if we are looking to do something between \$12-14K we may have a good chance of getting some maintenance done, a park bench etc.

LD – I feel like this is a bigger issue than for just Park & Rec. This seems like it will involve multiple commissions, the town, the selectman. We have to think of all the facets.

MF – I applaud you DB, but everything you go to do is going to be a huge obstacle. There will always be people saying they don't want this etc. It is not going to be that simple. DB – but it is our responsibility. MF – this Commission is supposed to be empowered to take care of parks and rec, but we have to get permission to do everything we want to do. MF - is the money left in Toby's account designated for anything specific? DB – not sure, the charter is now available so I will be reviewing it.

2022 Facility Application Form – BE – we need to redo it. Please review it and let me know if there are any specific changes that are needed. Next month we should vote on it so that it could be published for January 1st. DB – we should add pickleball. MF – what are the fees? BE – reviewed fee structure for rentals.

5. Old Business

- a. **Matthies Park** – BE – I spoke with Steve earlier. They are going to be working on clearing more trails and Doug will be working this week to secure the house before winter.
- b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – BE – no one has been renting the pavilion because they find out about the insurance requirements, and they never call back to reserve. The fields are still being used on the weekends and all 5 fields are being used. End of the month baseball fields free up. We will look into the lighting. The fencing is still not up. Gerry and Steve are in touch with the fencing company and the material that came in was damaged and reordered. They cannot get the materials. We have not paid them, and they will not get paid before the fence goes up. JF – can we use them without the fence? BE – no. MF – did we ever get

the contract as requested? BE – no, but we have not paid for the work and won't until its completed. DB – if it is something being prolonged not to our own fault, then we should get money off. DB are we allowed to see the contract? BE – yes, but we have never seen it, we just voted on the plans. DB– people have been calling me telling me that the gates are not open in time. As a Commission we should be able to open the parks. Our Park Ranger used to ensure they were open, but we do not have him anymore. BE – I will get you a key DB.

- c. **Riverbend Park** – BE – I talked to Steve about that, and they are going to start clearing brush. It is a mess and needs to be cleaned.
 - d. **Toby's Pond** – Discussion above. DB – I agree with Rich, and we should put the signage back up for motorized electric boats. DEEP recommended those electric boats. **Motion made by DB for the signs/items to be brought back at Toby's Pond and Riverbend, seconded by JF, all ayes.**
 - e. **Sports League Reports** – BE – Season wraps up at the end of the month. They are in touch with Steve Moffat. JF – I know that basketball is technically not part of Park & Rec, but we are talking about joining Prospect. What would be involved with Park & Rec taking over basketball. LD – is this something that the YMCA can assist us with? JF – we do not have enough kids to have a functioning league, so we have to join with Prospect. DB – what covers insurance? JF – Prospect charges like \$145 and we charge \$85. LD – the YMCA would not cost more money to our kids. They want to try to help facilitate these things. I can look into and see what it would take. JF – I have had a few conversations. Technically, we do not have use of Region 16. BE – you have me stumped. Let's go down the road with the YMCA. Let me check into the details with the Finance office. MF – you're not asking for help with processes, you're looking for help with enrollment. JF – we are going to have to merge with Prospect, just to have a functioning league.
 - f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – nothing further.
 - g. **Community Garden** – haven't heard anything.
 - h. **150th Celebration** – BE – we had the drone show last month. DB – you could not see much from Pond Circle. MK – most important thing was the final financial figures. This week I will be reimbursing the activities fund with \$1,792.34. BE – was it well attended? MK – I was told it was, people have watched it from all around town from various spots. The parking lot at Kolga was packed.
 - i. **YMCA Update** – LD- I will talk to them about the Basketball. Getting more feedback from the questionnaires. Many programs for the Seniors are going on. The Beacon Bee presentation happened. It was not well attended but it was fun. There is another scheduled in November. We did a health forum and about 20 people attended. We will be doing more in the beginning of the year for Pond Spring and Chatfield specifically.
6. **Correspondence**
None
7. **Budget**
None
8. **Applications**
BE – nothing new approved since lasts meeting.
9. **Grant Information**
BE – DB is working with Natasha on Toby's.
10. **Executive Session (if needed)**
none
11. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30P.M. **JF/DB; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission*