



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

**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
August 21, 2023  
MINUTES (Subject to Revision)**

1. **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance:** D. Ferretti called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Members Present: D. Ferretti, P. Monti, L. DeGeorge, R. Egan  
Members Absent: M. Carroll, V. Santos, ME Fernandes  
Public Present: Selectman M. Krenesky (7:10 PM)
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Motion to approve the July 2023 meeting minutes as presented. P. Monti made a motion to approve the minutes. L. DeGeorge seconded the motion. All ayes.
3. **Comments from the Public:** No public present.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. Matthies Park – S. Moffat sent D. Ferretti a text today on what is going on at the Parks. They put in the gravel pad for the portolet to the right of the bridge, and they are waiting for CT Potty to move the portolet. They had some washouts with the latest storm, mulch around the playground which they fixed, and they are cleaning up settling ponds from washouts.
  - b. Pent Road – One basketball hoop mount needs to be replaced. There is a crack in the basketball court being quoted for repairs. They installed a new trash can on field #3. The toilets overflowed last week, due to kids flushing paper towels, but this was all cleaned up by Friday afternoon.
  - c. Toby's Pond – They repaired the dog wash station at Toby's. Routine maintenance.
  - d. Riverbend, Veterans and Volunteer Park – They straightened some bent signs. All other parks routine trash and mowing.
  - e. Community Garden – No new updates. Todd was hoping to get some of the bushes trimmed around the garden.
  - f. Park Activities. –
    - i Cardboard Boat Regatta went very well. Signage on the streets alerted many people to the event and D. Ferretti would like to continue this type of signage. The canoe and kayak were a big success. Next year, consider more canoes, less kayaks – 3 kayaks and 9 canoes since canoes can take more people. The YMCA lifeguard was there, and he helped with the fitting of the life vests, which was very helpful. The race was good. We might need to put an age limit on the youth race. The event cost \$1650.00. The commission received a thank you note from Noah Rodorigo for allowing him to perform at the event. Cuckoo Kenny's food truck went well. At the end of the race, the boats needed to be broken down better and disposed of properly.
    - ii Summer Camp – The 5 weeks came to a close. Camp was well attended, and staffing went well. The staff line is overbudget and will need a transfer.
    - iii Concerts – R. Egan reported that the concerts have gone well, and Bernadette's will be tomorrow night, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The music has been good., crowds have been big, and they are expecting a lot of people tomorrow night.
    - iv Publicity: The Sign which was down at the bank parking lot has been sent over to Public Works for repairs. The corner location is now a roofing company that parks trucks on that corner and block the sign. The



commission is considered options for a better sign at that end of the green for the future. The Firehouse will have a digital sign soon, which can be used to inform people about events.

g. YMCA Update – First Aid/CPR will be held at the Beacon Falls Senior Center on 9/9/23. We should encourage signups with more publicity.

h. FY2024 Budget: The following line items are running short: Concerts (Due to the rescheduling of the Bernadettes to August), Seasonal wages due to an added counselor and Park Activities is 50% used for the Regatta. The Commission will need to transfer funds and use monies from the Special Activities account for upcoming events.

i. Parks Signage: V. Santos, P. Monti, and L. DeGeorge went through all the signage in the parks. They agreed that the descriptive signage at Veterans and Volunteer Parks needs to be updated and the Commission can take the lead on replacing those old signs. While touring the parks, L. DeGeorge took photos of other maintenance issues, and those photos are attached to the minutes with locations noted.

j. The commissioners took pictures of things that need to be worked on. The photos prompted a discussion among the board about how to work with Public Works to get some of these items addressed. Some of the items are routine maintenance items, some are major capital projects. Some of the items (such as the descriptive signage), the Board can take the lead on. Some of the items could be handled by volunteers if the Public Works department would allow this.

Here is a list of the items from the photos:

- Veteran's Park – New signage and empty glass area for postings.
- Volunteer Park – New signage, overgrown areas, the landing needs to be cleaned of debris and the wooden stair treads are rotting. This would be a major project to replace.
- Riverbend – The signage there says "Park Ranger" which should be changed. There is overgrowth around benches and ADA tables and the path needs to be reestablished. The commission would welcome ideas on how to redo the path (capital project) and how to prevent benches and tables from being overwhelmed with growth. When Riverbend Park first opened, it was landscaped and looked nice, and now there is a wall of bushes. There is an Eagle Scout project there which is not being maintained, with a missing life preserver. There should also be a PVC pipe receptacle for the fishhooks, but who maintains that.
- Matthies Park – The bench overlooking the playground should be removed/replaced. The sluiceways are overgrown and need major work (capital project). The kiosks have outdated materials and the commission would like to update the information to see if they could have a key to the kiosk. Most of the signage at Matthies is recent. There is graffiti and additional benches/tables which should be replaced at Matthies. The path up to the playground needs work and the driveway is a major project. The way things drain leads to run off along the driveway and it all ends up in the culverts. The culverts have not been cleaned out in quite some time.
- Toby's – There is no signage there as it has all been vandalized. Kiosks are outdated, the signage says Park Ranger. The commission would like keys to access them. Knotweed is everywhere and a problem in all the locations.
- Pent Road – Most of Pent Road is in very good shape, but is there a plan for the upper pavilion, which is an area that looks terrible.

P. Monti and L. DeGeorge had a lot of ideas as a result of touring the parks. P. Monti noted that the nicer you make a spot, the more people will take care, but when it looks run down, it invites delinquency because it looks like no one cares. L. DeGeorge would love to organize volunteers, even to weed for a day. She thinks the community would be willing to take ownership of parts of the parks if they were allowed to "adopt" an area to maintain. P. Monti agreed that volunteer groups, as a community, could be willing to take this on. The board would like to come together to work on solutions to some of these problems. Many of these spots in the parks are suffering from benign neglect. The Board would need to coordinate with Public Works, and the Selectman's Office.

M. Krenesky added that the commissioners were heading down the right path by putting together a punch list of things that need to be done in the parks and what they would like to see maintained. Then they can look for solutions to fix these things, and justify the need for a 7<sup>th</sup> member of the Public Works Dept.

#### **P. New Business:**

- a. POCD Survey – The Parks & Rec commission would be interested in seeing the POCD survey results for questions which pertain to parks and open space.
- b. Haunted Hayride: D. Ferretti spoke with the former chair of this event and was advised that the commission should have started the project several months ago (April) to get the volunteers which would be needed. D. Ferretti suggested a regular hayride through Matthies this year since we only have 6-8 weeks to plan. The event would be a daytime event with cider, donuts, hot chocolate, and some activities for the kids. L. DeGeorge made some phone

calls and was able to secure 2 tractors and 2 drivers/hay, etc. for **Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-4 PM**. Activities discussed were “stuff a scarecrow” or pumpkin painting. The commission will need to get planning, publicity and finalize details for the event. There was discussion of having part of the event at the top of the hill near the settling ponds. High school volunteers would be needed.

- c. Holiday Lights contest: The commissioners were very interested in resuming the Parks & Recreation Holiday lights contest, where houses sign up and are judged by different criteria to win gift cards for the holidays.

**Q. Correspondence:**

- a. The Lions Club provided an estimate of \$1500 on painting the scoreboard at Pent Road from Ambrosio’s Painting. Ambrosio’s provided their COI, and the Lions Club will finance the whole thing. P. Monti asked for a copy of the estimate to bring to BHC for the 2<sup>nd</sup> scoreboard. After Finance review, the Lion’s can advise them to proceed.

**R. Facility Applications:**

- a. D. Ferretti has a pavilion application for 9/23 and 9/24 (rain date) for the DeCampos family which has been approved. Valley Fusion put in an application for the same day, which will be denied, as they will need to pick another day.
- b. The Lions Club put in a request for Pent Road for a 5k road race on 9.24.23. The 5k is early in the day but the DeCampos family should be made aware if their 9/23 event is rained out and their gathering moves to 9/24.
- c. The Lions would like to use the parking lot at Pent Road for overflow parking for their Car show, also on 9/24/23. Several attempts were made to contact the Betkoski family to confirm that both the Road race and the Car show are being held on the same day – 9/24/23.

**S. Grant Information:**

- a. K. Matthies Grant – The grant application was awarded for a new swing set at Matthies Park. The order has been placed with ME O’Brien using State Contract pricing. The grant is for \$10,000 with \$2,500 coming from Town funds.

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

**13: Adjournment:** R. Egan motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM. P. Monti seconded the motion. All ayes.

Sincerely,



Erin A. Schwarz





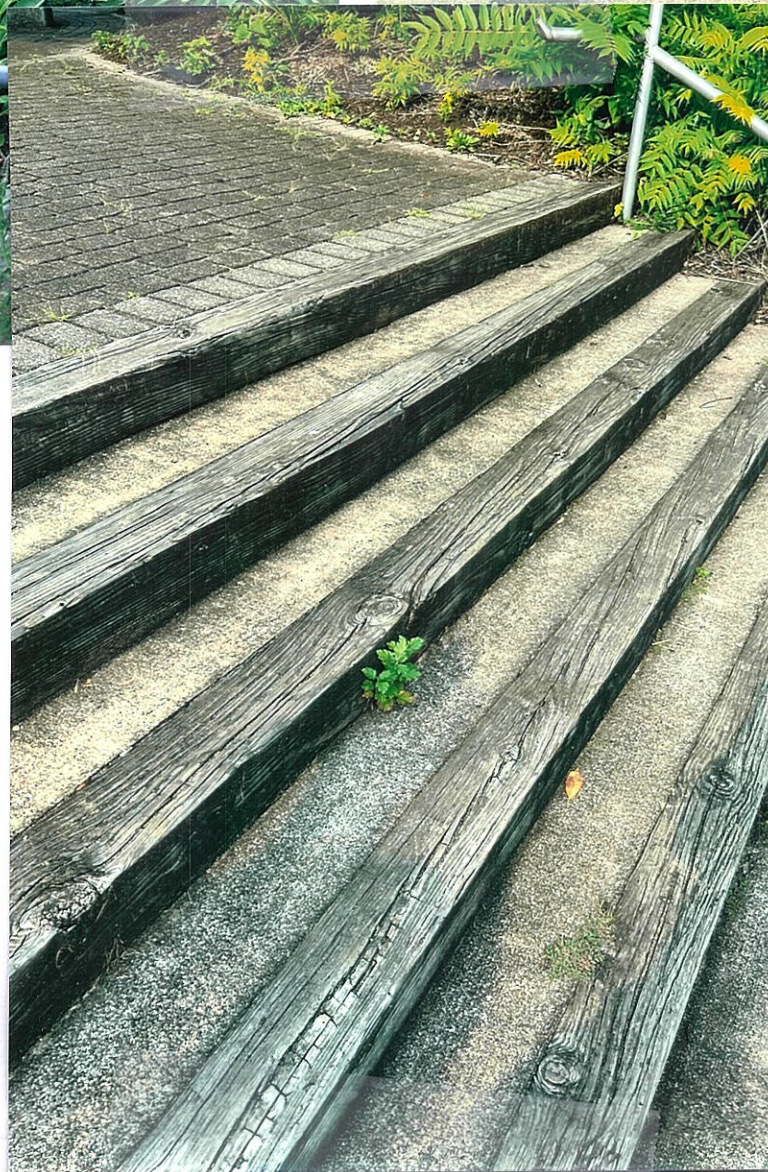
VETERANS PARK





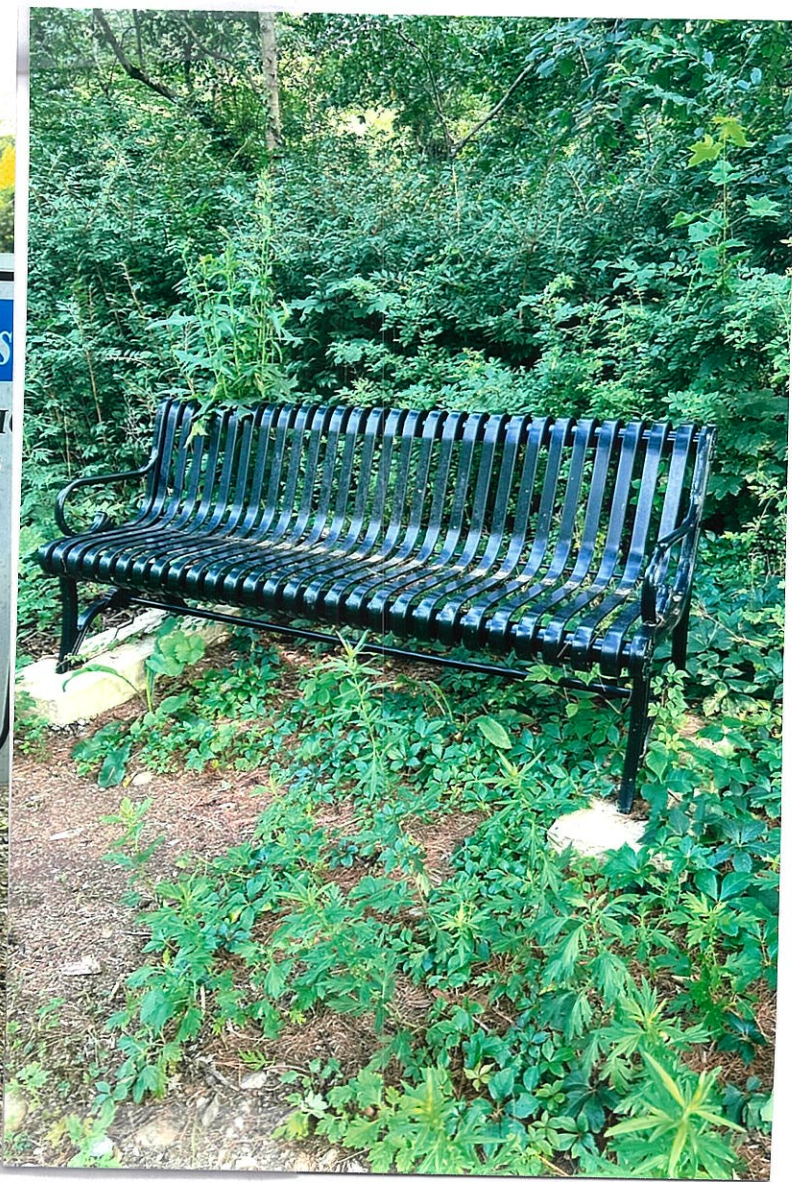
VOLUNTEER





VOLUNTEER





RIVERBEND





RIVERBEND





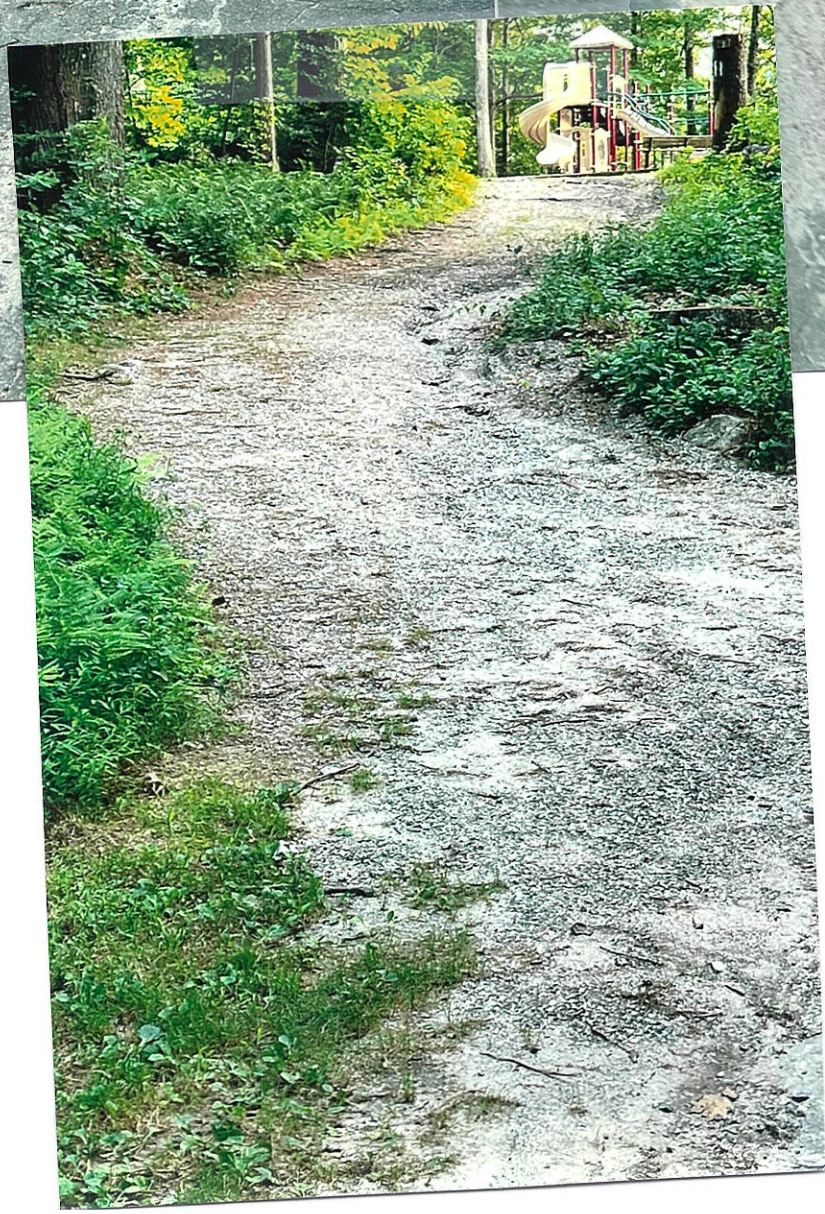
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*RIVERBEND*





MATTHIES





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MATTHIES



MATTHIES





Snowshoeing, horseback riding, fishing, kayaking, hiking, playground, pavilion, or just getting in touch with nature are just some of the activities our park has to offer.

Enjoy and please abide by all Park Rules & Postings



Volunteers are always welcome to participate in preserving our park by maintaining our park grounds and trail systems. Contact our Park Ranger at [BFParkRanger@tobfct.com](mailto:BFParkRanger@tobfct.com) to volunteer your services as an individual or to participate in a planned maintenance event.

[illegible][illegible]

- Littering
- Swimming
- Inflatable Boats
- Trespassing on Island
- Ice Fishing/Ice Skating
- Open Fires
- Camping
- Excessive Noise or Loud Music
- Hunting or Trapping
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Glass Containers
- Fireworks
- All-Terrain Vehicles, Dirt Bikes or Snowmobiles
- Firearms, Archery, Paintball, Pellet Guns, BB Guns
- Taking of Any Resource (wood, plants, artifacts, etc.)
- Posting of Signs or Flyers
- Vending or Soliciting

Park is for Residents Only  
Park Closes at Sunset  
Park Grounds Are Monitored and Patrolled  
Non-Motorized Boating Permitted  
Fishing is Permitted (Fishing License  
Required according to state regulations)  
Please Dispose of Fishing Tackle in  
Designated Trash Receptacles  
Pets Must Be Leashed at All Times  
Pet Waste Must Be Cleaned Up Immediately  
Horses Always Have the Right of Way  
Horse Waste on Paved Surfaces Must Be  
Cleaned Up Immediately  
Stay on Marked Trails  
Trail Maps Are for Reference Only  
Use of Trails & Playground Equipment are at  
Your Own Risk

at Matthews Park

White Trail—CPE/N

Yellow Trail—PS, CPE/Club, remaining section is trail which is accessible.

Red Trail—CPE/N

Blue Trail—Closed—(Numerous trails and neighborhoods) [www.madisoncountysc.gov/42072](http://www.madisoncountysc.gov/42072)

Orange Trail—CPE/N

Apple Trail—CPE/N

Pink Trail—CPE/N



- When enjoying our park, please be respectful and courteous to others and follow social distancing guidelines.
- If you arrive at the park and crowds are forming, choose a different park or trail, or return another day or time.
- Observe the CDC's minimum recommended **social distancing of six feet** when walking, biking, fishing, hiking or other activity.
- Wearing of a face covering is encouraged when you cannot meet the social distancing guidelines.
- Warn other trail users of your presence, allow proper distances as you pass and step off the trail to allow others to pass if needed.
- Dogs must always be leashed.

**Park Rules for Water Activities**  
**Matthies Park --- RESIDENTS ONLY**  
 11/10/17 --- Boats, Kayaks, (2000)  
 11/10/17 --- Public Sailboards, Inflatable of any type  
 (i.e., Zipl, etc., Gas or Electric motors)  
 (Personal Flotation Device) are required  
 for each person on board.  
 No swimming or fishing, NO DISTURB ON BEH  
 11/10/17 --- 1 current CT fishing license on your person  
 and comply with CT fishing rules.





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