



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

**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 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, P. Monti, R. Egan, L. DeGeorge, M. Carroll, ME Fernandes
Members Absent: None
Public Present: S. Beck, J. De, Selectman M. Krenesky
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Motion to approve the May 2023 meeting minutes as presented. L. DeGeorge made a motion to approve the minutes. M. Carroll seconded the motion. All ayes.
Welcome Victor Santos, who is new to the Board. S. Moffat has stepped down.
3. **Comments from the Public:** None at this time.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Parks Maintenance – D. Ferretti has not received a report from S. Moffat on maintenance at the parks, in time for the meeting.
 - b. Community Garden – R. Egan spoke with Todd Waldron and all the garden spots were filled. S. Moffat was looking into a bench and picnic table for the garden. Todd would still like to get some mulch, but access is an issue at this point, due to all the construction staged at the site.
 - c. Park Activities. –
 - i. Bike Rodeo – D. Ferretti reported that we did not get a good turnout. There were 13 kids, but the event went well, with prize raffles, etc. Advertising and publicity are an issue. D. Ferretti would like to get a bulletin board at Town Hall and one at Pent Road and post event posters at Pent Road. Advertising is going to be key moving forward. D. Ferretti wants to see more signage and flyers/posters to raise awareness.
 - ii. Concerts – R. Egan reported that Al Fenton Big Band is tomorrow night. Music from the 40s to the 80s and they have a large group of musicians. The flyer is out for the concerts, and they will continue every Wed. through August.

- d. YMCA Update – The YMCA will still be with us through June, and they will aid us with some of the things we are planning and assisting with events.
5. Fireworks – S. Beck noted that the YMCA is looking to supply us with an obstacle course or bounce house, YMCA will manage the bounce house and there are 6 staff scheduled for the event. They will be facepainting, cornhole, hula hoops. The YMCA will supply a popcorn machine and free popcorn. Victor Santos has a magician who is available for \$400 for a 1-hour show, and he will bring his own lights and tables, etc. Buses start running at 6:30 PM and the bounce house, hula hoops, cornhole will be going at 6:30 PM. The magician would start at 8:00 PM and then end at 9:00 PM. Magician will be over by the pavilion side and then Steve Tilki concert will take place by the fields. At 8:00 PM popcorn will be served with the magic show. There is electricity at the pavilion, and it is a covered area for the show. The YMCA will shut down the bounce house at 7:45 PM and then the magic show will take place. The YMCA will be there by 5:45 PM and buses will run starting at 6:30 PM. The rain date is July 9th. R. Egan has been in touch with the bus company. There will be 2 buses – one from Firehouse and one from High School they will run through 10:30 PM. Last year they were \$1600. Ice cream truck will be there (He is the only for-profit vendor allowed.) The Sugar Shack will be open. The Friends of the Library will sell their snacks.
- e. Summer Camp – Camp is fully staffed, and Heather Deegan is getting everything ready for the camp. More publicity is needed on the camp, as signups are low. The YMCA noted there are 4 children coming from ½ day program to their program. M. Carroll asked about a longer camp day, and this should be discussed by the commission in the Fall, to be budgeted for next year's budget. S. Beck noted that before care at YMCA has blown up from 30 children to 70 children. D. Ferretti wants more advertising and to create a banner we can use every year. The Firehouse will also have a digital sign for advertising in the near future.
- f. FY2023 Budget – Budget is closing for June 30th and there are funds available for parks activities. All the lines are in good shape.
- g. Cardboard Boat Regatta – D. Ferretti has had some inquiries about registering. He has obtained signage for the regatta and should have it by the end of this week. The commission discussed prizes for the regatta, adults and children in separate heats and ribbons and gift cards. \$25 gift cards for Antonio's/Beacon Falls Pizza gift cards were ideas for the adults. V. Santos noted that passes to the Zoo, Science Center or Maritime Center are good summer passes for families/kids. S. Beck suggested using life jackets as a prize. The YMCA is supplying lifeguards and life jackets. V. Santos noted that the zoo has a \$170 Family Membership. D. Ferretti will get in touch with the Canoe/Kayak people, as we will need COI and W9 forms from them. Parks & Rec will have a boat. M. Krenesky is working on a boat. The event is on July 22nd from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

6. New Business:

- **D. Ferretti called for a motion to approve a \$400 Budget for Roger Moss, the Magician at the Fireworks: LD made the motion.** ME Fernandes asked if Roger Moss, magician will need to provide his COI as well. The Finance Office will acquire his information. **VS seconded the motion. All ayes.**

7. **Correspondence:** Marie Cameron from the Lions Club contacted Parks & Rec about selling raffle tickets at the Fireworks. This was approved by D. Ferretti.
8. The Lions Club would like to hire a vendor to repair the scoreboard. D. Ferretti will have more information and paperwork from the vendor for the next meeting. P. Monti noted there are 2 scoreboards, one for Baseball and one for Softball. Liability waivers would be needed, COI, etc.
9. D. Ferretti also spoke with the Lions President about resurrecting the duck race for next year.

10. Facility Applications:

- a) D. Ferretti has a scheduled 6/25/23 pavilion rental for a party. The applicant wanted a bounce house and an ice cream truck. She has now requested to move it to July, and she wanted a bounce house with a waterslide. D. Ferretti is awaiting a response from Public Works about the waterslide, which he is inclined to deny. The park is open to everyone, and the water would need to be monitored. Public Works will have the final say.
- b) D. Ferretti was also contacted by Kelly Kane who is starting another league for older girls, and she wanted to combine her league with the Valley Fusion application. D. Ferretti asked her to complete a new facility application. L. DeGeorge noted that this is a branch off of Valley Fusion and up to U18.
- c) D. Ferretti noted that the pavilions are being used for parties and he has not had any complaints.

11. 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.
- 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

- a. As there is not report on Parks maintenance, P. Monti noted that Toby's is overgrown in the areas where you would launch a kayak. He was wondering if the launch areas could be cleared.
- c. M. Krenesky noted that S. Moffat is also working on Graffiti on the boathouse, pumphouse and brick outhouse at Matthies.
- d. D. Ferretti asked if the Portolet at Matthies was relocated? There is a better spot which needs to be cleaned up by Public Works on the right-hand side.
- e. D. Ferretti is hoping to resurrect Haunted Hayride for the Fall. There is not much left in the Boathouse, where the supplies were stored for the event.

13: Adjournment: R. Egan motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM. L. DeGeorge seconded the motion. All ayes.

Sincerely, Erin A. Schwarz