

Beacon Falls Conservation Commission
10 Maple Ave.
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Special Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2016
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)

Note: Due to inclement weather, the regular monthly Conservation Commission meeting scheduled for April 4, 2016 was rescheduled to April 7, 2016.

1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Bonnie Chevarella called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Commissioners present: Vice Chair Bonnie Chevarella, Tanya Gutierrez, Ashleigh Doherty, Ruth Burritt (arrived at 6:48)

Commissioners absent: Mike Opuszynski, Dave Farley

Others present: Charlie Don Ferretti, Park & Rec; Dave Bodnar, Keith Bodnar, Mark Crowley Sr., Mark Crowley, Jr., Charlie Ciarcia from Boy Scout Troop 138

2. Announcements - none

3. Eagle Scout Project Proposals – Discussion and possible action

Charlie Ciarcia from Boy Scout Troop 138 presented his Eagle Scout project proposal to build a kiosk on Toby's Landing next to the pavilion at an approved location.

The kiosk would be double sided, facing the road and pavilion.

Due to the rocky soil, he requested Public Works dig the 2 holes for 6x6 posts that will be concreted in sonotubes.

The kiosk will have a roof over the sign large enough to stand under and a door covered with plastic sheeting to be raised by a pulley to access the lockable sign board.

The overall size is 10' high and approximately 5' wide and 5' high.

Information posted may include, but not limited to, a list of fish stocked the pond, trails and wildlife on the property.

Rules of catch and release and carry in, carry out will apply.

The kiosk will also have a bird house-like box on the side to hold informational brochures about its trails as well as a cork board to post information.

Charlie Ciarcia requested the Conservation Commission provide approximately \$650-700 to fund his Eagle Scout project.

Motion to approve Charlie Ciarcia's Eagle Scout project to build a kiosk as noted above at

Toby's Landing and fund the amount of \$700 from the Conservation Commission approved FY 2015-16 budget expenses line item: **Gutierro/Burritt**; all aye.

Keith Bodnar from Boy Scout Troop 138 presented changes to his original Eagle Scout project proposal. He would not be cutting a new trail on Lantern Ridge but rather focus on working on the lead in trail by the parking lot. His goals include cutting back small, low lying trees to fix the width and height of the trail and widen it. He will pull up and remove some of the rocks in the rocky areas to smooth the trail and try to solve the problem of a waterlogged trail. He will reroute the trail through a more passable area for about a 100 foot stretch and build a small (10-12 feet) bridge. He expects to use some of the fallen trees and branches to assist the runoff of the eroded areas to save soil as he noted some spots towards the end of the lead in trail are eroded.

K. Bodnar requested one of the Conservation commissioners walk the trail with him and approve the spots he would like to work on. R. Burritt volunteered to walk the trail with K. Bodnar on either April 16 or 17 if M. Opuszynski was not available.

Motion to approve Keith Bodnar's Eagle Scout project to improve the existing lead in trail at Lantern Ridge as presented and fund \$50 from the Conservation Commission approved FY 2015-16 budget expenses line item: **Doherty/Gutierro**; all aye.

Mark Crowley, Jr. from Boy Scout Troop 138 presented a revised Eagle Scout project proposal to build a kiosk as well as clearing a half mile of trail at Lantern Ridge. This kiosk will be nearly identical to the one at Matthies Park. It will use pulleys to open the sign cover. He requested approval for the location of the kiosk.

Motion to approval Mark Crowley's Eagle Scout project for a kiosk at Lantern Ridge as presented and fund \$300 from cc budget: **Doherty/Gutierro**; all aye.

ACTION: R. Burritt will email M. Opuszynski about his availability to do a walk through on April 16 or 17 with Boy Scouts Keith Bodnar and Mark Crowley at Lantern Ridge.

4. Comments from the Public - none

5. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2016

The March 7, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed. A quorum was not present to approve the March 7, 2016 minutes. Vice Chair Bonnie Chevarella asked if there were any corrections, with no changes noted she deemed them accurate.

6. Correspondence -

- Appointment letter for David Farley to the Conservation Commission, replacing Sophie Zyla
- Appointment letter for Walter Opuszynski to the Land Use and Open Space Committee
- Naugatuck Valley Audubon newsletter

- Public Notice packet from US Army Corps of Engineers: Proposed replacement and revision of the Dept of the Army CT General Permit (which expires on July 15, 2016) (propose to reissue for 5 years)

7. **Membership and Officers** – Chair, Secretary positions vacant - tabled until July

Vice Chair Bonnie Chevarella suggested having elections in September once there is a full board. Currently there is a vacancy with the resignation of Lori Paradis Brant.

Motion for Vice Chair Bonnie Chevarella to act as Chair pro tem: Gutierro/Burritt; all aye.

Motion for Ashleigh Doherty to act as Secretary pro tem: Burritt/Chevarella; all aye.

8. **Task List**

A. 2016 Goals

Chair pro tem B. Chevarella suggested removing the Task List from the agenda.

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Land Use (Ruth Burritt) - met March 23
- B. Recognition and Grants (Ruth Burritt)
- C. Open Space Inventory (Mike Opuszynski)
- D. Natural Resource Inventory (Need Lead)
- E. Website/Facebook (Ruth Burritt & Ashleigh Doherty)

R. Burritt noted that she received a bill from godaddy.com for the beaconfallsconservationcommission.com domain name.

Discussion ensued about the website and whether to keep the beaconfallsconservationcommission.com separate domain name or to just use the town website. It was decided to not renew the domain name and use the town website for the Conservation Commission until there was a web plan.

Motion not renew the beaconfallsconservationcommission.com domain name from godaddy.com: Burritt/Gutierro; all aye.

ACTION: R. Burritt will email M. Melville the Conservation Commission member bios she has to be linked to their name on the Conservation Commission web page on the town's website.

F. Outreach Activities (Need Lead)

- 1) Earth Day/Arbor Day clean up: M. Opuszynski
- 2) Beacon Falls RiverFest/Duck Race Lead: T. Gutierro: Sat. May 14
Application: Chair pro tem B. Chevarella completed the Lioness Club booth application for the May 14 RiverFest/Duck Race.

ACTION: T. Gutierro will get the backpacks, magnets and brochures from Diane Betkoski for giveaways at the RiverFest/Duck Race.

Discussion on having a recycle race again.

ACTION: T. Gutierro will set up and bring a tent, table and chair.

Discussion about giving away stickers for recycle bins.

ACTION: R. Burrirt will contact Winter Brothers about getting decals for recycle bins with recycling information

B. Chevarella and R. Burrirt will help out the day of the RiverFest/Duck Race.

- 3) CT Trails Weekend: June 4 & 5
- 4) June: Great American Backyard Campout
- 5) July 9: Cardboard Boat Regatta
- 6) America Recycles Day on November 15
- 7) February 14, 2017 Beacon Falls loves our trails

10. Payment of Invoices -

Clerical invoice –

Motion to accept Clerk Martha Melville’s invoice requesting payment of \$76.25 for the April 4, 2016 meeting and associated administrative work and pay the bill as submitted: Burrirt/Gutierro; all aye.

Discussion ensued about making a donation to the Beacon Falls Public Library as in years past. It was decided that rather than for print or e-materials, a donation towards programming was preferred.

Motion to donate \$300 from the approved FY 2015-16 Conservation Commission operating expenses budget line to the Library Board of Trustees to be earmarked for conservation or nature-related programming and/or materials to be used at the discretion of the BFPL Program Librarian: Doherty/Gutierro; all aye.

Tanya Gutierro departed at 7:41.

11. Adjournment

12.

The meeting ended by mutual consensus at 7:50 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Melville, Clerk

CC: Conservation Commission members
Planning & Zoning
Park & Rec Commissions

Board of Selectmen
Inland Wetlands