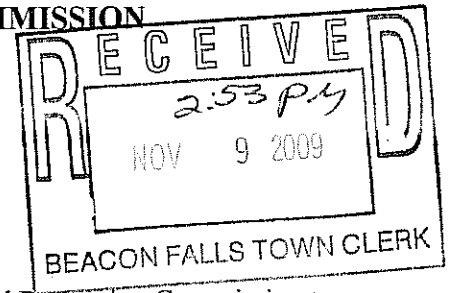


**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2009**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL



CALL TO ORDER

A.Sirowich called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:09 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, R. Kunz, J.Rodorigo, S. Ruhl, A. Sirowich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: S. Osowiecki, L. Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Szturma, David Bodnar, Robert Starkey, Jason Palmieri, Steven Bachleda

MINUTES

B. Egan called for the approval of the September, 2009 regular meeting minutes, as presented. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bob Starkey from the Girls' Softball League presented a wish list to the board for review. He specifically mentioned the door from the Sugar Shak to the back room.

Members of the RACBL Board were present to discuss improvements to Pent Road. They have been seeking bids for pitching cages on the left field line of Field #1 and for fencing for unenclosed pitching mounds on Field #4. They hope to complete this for the spring season. They also extend the fencing by 4 feet for the dugouts for Field #4. S. Ruhl mentioned umpires must be able to see the warm up areas. S. Szturma mentioned enclosing Field #4. The bids and plans will be submitted to Parks & Recreation for review.

J. Rodorigo explained that as he was seeking quotations to raise the backstop on Fields #1 & #2 and extend the netting, he also asked them to quote the fencing for the dugouts on Field #4 and the estimate was \$2,900. J. Rodorigo noted that Field #4 is used for sports other than baseball and therefore, fencing has to be reviewed.

Dave Bodnar and Scott Szturma asked about the possibility of adding a T-ball field to the Pent Road facilities. The RACBL is growing and they are facing concerns about space and scheduling. J. Rodorigo explained the league's best option is to pursue the improvement of fields at Laurel Ledge with Region 16.

Improvements to the backstop on Field #1 & #2 will begin next week with 2-3 poles being raised, which should result in more playable balls and creates a safer area. The cost is almost \$5,000. Shrubs were torn up on Field #3's softball field.

Dave Bodnar asked if there was a program in place to maintain the fields, with an annual cycle and J. Rodorigo referred them to the town's street foreman.

OLD BUSINESS

**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
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A. MATTHIES PARK

1. J. Rodorigo reported that the pond looks good and the water has been tested recently. The algae blooms have died off and the treatment appears successful. This spot treatment is suggested every 2-3 years.
2. For next year's budget, J. Rodorigo hopes to be able to add oxygen diffusers to the pond, which will help to keep vegetation down and improve the health of the fish.
3. The remaining suggestion is to dig out the cat o' nine tails because the area that they cover doubles in size every 12 months and they are blocking the main water flow into the pond.
4. CL&P is currently working at Matthies Park to upgrade the power. The panels are in place and ready to switch over.
5. TPA Group has been contacted and they have begun working on the trails portion of the Matthies Park plan.

B. PENT ROAD

1. The fall ball seasons are wrapping up and fall maintenance is being completed.
2. Flag football has rented the pavilion for Sunday for the year-end picnic.
3. The contractor that completed the basketball and tennis courts will be revisiting their work, after the first frost to see if the courts heave.

C. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Basketball signups took place in early October and they may have another sign up later this month.
2. Sports subsidies were distributed: \$1400 to basketball, \$700 to Jr. Hawks football and \$700 to Prospect Soccer.

D. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. A. Sirowich reported that the following after school classes will begin running in November and December: Drawing class, Lego Fungineering and Atlantic Salmon project.
2. There are 32 people signed up for the Zumba class, which is running for 10 weeks and will most likely continue due to the positive turnout.
3. The Haunted Hayride will that place Saturday, October 24 from 5-9 PM and Sunday, October 25 from 5-8 PM at Matthies Park. There is no rain date for this event and help is needed for set up Friday and clean up. Police, fire and the town bus have been notified.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. There will be a ceremony on October 22 at 2:00 PM for the O&G property which will be named Toby's Landing. The members are invited to attend.
- B. At R. Kunz's request, J. Rodorigo reviewed the parks in town, which are in addition to Matthies and Pent Road:
 - a. Lancaster Park – at the entrance to Lancaster Drive
 - b. Volunteer Park – behind the Senior Center
 - c. Veterans Memorial Park – gazebo on Main Street
 - d. Riverbend Park – which was the Trout Unlimited project, off of Hubbell Ave.
 - e. O&G Park – Toby's Landing which has gated access

There is other open land, which has been donated by contractors, falls under the conservation commission.

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CORRESPONDENCE

A.Sirowich read a letter from the Board of Selectmen which was in response to the Park & Recreation's letter requesting that Matthies Park be made eligible to receive federal and state funds. The Selectmen failed to address the main obstacle for receiving such grant monies, which is that the park must be opened to the public, rather than remain for residents only. Opening the park will require a public hearing and vote, and the selectmen will need to address this further. The commission can not apply for grants until they have confirmation from the town that the park will be opened to the public. The Board must be ready to present their argument on this matter.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

GRANTS

None at this time.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None at this time.

BUDGET

J. Rodorigo reviewed the following budget lines:

- o Family Day, which costs \$8,000-\$9,000, will have its own line item next year.
- o Concerts and other park activities will have a separate line item.
- o The Grounds Maintenance line item, which is \$20,000, is down to between \$8,000-\$9,000.
- o The Settling Pond line item has been spent.
- o The town is working on a supplier agreement to help reduce the CL&P Electricity line item, which is significant.

OTHER BUSINESS

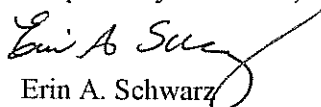
J. Rodorigo circulated the Prospect Parks & Recreation brochure for their Fall/Winter programs and suggested that Beacon Falls create similar document.

Ray Buzgo will also put information on the town website for Parks & Recreation, such as this brochure or the Field Use application. He will also be setting up an email address for Parks & Recreation.

ADJOURNMENT

B.Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. J. Rodorigo seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Park & Recreation Commission

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