

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2014**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

S. Ruhl called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. DeGennaro, B. Egan, S. Ruhl, D. Palange, M.E. Fernandes, A. Sirowich (7:06 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: M. Zollo

OTHERS PRESENT: Todd Wrogg, Eric Wrogg, Don and Elaine Ferretti (7:24 PM)

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the June, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tabled until the arrival of Don and Elaine Ferretti.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. Regular maintenance continues at Matthies with some removal of dead trees and the pond water being treated on schedule.
2. The Cub Scouts will be holding a conservation clean-up at the park on Sunday, October 5th from 10:00 AM until noon.
3. M.E. Fernandes asked what happened to the signs which were put up by the new bridges. Those signs were taken down and should be replaced, as they provided useful information about pedestrian traffic.
4. The Haunted Hayride will take place at Matthies on October 25th and 26th and Parks & Rec members can help out the Rotary Club with this event.

B. PENT ROAD

1. S. Ruhl reported that Pent Road is very busy with Flag Football, Jr. Hawks, RACBL, Baseball and Softball Leagues, Prospect Soccer games, and the NACBA.
2. There was some discussion about the NACBA having field space ahead of one of the leagues. S. Ruhl explained that NACBA got their application in early and to get better playing times, leagues should get their applications in earlier.
3. D. Palange noted that the field conditions have been very good. S. Ruhl explained that Fields #3 & #4 will be torn up shortly, which will affect Softball practices.
4. S. Ruhl also noted that Wednesday nights and Friday nights are usually open for practices, if a team is looking for open field time.

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5. D. Palange noted that RACBL had equipment stolen due to vandalism. S. Ruhl responded that a resident will be installing cameras at Pent Road. D. Palange noted that the basketball lights have been turned off earlier in the evening.
6. Regarding batting cages, D. Palange noted the RACBL wants to know when work will be done before they order materials. S. Ruhl explained that once the materials are delivered, we can schedule the work crew for the same day. Work can begin the same day the materials arrive. D. Palange hopes to use a local construction company. RACBL does not want to pay for materials if they will just sit. S. Ruhl assured D. Palange the material will not sit.
7. D. Palange also noted there are lights out on the first base line. The town will be renting a cherry-picker truck for the netting in the spring and will address the lights at that time. It is an expense to rent a cherry-picker, so unless the fire department can provide access to the lights earlier, the work will be done in the spring.
8. S. Ruhl advised A. Sirowich that a missing bag of dodgeballs which belonged to the Summer Recreation Program was returned to Pent Road. Everyone is more aware of the need for securely storing items at the park.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

B. Egan reported that the committee will be meeting on October 8th, as they have not met in several months. The grant funds are still there and some reporting needs to be addressed, so that records are in the correct format for the State.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Flag football will be wrapping up in November, RACBL ends on October 26th or so, and Jr. Hawks also ends in November.
2. Beacon Falls Basketball League is holding sign-ups October 6 – 8 at Laurel Ledge. The league will be faced with space issues dependent on how much space is available at Laurel Ledge cafeteria/gym this season, due to the construction at the school. They will need to apply with Region 16 and use Woodland as much as possible.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. J. DeGennaro is running a Volleyball Camp for 4 Saturdays in October at Woodland. She has had enough responses to run the camp.
2. Zumba for Kids will take place at Laurel Ledge after school on Wednesdays from October 8 – November 12. Tracy Brody will be running this class.
3. Haunted Hayride will take place October 25 & 26 at Matthies Park and commissioners can help out.

NEW BUSINESS

S. Ruhl has some equipment catalogs for A. Sirowich.

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CORRESPONDENCE

- A. S. Ruhl read a letter from the Laurel Ledge PTO thanking Parks & Recreation for their help with the 5th grade Field Day event, which is held at Pent Road, with special thanks for Steven Moffat.
- B. M.E. Fernandes asked if the commission had received a letter from Jake Fernandes about an Adult Basketball League. B. Egan noted that they received an email and insurance/application is needed from the group. However, the Adult Basketball League will also need to apply for space to play through Region 16 and space is limited due to the construction.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

GRANTS

S. Ruhl reported that a swing set has been purchased as a result of the Katharine Matthies grant and they will be installed before the December deadline.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None at this time.

BUDGET

Budget will be addressed in the coming months.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. B. Egan attended a meeting of the Conservation Commission/Land Use Board and he advised them that Parks & Recreation will be redoing Field #3 & #4 and have experienced vandalism at Pent Road.
- B. He noted that Land Use indicated that they would like Parks & Recreation to be involved with Toby's Pond, which is not something this board is in favor of.
- C. S. Ruhl noted that with all the mini-parks in Town like Veterans and Volunteer Park, along with Matthies and Pent, the town crew is stretched thin. A. Sirowich noted the budget would be big concern for maintaining Toby's Pond, along with liability issues there.
- D. S. Ruhl was thinking about asking volunteer groups, like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts to "adopt" a section of the town median to weed and maintain. The town crew would mow the areas, but the Scouts could weed and plant flowers to make them look nicer. Representatives present from Troop 104 are willing to help.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Don and Elaine Ferretti entered the meeting. Elaine Ferretti approached the board to present her Senior Project and Girl Scout Gold Project idea. She would like to do a wooden kiosk map for Matthies Park showing all the important locations in the park. She would use the TPA plan as a guideline and she is willing to leave room on the map for future plans for the park. She provided the board with some photos of how it would potentially look. She could also leave space on the board for notices and posters. S. Ruhl noted that there are features on the TPA map which show what used to be at the park, such as meadows and it would be good to note some of the park's history. **A. Sirowich made a motion to approve Elaine Ferretti's project for a Matthies Park map kiosk. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

ADJOURNMENT

B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission