



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

BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 16, 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, L. DeGeorge, R. Egan, V. Santos, ME Fernandes
Members Absent: None
Public Present: Selectman M. Krenesky, Jo De
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Motion to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes as presented. P. Monti made a motion to approve the minutes. ME Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.
3. **Comments from the Public:** No comments at this time.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Matthies Park – S. Moffat sent D. Ferretti a text today on what is going on at the Parks. The new swing set was delivered and is being stored until installation is scheduled by O'Brien & Sons.
 - b. Pent Road – The Lions Club scoreboard was painted, and it looks good. BHC has agreed to repaint the scoreboard they donated, and P. Monti will follow up and hopes to use the same painting contractor. The broken basketball backboard has been repaired. The front gate was repainted blue, and it is more eye catching. The irrigation system has been winterized.
 - c. Toby's Pond – There has been more trouble with ponding at the entrance and some of the holes were filled in.
 - d. Riverbend, Veterans and Volunteer Park – The historical history signs have been replaced at these parks. Second copies of the signs were stored at the Public Works garage, so they were able to replace them. L. DeGeorge noted that on their tour of the parks, they photographed a memorial bench at Volunteer Park, which was either falling apart or was taken apart because it was loose and not glued together. P. Monti noted that the adhesive may have been worn off. V. Santos said the top was off and the sides were down. The commissioners hoped that this bench could be looked at and repaired by Public Works. Otherwise, routine maintenance was taking place.
 - e. Community Garden – B. Egan noted that Todd Waldron will be moving, so we will need a new director for the garden. Parks & Rec will need to find someone to take over. V. Santos will reach out to Todd to find out what the role entails, assigning plots, obtaining mulch and manure, supplies, monitoring, and upkeep of the garden, etc.
 - f. Park Activities. –
 - i. **Halloween Hayride** – The wagons and hay are all set for this 4-hour event on Sunday, 10/22/23. Due to the nature of the event and the use of volunteers to drive the wagons, Special Event insurance was needed, and Parks & Recreation received a quote through CIRMA. **V. Santos made a motion to spend \$350.00 to bind the insurance for the event. L. DeGeorge seconded the motion. All ayes.**



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V. Santos will explore how Ansonia insures their hayride event. ME Fernandes inquired if this type of coverage can be blanket coverage for future events. Good questions to explore for the future.

ii Other items for the Hayride: YMCA is providing face painters. D. Ferretti will follow up with the YMCA. Woodland advertised for volunteers, and D. Ferretti has 6 volunteers so far. Cody Brennan and Cody Muth are driving and providing people to assist with on and off the hayride. D. Ferretti will set up stations for waivers, pumpkin painting with the library and face painting. He will be purchasing donuts and cider through Big Y - 48 donuts, 4 gallons of cider and we will use dixie cups. D. Ferretti ordered items to be put along the trail. The route will be from garage area to silt pond with one wagon trailing the another, and there should be enough parking. Tables will be set up on the paved area in front of the garage and the library will use the pavilion. ME Fernandes asked about police presence and D. Ferretti will follow up. There will be small giveaways for the kids. We hope to set up a ring toss game with glow sticks to keep the kids busy. D. Ferretti will need the commissioners at 10:00 AM to set up the trail and map it out. He also has a list of things needed from the Firehouse:

6 tables, 18 chairs.

iii Pumpkin painting – The library ordered some Styrofoam pumpkins and D. Ferretti is seeking pumpkins. He found a vendor which will sell pumpkins by the pallet; 900 lbs. of pumpkins for \$550.00. P. Monti asked if they are the only and best option at this time. D. Ferretti explored multiple options. Leftover pumpkins can be used for upcoming Halloween events, Truck or Treat or for residents. **P. Monti made a motion to spend \$550 on a pallet of pumpkins for the event. V. Santos seconded the motion. All ayes.**

iv **Holiday Lights contest:** The commission plans to advertise the Holiday lights contest and judge lights on December 15th. A flyer will be put together with the ability to register your home for the contest. V. Santos asked that the flyer contain a QR Code to bring people to the registration through the town website. Prizes and categories for the contest will be determined at the November meeting, gift cards from Amazon.

g. YMCA Update – No updates, other than providing face painters for the Hayride.

h. FY2024 Budget: No changes since October. Overages for the Parks & Rec Activities line can come from the Special Activities account.

i. Parks Signage – V. Santos and P. Monti asked again where the keys are for the signage at the parks. R. Egan noted that the First Selectman's Office and Public Works should have all the keys to the sign board. D. Ferretti will check with the First Selectman's Office. There is still no signboard at Pent Road, which should be durable and locking.

j. Veteran's and Volunteer Park signage – These signs have been replaced, per S. Moffat.

5. New Business:

a. The Board Chair received a resignation email from Maureen Carroll. The Commission has an opening, so if anyone has an interest, they need to send a letter to the Board of Selectman, requesting appointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission.



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- b. D. Ferretti has received complaints from residents about the Adult Softball leagues drinking alcohol at the parks. They were leaving bottles and cans behind, which were saved by a resident. The commission discussed sending a letter to the league, putting them on notice. Discussion continued on how to enforce the No alcohol policy. ME Fernandes recommended the commission respond with the letter now and then reinforce the policy with a letter in the spring when the 2024 Facility Applications are submitted. This gives the league time to comply. D. Ferretti will follow up with a specific letter to the league that received the complaint, followed by a general letter to all leagues in the spring.
 - c. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair will take place in November, Elections will take place in December.
 - d. The 2024 Meeting Calendar will be voted on next month.
 - e. V. Santos has a question about the use of Matthies Park on Sunday 10/15. He was there between noon and 1:00 PM and the gate was unlocked and there were several cars (up to 8) there, unpacking and unloading items. He did not recognize anyone from town and asked if it was a private event, to which they replied No. There were no bookings for the pavilion on 10/15 and the commission would like to know why the gate was open and how they got in there.
 - f. L. DeGeorge noted there will be a live Burn training exercise at 343 Lopus Road on November 5th, so she was confirming there were no events scheduled at Pent Road.
6. Correspondence: The commission received an email resignation from M. Carroll. D. Ferretti heard from a middleman who books bands for concerts and declined use of their service.
7. **Facility Applications:** No new applications at this time. The 2024 Facility Application will be revised for November and approved in December. D. Ferretti asked the commission to review the document for changes for 2024, if any issues have come up with the document. He wants to emphasize making checks payable to TOWN OF BEACON FALLS.
8. **Grant Information:**
- a. K. Matthies Grant – The swing set for Matthies has been delivered and is being stored at the Matthies Garage until ready for installation.
 - b. DECD Grant for a new Community Center at 35 Wolfe Avenue was declined this round. The Community Garden can stay at this location for the imminent future.
9. **Other Business:** None at this time.
10. **Adjournment:** R. Egan made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM. L. DeGeorge seconded the motion. All ayes.

Sincerely,

Erin A. Schwarz