

December 14, 2020

Fm: Park Ranger

To: Board of Selectman

Cc: Parks & Rec. Commission, Public Works, Finance, Resident Trooper

Re: Parks/Trails Report

Patrolling of Parks & Checking for Compliance

Seven patrols were conducted at the following parks: Matthies Park, Riverbend, Toby's Pond and Pent Road, totaling eighty-three miles.

Matthies Park

As requested by our First Selectman; Steve Moffat and I met with Mr. Stephan Pendl from CIRMA on November 19, 2020 to review any potential liability issues relating to water activities at Matthies Park and Toby's Pond. Mr. Pendl was more than pleased with our signage at Matthies Park and with the new message center recently installed at Toby's Pond. Mr. Pendl requested copies of our park signage that he will use as examples for other parks to use as a guideline. That's certainly a feather in our cap! We received Mr. Pendl's report on 12/04/20 and are pleased to announce that we received NO citing's or even an observation noted in his report. I'm quoting from the report as follows: "As with many public open space areas, you can never eliminate liability wholly and there are **always recommendations that can be made to help reduce the potential.** It should be noted that during the visitation **I found NO additional recommendations**". "Allan and Steve have done a tremendous job in insuring that the parkgoers are aware of the rules and regulations that are currently in place".

We need to create a documented procedure which describes proof of residency sticker/permit; a process which includes the purchase price, enforcement and other controls to assure compliance with the existing posted park rules and then put it into an ordinance.

No compliance issues with fisherman possessing a current fishing license.

Toby's Pond

The new Message Center next to the pavilion was installed and populated with the park rules, trail information, etc. on November 15, 2020. The project was completed just prior to the CIRMA visit which precluded us from receiving any citing's.

Decision to be made regarding making Toby's Pond residents only.

No compliance issues with fisherman possessing a current fishing license.

Riverbend Park

The revised Park Rules/Water Activities sign was recently installed; changing the verbiage regarding town authority to the shoreline only. DEEP was notified of our corrective action to the non-conformances that were brought to our attention. No compliance issues with fisherman possessing a current fishing license and required Trout/Salmon stamps.



Playground Checklist/Procedure

A formal procedure/checklist was written and issued to PW's in November. This document meets the compliance requirements based on the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) handbook and now places us in a position where we are now proactive vs. reactive with regards to future CIRMA compliance inspections.

Lock Change at All Town Parks

Matthies Park, Toby's Pond and Pent Road each have two locked gates, but only one gate at Matthies and one gate at Toby's Pond have a key lock; the remaining locks are combination locks. My recommendation is to order six high security key locks with tumbler replacement capabilities, metal stamp the keys for key control, create a key log and issue the keys to all involved. A key control log was established for the message centers for Matthies Park and approved by the P&R Commissioner (Bob Egan). I sent out an email to BFPD, BHFD, Public Works and the P&R Commissioner to get their opinion regarding the lock proposal. BFPD welcomed the change because the Officers are having difficulties in opening/closing the locks, due to a variety of weather/mechanical conditions; BHFD had no issues with it. In fact, BHFD will be adding their own unique key lock to all six gates. The two vendors, Oakridge Waste and Maslar's Potty Rentals are in favor of the lock change and would be coordinated by Steve Moffat. The discussion I had with our Fire Chief (Brian DeGeorge) is that a multiganged hasp will be installed by BHFD to allow several locks to be attached simultaneously with no interference from any locks attached. Steve Moffat (Public Works), had requested and received a quote for the park locks from Calvert Safe & Lock. Bob Egan has approved the purchase and issued an email to all hands that the purchase will take place by 12/15/20, if no issues are brought forward.



Submitted by:

Allan A. Banyacsky

Park Ranger, Town of Beacon Falls