

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



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
February 8, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

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

Selectman Gerard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

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

Others Present: Animal Control Officer, Pat Dionne (ACO) and 3 members of the public

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

Motion made to approve Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 01.11.2021 & the BOS/BOF Joint Budget Workshop held on 1.26.2021, CB/GS, 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**

No report provided.

7. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

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

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.

GS – we have collected 97% of taxes, which is great. Only 3 people took advantage of the COVID deferment. CB – when you get to the end of the report and can see the side-to-side year end comparison, the YTD has very little difference which is great.

10. **Report of the Town Treasurer**

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

11. **Report of the Town Clerk**

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

No report provided.

15. Any other reports

- a. **Report of the Custodian – No report provided.**
- b. **Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly)**
- c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer – GS** – I did ask Patrick to join the meeting tonight. We had numerous questions on the previous reports. There are a lot more details in addition to the State Reporting Forms, which is what we were looking for. There have been issues with dogs on Munson Road and Lasky Road. I have been getting complaints about the dogs on Lasky Road being left in the cold and barking all hours of the night, which is being heard on Dolly Drive. ACO – the dogs on Munson Road were reviewed by the State Animal Control office and everything was deemed as standard. Regarding the Lasky Road dogs, I informed residents that they need to fill out a 14-day barking log and sworn statement. The dogs on Lasky Road do have a shelter they go into. GS – on the State Form, we do not get a lot of details. ACO – that State form is only for dogs that we pick up. GS – ok, so we will be getting a more detailed report by you each month in addition to the State report? ACO – right. GS – what happened with the dog fight? ACO – the wife called me and told me about the incident, but she was not sure where the dog came from. Then the husband called me to inform me of when the dog is typically walked. Once I determined the owner of the dog, I left tags on their door to call me. GS – we have a leash law, and the dog was roaming. What are we doing? ACO – if both animals are up to date, they get quarantined on property. They were out of that period before I could determine the owner. The dog was not roaming, he was just off leash. The State statute says you must have control over your dog. I urged the owner to walk his dog on a leash. Does this become a civil matter? ACO – it becomes a civil matter if there are any vet bills. I did not witness the dog off the leash. ACO – just another note, Hemlock Kennels are out of business and I am in the process of working a mutual agreement with Watertown. Once I have that agreement, I will bring it to you to sign. GS – there is no one closer? ACO – Naugatuck has banned other towns and Oxford is part time. GS – should I make a call to Mayor Hess to see if Naugatuck would allow us to use their kennel? ACO – sure. They have banned surrounding towns from Naugatuck about 8 years ago or so. GS – ok, I will reach out to Mayor Hess.

Motion to approve the reports for October, November, December, and January as presented – CB/MK, all ayes.

- d. **Park Trails Report** – No report provided.
- e. **BOE Report** – No report provided.

16. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

- a. Letter received from Beacon Falls Lions requesting permission to hold outdoor Easter Flower sale. **GS – motion to add the Easter Flower sale under New Business as item 18e MK/CB, all ayes.**
- b. Letter of interest in serving on the Beacon Falls Ethics Committee received from Chris Kopjanski.
- c. Letter of interest in serving on the Beacon Falls Ethics Committee received from Donato Rubino, Jr.
- d. Letter of interest in serving on the Connecticut Water Authority received from Xenia Falkenham.
- e. Letter of interest in serving on the Connecticut Water Authority received from Maria Loughlin.
- f. Correspondence from the EDC Chair regarding the MOU with NEDC

17. Old Business

- a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update** MK – We met last week and again still trying to get ourselves organized. We had about 4 new people who are interested

in joining the committee. We are still researching some fundraising events. We have a reoccurring meeting set up for every Wednesday from 6:30PM -9:00PM. We did discuss some of the activities. We do not know how COVID will affect the celebration and we are exploring partnering with other town activities such as family day or the fire department parade, etc. Fundraising is the key. Kudos to Lisa Daigle who has been creating some of our documentation and brochures. There is a line item in our budget for the 150th so any printing we may need to do for the brochures should be expended out of that account. Effective today, we are looking to put together a 150th logo poster like the Believe lawn signs. We sent a contest type letter to Region 16, so any school age resident can create a logo. CB – as of right now the Region has not sent that information out. MK – the deadline is the middle of March. **GS – motion made to accept the report as presented CB/GS, all ayes.**

- b. **Ordinance Committee** – GS – diligently codifying. They have not yet formally updated any ordinances. We cannot change fees without changing ordinances and they are working to clean up the language. Tom Pratt has taken over the chair of that committee.
- c. **COVID-19** – GS – since the last meeting there has not been much to update. The money we received from the grant allowed us to do the shelter on the side of the building. It is a challenge that we get a call everyday from upset residents who want to enter the building. All our professionals and our HR are even telling us, we are safer and should remain closed. It is a closer space. The Town is conducting the vaccine clinic with Griffin Hospital on Thursday. I was made aware of this program by my mother in-law's church. Griffin saw a need and stepped up. We will be vaccinating 30 residents 75 and older.
- d. **Burton Road Update** – GS – we did not get anywhere with the Legislature. We were directed back to local government. I engaged SLR (Milone & MacBroom), who is preparing a task order and we are making application for the LOTCIP funds. Weather is now a problem because the road is covered in snow, but the project is well underway to get the funding to fix the road. CB – and this is through the COG? GS – yes, the engineers will take it from design and through the process.

18. New Business

a. **Appointments & Reappointments**

- **Ethics Committee** – GS – motion made to appoint Chris Kopjanski to fill Ed Grace expired term, MK/CB, all ayes. GS – motion made to appoint Donato Rubino, Jr. to Pete Christensen's expired term, CB/MK, all ayes.
- **Brownfields Commission** – Still vacant.
- **CT Water Customer Advisory Council** – motion made to appoint Xenia Falkenham, MK/CB, all ayes.

- b. **Construction Phase of LoCIP Project #006-19-010 - Rebuild Basketball Court in Town Park** – GS – we had discussed a couple of different options. After talking to SLR and Park & Rec, we are going to redo all three courts with asphalt the way they are, and we just need to apply for more LoCIP funds. Motion made to move forward with the LoCIP project as stated on the agenda and request additional funds to rebuild basketball courts at Pent Road. CB – this project will be funded under LoCIP which is different from LOTCIP.

- c. **NEDC/Beacon Falls MOU** – GS – this is like the package that we had with CERC. The COG has formed something called the NERDC which is a regional economic development group which was established on Friday. I did not want to get into a long-term agreement with Naugatuck as this is new and then the COG group was formed. The COG group will not be up and running for another 3 months. The agreement with NEDC would run through the end of this fiscal year and then provide options to renew if we wanted to. I think this is in our best interest. GS –

motion made to approve the NEDC MOU that would run from March 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 and the annual cost of \$11,666.68 which we have fully funded in the EDC account. MK/CB, all ayes. CB – Ron is well known and respected in this region and I have no reservations about testing the waters over the next four months with the NEDC. I expect good things.

d. Tax Refunds – GS – entertain a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$3,901.76 MK/CB, all ayes.

e. Beacon Falls Lions Club Easter Flower Sale – GS – the Lion's reached out and are concerned because of COVID. I would encourage them to hold the event outside so long as they provide safety measures and feel comfortable doing so. CB – this is an annual tradition. So long as preventative measures and social distancing is followed, I have no objections. Motion made to approve the Lion's Easter Flower Sale on April 2 & 3, CB/MK, all ayes. MK – I am a former Lion, and this is an annual event that many look forward too.

GS – motion made to add snow removal from sidewalks under New Business as item 18f, CB/MK, all ayes.

f. Snow Removal from Sidewalks – MK – I was approached by two residents in the hill area. We have several spots where homeowners are not fulfilling the duty of cleaning the sidewalks. There is a responsibility to clear sidewalks. With Burton Road closed, we have more traffic in the area, and it is critical that residents are clearing sidewalks for pedestrian traffic. GS – run the snow ordinance in the paper and continued sharing online and the Town website.

19. Budget Transfer Requests – None

20. Executive Session – None

21. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:53 P.M. CB/MK, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk