

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
Monthly Meeting  
January 19, 2021  
MINUTES  
(Subject to Revision)

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

Chairman Bob Egan called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

**Present:** Bob Egan (BE), Jake Fernandes (JF), Desiree Brooks (DB), Mary Ellen Fernandes (MF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Don Ferretti (DF), Steve Moffat (SM)

**Others Present:** Allan Banyacky, Park Ranger (AB)

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on December 21, 2020 as submitted: **DF/LD**, all ayes.

3. **Comments from the Public**

LD – someone reached out to me via Facebook regarding letter boxing. There is no information on the DEEP website except from 2017. LD – I am newer to this board, so I do not know if we do it. DB – I have done it for a long time, it is different from Geo Cashing and letter boxing can be anywhere deemed public. DF – we had letter boxing at Matthies but the boxes were removed after the tornado. LD – she wanted to know if we could restart this. DB – there is a letter box over on the other side of the falls where the mount is talking about the park.

4. **New Business**

DB – I had submitted a post on Facebook about possibly having Park & Rec become part of the Pathway to Pollinators. It is a group of different towns on the list, the closest are Bethany and Shelton. What it is about is promoting the habitat for good florals for bees and butterflies. So far, we have about 8-9 people interested, and I thought maybe this Commission could sponsor it. I am going to be hosting a zoom meeting. BE – keep us informed and let us know what we can help with. LD – I can put it on our Facebook.

5. **Old Business**

a. **Matthies Park** – SM – Al and I are working on a lock system and that is still under review.

b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex** – SM – just doing some tree clean up. A tree fell across the stairs near the upper pavilion. I recommend we should permanently close those stairs. Other than that, just typical winter maintenance. BE – I reached out to Natasha on the playscape and waiting to hear back. BE – SM found a playscape that fits our footprint, and it is on the State contract listing, so we may not have to go out to bid.

c. **Riverbend Park** – SM – nothing new. Just routine maintenance.

d. **Toby's Pond** – SM – cut the birch tree that Desiree recommended. DB – we are still waiting on the dog waste receptacles. SM – I looked at them thru Berco and they are about \$200. DB – can't we do the same thing we do at Pent Road? SM – They use a garbage can. DB – can we provide that then, because people are leaving them on the rocks. We have money in Toby's fund to do things and since COVID

more people go to the park. SM – ok, we can put a receptacle near the pavilion area. We have done that before, but it was stolen, so we will secure it down. DB – can we tie one near the launch and then another one by the gate? SM – we can look at that option. We must be able to easily get to them and empty them.

- e. **Sports League Reports** – JF – we are starting back up inside the schools. Our numbers prior to the shut down were very low. We are changing how we do things this year. We will be doing open gyms and clinics weekly versus and organized league. That may change over the next week or so, but it has not changed much since they shut us down. BE – I heard from the new president of Robert A. Cole and they submitted their application, I have not received it yet. They are complying with NVHD regarding operating baseball leagues. They want to open the sugar shack this year and they are working closely with NVHD on that. The girls' softball is looking to start up again and I am waiting to hear from the new president.
  - f. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous** – BE – I have had some calls from bands and all dates are tentative. We are going to plan on having them. SM – regarding Matthies, I just want to make a comment – Bernie Molleur donated some pictures of the park from 1940 and I turned those over to Selectman Krenesky and they will be displayed at Town Hall. DB – the anniversary, was there something specific this commission was going to do? That is why I had the tree cut. We could make ornaments with our Park & Rec seal and sell them. BE – we had a zoom call a couple of weeks ago and it is still in the air due to COVID. DB – I saw the wooden nickels that was made prior. BE – I think that was the 100<sup>th</sup>. MF - it was in 1971.
  - g. **Community Garden** – BE – still waiting to hear from Selectman Krenesky. DB – is he the one running it? BE – no he used to. DB – I can call him and get the list from him because I would like to invite them to the Path to Pollinators.
6. **Correspondence**  
Email to the Commission from A. Keane (attached).
7. **Budget**  
BE – I submitted our budget requests last week. I put in a capital project for the study at Matthies Park. The study on file now is from 2009. I also put in a request for cameras in the park. I want to thank Don and Al for putting together the pricing on that. For the operating budget I kept in the Part Time Activities coordinator. I increased the amount of park activities to \$3,500 and Al requested reimbursement for mileage, so I added a line item for that. All other amounts remained the same. There is a meeting next Tuesday via Zoom as an overview and more in-depth meetings in February. MF – what is our overall budget that we are requesting. BE – I am not sure because we also include the clay for the fields and that amount has not been provided yet. BE – briefly gave line item estimates to Board.
8. **Applications**  
BE – Robert A. Cole application is pending but not received yet.
9. **Grant Information**  
BE – looking at grants for the playscape.
10. **Executive Session (if needed)**  
none
11. **Adjournment**  
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34P.M. **MF/DF**; *no discussion*; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew  
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission