

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
June 15, 2020
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance**

Chairman Bob Egan called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Present: Bob Egan (BE), Steve Moffat (SM), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Don Ferretti (DF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Steve Ruhl (SR)

Not Present: Desiree Brooks (DB)

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on February 18, 2020 as submitted: **MF/DF**; *no discussion*; all ayes

3. **Comments from the Public**

Email provided by Kerri Vardon in the Library regarding the Story Walk at Matthies Park July 11th and 12th. BE - will discuss with First Selectman Smith regarding social distancing for this event. BE - no objection to have this event. MF - I think it is a good idea.

4. **Old Business**

a. **Matthies Park**

BE - closed to organized activities but open for hiking, horseback etc. BE – SM anything about Matthies we should know about? SM – no, other than we should revisit the residents in the park. Since the virus I have noticed more out of State plates at our parks. I have spoken with First Selectman Smith about this. BE – I will follow up with First Selectman Smith.

b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex**

BE - we are in the process of opening the ball fields. I have spoken to the leagues and in town teams are unsure if they will have enough children to play. Valley Fusion & the Fire Department leagues are ready to go. They can start as of Wednesday, June 17th per the States Phase II Reopening Plan. They will be using fields 3 & 4. Fields 1 & 2 are held up until the nets are put on. Sugar Shack/Restrooms will be close. There will be a port-o-potty. Other close contact sports are not yet on the Governors/States list. BE - there are specific guidelines/restrictions from the State and the teams said they will enforce them.

c. **Riverbend Park**

BE - nothing going on there. SM - it has been quiet.

d. **Sports League Reports**

See above Pent Road discussion. BE - topic is redundant, as we covered it above.

e. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous**

BE – Concerts, Family Day, Rec Camp is all cancelled. We did think about the Rec Camp, but the States restrictions were limiting, and we do not have staff to clean the bathrooms etc.

f. **Toby's Pond**

BE – Rich Minnick has been spraying for the Knot Weed and working with Desiree to replace some of the signs to make them consistent. AL – regarding signage, please let me know what is going on as they move forward. We have been scaling down due to the pandemic and I know we are restricting some activities, but as far as I am concerned, we should not install any of the Matthies grant signage, as it may attract too many visitors. I sent out a memo for picture requests and we have been getting a lot for the parks and we can put them up with the message centers once the pandemic passes. BE – I think that is fine. I appreciate your help, AL.

5. New Business

a. Park Rules for Pond's, River & Trails (Park Ranger)

AL - regarding social distancing/trails etiquette, we have posted signs in the parks as reminders. BE - does not look like there is anything new, we are just going to make more people aware of the rules. AL – I patrol twice a week and we do not have any specific rules for water activities, and therefore I assembled this here. I will post this to the town's website, with Kerry's assistance.

6. Correspondence

none

7. Applications

BE - Received a few applications but not the volume we normally get due to COVID-19. I have sent applicants back their checks and cancelled the applications that we did receive.

8. Grant Information

BE – Matthies work is done, just not installed. Confirmation from Natasha that final work was submitted to the grant.

9. Review and Payment of Bills

BE - There was one invoice from the Commission's clerk received for February's meeting and I approved it, rather than making her wait. There were no other invoices received for tonight's meeting.

10. Budget

BE – we did get approval for a part time Director position for about \$26,000/year. We do not yet have the hiring authority, but when we do, we will need a description and will interview. BE - Regarding capital projects, I put in several for Matthies and a new swing set at Pent Road, as did Public Works.

11. Executive Session (if needed)

none

12. Adjournment

BE - asked the Members if there were any other discussions for tonight's meeting.

MF – I would just like us to recognize Marla (former Clerk) for her duties to the board.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. **MF/DF; no discussion;** all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission