

Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
December 14, 2020
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

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

Selectman Gerard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Board of Selectmen took a moment of silence in honor of Board of Finance member Larry Hutvagner who recently passed away.

Members Present: Gerard Smith (GS), Mike Krenesky (MK), Chris Bielik (CB)

Others Present: 1 member of the public

2. **Read & Approval Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Motion made to approve Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 11.9.2020, CB/MK, all ayes

Motion made to approve the minutes from BOS Special Meeting held on 11.16.2020
MK/GS, CB Abstained, all ayes.

3. **Comments from the Public**

None

4. **Resident Trooper/Police Report**

Motion to approve Resident Trooper Report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**

Motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Plant report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

6. **Report of Public Works**

Motion to approve Public Works report as presented – CB/MK, all ayes

7. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Motion to approve the report for the Fire Marshal as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

GS – they are doing more annual inspections.

8. **Report of the Finance Manager**

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – CB/MK, all ayes

9. **Report of the Tax Collector**

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes

10. **Report of the Town Treasurer**

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – CB/MK, all ayes

11. **Report of the Town Clerk**

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes

12. **Report from Economic Development** - No report provided.

13. **Report of the Library**

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes.

14. Report of the Fire Department

Motion to approve the report as presented, CB/MK – for discussion, all ayes.

MK – Administrative Assistant noted that EMS is doing many mutual aid calls to Naugatuck and Seymour and they are primarily COVID calls. She wanted us to be aware that they are putting themselves in much more risk by going out of town. GS – I had addressed this with the Chief because this has been going on for some time. They go more to Naugatuck than Seymour. We have been picking up the slack for Naugatuck and I have voiced my concern about that. I addressed my concerns with the Chief, and he ensured that it is not taxing us, and we are not jeopardizing anyone. The benefits of what we get is the paramedic when needed because it is mutual aid, and they all take proper precautions. I am glad this concern came to you from the Fire Department/EMS personnel directly. CB – obviously, we see the text message calls come in and it is way often. My concern is for the safety of our personnel and I am glad to get the assurance from the Chief that we are not shortchanging residents of Beacon Falls. MK – I meant to ask what effect it is having on our supplies of PPE etc. but I was assured it was covered and the mutual aid towns do backfill supplies. GS – from what I am told, we are getting items from the State and they are taking proper protocols. I do want to be able to assist the surrounding towns, but we need to not jeopardize our house. CB – so long as we are maintaining a balance, then its ok.

15. Any other reports

- a. **Report of the Custodian** – GS – I see on the report that the flat roof at Town Hall is leaking, and the dropped ceiling collapsed. I must meet with him to get someone on the roof and look at the condition. MK – after the storm this week, we may not be able to look at it for a while. I just hope we do not have pooling of water/ice etc. GS – this is one of those storms where prediction of snow totals could be high, and we would probably have to remove the snow from the roof anyways. CB - Pete has done that in the past.

Motion to approve the report as presented – CB/MK, all ayes

- b. **Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly)**
c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer - Motion to NOT approve the report until further clarification is provided – MK/CB, all ayes**

GS – this is confusing. We have two reports for the same month, two different totals and no detail. CB – they are both dated November and dated 1 of 1.

- d. **Park Trails Report**

Motion to approve both reports as presented – CB/MK, all ayes

GS – we did talk about the stickers and we should have a special meeting to address this. We need to decide if we go to an annual sticker etc. The resident sticker is a big challenge. Al has been very busy, and we are working on new locks for the park entrances. We met with CIRMA regarding inflatables, waterways liability. CIRMA met with Steve and Al and they went through both Toby's and Matthies. We received nothing but kudos. I would like to commend Al and Steve for all that they do regarding patrolling and signage. CIRMA requested our templates from Al regarding signage because it was that good. CB – kudos to CIRMA as well. GS – I would like to set up a special meeting for after the new year to discuss the stickers.

- e. **BOE Report** – No report provided. Usually sent as a link but BOS members did not receive it.

GS – motion made to add New Business item 18c. Budget Workshops, CB/MK, all ayes

16. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

- a. **Bike night flyer for 2021 dates.** GS – I think considering COVID and where things are, I have no problem approving this so long as they are safe and follow protocols. CB – I agree and if things change down the road, we can adjust accordingly. **Motion made to have the bike nights for dates reflected on the 2021 flyer - MK/CB, all ayes**

- b. Resignation letter of Pat Hinman of Planning & Zoning – **Motion made to accept resignation with regret – CB/MK, all ayes** CB – just to add that Pat has given about 20 years of service and we appreciate her.
- c. Resignation letter of Bill Giglio of Planning & Zoning – **Motion made to accept resignation with regret – CB/MK, all ayes**
- d. GS read letter from Marc Bronn requesting to be on Planning & Zoning Commission.
- e. GS read letter from Cody Brennan requesting to be on Planning & Zoning Commission.
- f. MK – we know Jeremy did an audit of the materials from the EMD closet. Did we get a report of his findings? GS – I do not believe he is done. I will follow up with him.

17. Old Business

- a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update** MK – as noted in the November minutes, we did have a brief meeting to discuss programs and the fireworks on family day. The other conversation was how to get attention to other events/items we have going on. Lisa brought up the purchase of lawn signs like the believe signs the FD just sold. I was talking to Gretchen Carlson and she noted that once the holiday season is over, what are we going to do to keep the town going with positivity come January etc. The lawn signs may be a good idea. We also discussed a trifold brochure for local businesses asking for donations to fund whatever we do. That is the extend of what we have done. I think there is \$2,000 in the town budget for this and my assumption would be that we would put more in for the new fiscal year. GS – what is the date. MK – the official date of the anniversary is June 30th. My thought process is that we tie the event into Family Day. GS – and all of this is COVID pending. MK – yes, my thought was to reach out to O&G and see if we cannot move the fireworks to the fuel cell site and closer to Main Street. That would be more of a central location for people to see fireworks from their homes. Further discussion with Park & Rec and the fireworks company must be had. There are a lot of things up in the air. CB – another consideration, would be to reach out to Metro North or the State. In the past, that has been difficult. Depending where on O&G property we hold them, could have challenges with Metro North. MK – I am open to other suggestions. GS – I think O&G location is a good place. They are good partners in the town, and I am sure they would assist. I think we have a lot of options and this is more movement we have seen in a while. MK – I still think it will be a smaller event compared to events in the past.
- b. **Ordinance Committee** – GS – cancelled their meeting this month but are still moving forward. The members worked with General Code and have had PDFs converted to word. This is allowing editing of documents. MK – I found a misspelling in the Snow Ordinance we put out today, so I am happy they are working on these. GS – yes, there are may like that.
- c. **COVID-19** – GS – last month we closed to the public. Staff is rotating and working remote when possible.
- d. **Land Purchase Request – Pent Road.** – GS – the applicant is speaking with Engineers and Surveyors and in the process of gathering information for us.

18. New Business

- a. **Appointments & Reappointments**
 - **Ethics Committee – Motion made to extend terms of Ethics Committee members Pete Christensen and Ed Grace through the end of January. CB/MK, all ayes.** CB – speaking of Pete, is he doing ok health wise? GS – I heard he has some challenges, and his family is working with him. MK – his family put a request on social media to send him some holiday greetings as he is in a facility in Plainville. I made him a member of the Brothers of the Brush for 2021. GS – we will keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

- **Planning & Zoning –Motion to appoint Marc Bronn to the Planning & Zoning Commission filling the vacancy of Pat Hinman, MK/CB, all ayes. Motion to appoint Cody Brennan to the Planning & Zoning Commission filling the vacancy of Bill Giglio, MK/CB – for discussion, are we maintain the affiliation balance on the Board? GS – yes, we cannot have any more “R’s” and Cody comes on as a “U” all ayes.**
 - **Brownfields Commission – Still vacant. CB – the Commissioner coordinates with the COG on training sessions and meetings. We would need someone who has a flexible schedule. We should speak with someone from the COG to determine what the requisites are.**
- b. **Tax Refunds – GS – entertain a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$1,859.09 CB/MK, all ayes.**
 - c. **2021 Budget Workshop Dates – GS – we would like to do these with the BOF. Instead of having them on another night, I think we should have them immediately following the Regularly scheduled BOF monthly meeting. Motion made to hold Budget Workshops on the evening of the Regular Monthly Board of Finance Meetings immediately following the close of the Board of Finance meeting and additional meeting dates will be discussed at BOF meeting on 12.15.2020 MK/CB, all ayes.**
19. **Budget Transfer Requests – GS –Motion made to approve budget transfers and forward them to the BOF for discussion/approval at their meeting tomorrow. CB/MK, all ayes**
20. **Executive Session – none**
21. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. CB/MK, all ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
 First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk