



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

**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 20, 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, M. Carroll, P. Monti, S. Moffat, ME Fernandes  
Members Absent: L. DeGeorge, R. Egan  
Public Present: Selectman M. Krenesky, 2 members of the public
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** **Motion to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes as presented. P. Monti made a motion to approve the minutes. S. Moffat seconded the motion. All ayes.**
3. **Comments from the Public:** M. Krenesky noted that he has done 2 weddings at Matthies Park and the portolet is in the way for photos and is an eyesore. He would like the Portolet to move to the left side of the garage, so it is out of the public eye. S Moffat will speak to the portolet company and look at leveling off a different space for the portolet near the garage.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. Matthies Park – S. Moffat reported that tree work is being planned at the park next week around the playground area. The flagpole was replaced, and some trails have been cleared.
  - b. Pent Rd. Complex – S. Moffat reported that the Sugar Shak was deep cleaned. The hood has been cleaned and he will make sure the water is on soon, as it should be ready for inspection. He noted that whoever is running the shack has to do a better job cleaning it. All the cleaning equipment is available, and S. Moffat will come up with a checklist/sign off of what needs to be done at the end of the night. The storage area should also be kept clean. P. Monti noted that AEDs are on order and there is one at the Sugar Shack. S. Moffat is ordering some clay, the flagpole has been repaired at Pent Road and a guardrail was replaced near Field #4. For the playscape slider, there is no platform available for smaller children to climb up on to slide. There is an option to drop the height of the bar on the slide which the Parks crew can accomplish. M. Carroll also noted that the spinner is very loud, so S. Moffat will investigate that.
  - c. Toby's Pond – S. Moffat noted there needs to be some boulders placed by the entrance of the park by the gate to mark where the water runoff creates some holes. They have repaired some potholes in the driveway. They have walked the trails recently and when they clean the spillway much of this is handwork, because there is no way to get maintenance machinery around the spillway. S. Moffat would like to let the paths be. Public Works does

not have the manpower to clear the spillway. Toby's Pond has a lot of knotweeds, which is difficult and invasive. S. Moffat has only had success leveling knotweed with a lot of mowing. P. Monti asked about a maintenance plan for Toby's Pond. Does a plan exist and if we find a resource that is able to do that clearing work, how can the Town continue to maintain it? S. Moffat said it is difficult to keep up with. Winter months are the best time to get work done on the trails and in the warm months the knotweed grows quickly.

d. Riverbend Park – No update.

e. Community Garden – No charge for plots and people can contact Todd Waldron for open plots.

f. Park Activities/Misc. – D. Ferretti noted that there have been weddings at Matthies Park, and he would like to be aware when there are happenings at the park. He wants to promote the pavilion rentals, so people are aware they can reserve them. We are ordering some outdoor literature racks for the pavilions which can house the rental applications and be a way to post when the pavilions are reserved.

g. YMCA Update – Snowman challenge is still going on and is open until the last snowfall. Minutes from the YMCA meeting were sent to all commission members.

h. FY2023 Budget – The current status of the 2022-2023 budget was sent to all members. POs (Purchase Orders) are being completed for the fireworks, stock fish and concerts. There is some money remaining in the concert line to use before 6/30/23 and monies in the Park Rec Activities line which can be used towards prizes for the bike rodeo and other event expenses.

## 5. **New Business**

a. **S. Moffat explained that at Pent Road the stairs coming down from the upper pavilion are in disrepair and currently blocked off with caution tape at present. S. Moffat made a motion to remove the wood stairs going up from Pent Road to the upper pavilion. P. Monti seconded the motion. All ayes.**

b. Summer Camp: Flyers for summer camp are going out this week and the commission needs to review the price for the 5 weeks of camp. The cost is currently \$95 for 1 child and \$180 for 2 or more for all 5 weeks. The commission has not raised the cost of the camp in several years. Supplies/vendors/moon bounces/crafts are all purchased with the tuition funds. The commission agreed that Heather Deegan does a phenomenal job. M. Carroll asked about extending the hours of the camp and this discussion would impact the budget request as the Town funds the staff. **P. Monti made a motion to raise tuition fees from \$5.00 to \$100.00 per child and \$185.00 for 2 children or more. M. Carroll seconded the motion. DF/SM/PM/MC voted aye. ME Fernandes voted nay, adding that we are all being impacted by inflation and the \$5 per child would not make a big difference and is not needed. The motion carried.**

c. Cardboard Boat Regatta: YMCA will be supplying life vests and lifeguards for the regatta. D. Ferretti will work on ribbons on a paddle as a prize and there will be cards. M. Carroll has the old flyer for the event with the liability waiver and will work on updating the document for 2023. The event will begin set up 9:00 AM, with the regatta at 10:00 AM and then the canoes and kayaking on Matthies will be from 11:00 AM – 1:00 or 2:00 PM. M. Carroll asked about getting food truck and P. Monti will explore music options. M. Carroll also asked about obtaining volunteers to help. P. Monti hopes that BHC will be there for safety and as participants. It takes time to build a cardboard boat, so M. Carroll will work on getting information out this spring.

d. Bike Rodeo: Scheduled for Pent Road June 3<sup>rd</sup>. M. Carroll will reach out to the Resident Trooper and some of the police officers as instructors. The timing would be 9:00 AM – noon.

Prizes such as helmets will be handed out. EMTs may be available. D. Ferretti noted that the Prospect Scout troop may be interested, as it was a requirement for one of their badges.

e. Fishing Rodeo – P. Monti reported that the fish are being delivered April 27th at 5:00 PM. The rodeo will be April 29<sup>th</sup> 7-11 AM and he will reach out to the Barksdale family. The Men's Club will be cooking, and we are working on publicity.

6. **Correspondence** – D. Ferretti received an email from M. Krenesky on Matthies Park, which was already discussed.
7. **Facility Applications** – D. Ferretti received 2 new Facility Applications for approval: United Day School and then Adult Soccer League. He spoke with the soccer league over the phone, and they want to reserve every other Sunday from April to September. S. Moffat is concerned about overuse of the fields. They would also need goalposts, chalk lines and he believes it would be too much for the fields. The adult soccer league is from Newington, so they are not from town. D. Ferretti noted that he will contact them and decline the application. The town does not own goals, as the soccer goals belong to the high school. All previous applications have been approved for ballfield usage. D. Ferretti noted that other than Babe Ruth leagues, he has not received applications for Saturdays and Sundays use of the fields. That may be because the games are not set yet, but he asked the leagues to provide information on Saturday and Sunday use. There is an 80-person birthday party one Saturday and if Field #1 is in use, this would impact the birthday party.
8. **Grant Information**
  - a. CT DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) Recreation Trails Grant – P. Monti noted the Toby's Pond trail grant has been set aside at Gerry Smith's request. The scope of monies was way beyond what the grant would produce. A boardwalk was quoted at \$250,000. There is not enough usage to justify this type of money. He suggested that the commission take a step back and devise a maintenance plan to determine what we can do to make the property more attractive for use. Our Finance Manager put together a survey about Toby's and had overwhelming response in favor of approving the area. Residents wanted maintenance for the overgrowth, making it easier to launch smaller boats. There were a few comments about the flatter area of Toby's, and could this be improved as a picnic area? Rich Minnick had widened the trails with hand tools to make it passable with volunteers. P. Monti noted we are not looking at the grant, but that does not mean we should not stop looking at ways to improve the property ourselves.
  - b. J. De noted that the POCD (PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT) is being developed for the next 10 years and these ideas should be included in the POCD, so it is coherent and in one place. The POCD puts a set of goals in front of everyone and it is a good vehicle to disseminate longer term plans. SLR, our contracted engineer for the POCD, is beginning work shortly and the process will take several months to complete.
  - c. K. Matthies Grant – Due 5/1/2023 – P&R will be applying for a new swing set at Matthies Park with K. Matthies monies.
9. **Other Business**: M. Krenesky did some photographs at Matthies for the State Register of Historic Places and followed Oxford hills to the sluiceways. They are jammed packed with leaves and branches and some plan should be put together to clear these sluiceways out. They are packed and full of leaves from the pump house up to the settling ponds on the Oxford side.
10. **Adjournment** – M. Carroll made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM. S. Moffat seconded the motion. All ayes.

Sincerely, Erin A. Schwarz