



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

**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Special Monthly Meeting
January 17, 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, L. DeGeorge, M. Carroll, P. Monti, B. Egan, ME Fernandes
Members Absent: None
Public Present: Summer Camp Director H. Deegan, YMCA Director Mark LaFortune, 4 members of the public, Selectman M. Krenesky
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** **ME** Fernandes has questions about the minutes which will be addressed later. **Motion to approve the December 2022 meeting minutes as presented. BE/MC All ayes.**
3. **Comments from the Public:** Representatives from Woodland Valley Softball appeared before the Board as they had heard that Top Notch Adult Softball was going to request M, W, F field usage and that would severely set back their league, if the softball fields were not available for practice and games. The President of Woodland Valley Softball noted that the league serves youth from Beacon Falls and Prospect ages 4-14. They would begin practice around 5:30 until about 7:00 PM and games would require additional field time. D. Ferretti encouraged the league to get their application in and include a schedule. He noted that the youth leagues come first and take priority over the adult leagues. Woodland Valley noted that the Little League district does the schedule, and it will not be available until very close to opening day. Typically, the Woodland Valley Softball league would build their schedule based on when Parks & Rec approves their field usage. The district has 8-9 towns and based on filed availability the league makes the schedule. D. Ferretti noted that days and times are needed and advised them to complete the application with the best information they have. Board members noted that RACBL has not submitted their application or schedule yet.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Matthies Park – S. Moffat reported that he is working on maintenance for the flagpole at Matthies, and he is getting quotes. There was some graffiti at the park which is getting cleaned up. He received a quote from O'Brien & Sons for the new swing set. With landscaping the total was \$30,000 for 4 swings. The Public Works Foreman felt that the quote was too high, and Public Works is looking to see what they can do for site prep and landscaping to reduce the quote. The swing set will meet all the safety standards. The

board wanted to confirm that if Public Works does a piece of the work, it will meet the State standards upon final inspection. M. Carroll asked about a different vendor. This vendor is on the State Contract which is why they were chosen.

b. Pent Rd. Complex – Sugar Shak – S. Moffat has been reaching out to vendors to deeply clean the Sugar Shak and complete the hood cleaning. Luso Cleaning is a option suggested by the YMCA. S. Moffat installed shelving in the new shed for summer camp. He is working with the Public Works Foreman on capital planning projects, including the track around the fields, some tree work and building maintenance.

c. M. Carroll asked if they will be getting a quote on the lights for the other fields? They would like a price to light just the first baseline and third baseline which are currently unlit. They do not need lighting in the outfields and should look at prices just for the fields without lighting. L. DeGeorge would like to find out what lighting will cost for those 2 locations.

d. Toby's Pond – S. Moffat noted there was some tree work done at the entrance.

e. Riverbend Park – Nothing to report.

f. Community Garden – B. Egan received an email from Todd Waldron, who will run the garden again this year. M. Carroll asked about some publicity for the garden, so we will get some information on the garden to put up on the website, so interested people can contact Todd to get a plot at the garden.

g. Park Activities/Misc. – Nothing to report.

h. YMCA Update – Mark Lafortune met with the Town last Monday. Maureen shared many of her ideas, and the first program they want to promote is a Snowman Making contest. The YMCA designed the flyer for the Snowman making contest and the YMCA website is back online. The YMCA has also met with Region 16 Elementary School and will be running some afterschool programs. The town will be helping to get information out there, on our website and Parks & Rec Facebook page. On the draft flyer, there are a few things the YMCA is sorting out; prizes include summer camp registrations, swim lessons and gift cards to reach a larger audience. They would like to make a splash with this first joint program; encouraging people to check out what the Y and Parks & Rec are doing together.

i. Playscape Update – The expansion pieces are on order and due to be delivered to the Town Garage this month.

j. FY2023 Budget – The Board had a copy of the current budget they are working with. D. Ferretti noted that he would like to increase the budget for concerts next year to try and change the music and get different bands, even if they are a bit more expensive. B. Egan is starting to schedule concerts for this summer.

5. New Business

a. Summer Camp 2024 – Heather Deegan noted that she has been working with 12 counselors and wants to hire 2 more next year. Minimum wage is going up to \$15 as well. The changes would increase seasonal wage line in the budget by about \$2,250 to approximately \$20,250. Other than that, Heather does not need any additional monies for camp. Registration fees cover her other camp expenses.

b. FY (Fiscal Year) 2024 Budget – Discussion & Action – The budget call is out and due to the Finance Office in early February. Aside from changes to the concert line, P Monti asked about using the stock fish line to stock Toby's Pond and Matthies Park. Harding Fishery is the expert and PM can reach out to him to look at a separate stocking. Matthies is busy and there is more room at Toby's to fish.

c. The Board noted the following Capital project ideas for FY2024:

- o New Trash Cans at the parks
- o New Tables for the Pavilion at Pent Road - S. Moffat is looking into quotes for new tables.
- o L. DeGeorge asked S. Moffat to look lighting options for the first and third baseline lighting.

- o February 3rd is the due date for the budget numbers.
- 6. **Correspondence** – None.
- 7. **Facility Applications** – 3 Applications for approval have been submitted:
 - a. Woodland
 - b. Valley Fusion
 - c. Top NotchThe applications were incomplete as there were no schedules accompanying them, so D. Ferretti tabled approval of the applications.
- 8. **Grant Information**
 - a. CT DEEP Recreation Trails Grant – P. Monti looked over the grant application and will speak with Finance Manager N. Nau to increase the appeal of the application. It is a \$10,000 application and it is comprehensive as it was originally written.
 - b. K. Matthies Grant – Due 5/1/2023 – P&R would like to apply for a new swing set at Matthies Park with K. Matthies monies. They will look for more reasonable pricing for the installation.
- 9. **Other Business**: In October/November, ME Fernandes asked about the monies which had been in prior year budgets for a Parks & Recreation Director. \$26,000 was budgeted for this position in 2022. Instead of hiring someone the Town partnered with the YMCA and paid the YMCA \$15,000. In the 2023 budget, the Park Director position was eliminated and the YMCA Contract for \$15,000 remained.
- 10. ME Fernandes also asked about M. Krenesky's application to make Matthies a Historic Site. The minutes refer to a "stipulation written" on one of the grants, that requires the park be open to the public 12 days per year. M. Krenesky noted that the Town can determine when the Town would open the park to the public.
- 11. ME Fernandes asked about the deed to Matthies which says residents only. She asked how do we ignore the deed? M. Krenesky noted that as a Town can make a change to the police, which is based on the letter B. Matthies wrote which is attached to the deed. M. Krenesky is pursuing the application with the State. The next step after we receive the historic designation, is to apply for grants. The big question: what is the town willing to give up, to qualify for grants which will make this park the jewel that it can be? We would be 2 years away from ever getting a grant. We have a lot of time to figure this out.
- 12. ME Fernandes asked if we have the right to open the park to the public. Can we investigate whether we have the right to allow the park to be open? Then, if we can change it, the Town must decide if we want to open the park. Being on the State Register then allows us to apply for the grants. This is the first step to giving us options.
- 13. As an update, M. Krenesky noted the State is pushing back and asking him to hire someone to put a thorough application together, so monies may be needed to finish the application.
- 14. **Adjournment** – **B. Egan made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM. ME Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Sincerely,

Erin A. Schwarz