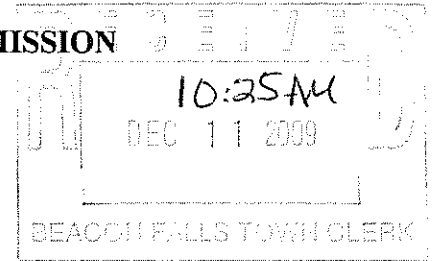


**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 16, 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 7:05 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, R. Kunz, S. Osowiecki, J. Rodorigo, A. Sirowich, L. Swanson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: S. Ruhl

OTHERS PRESENT: Selectman Mike Krenesky

**MINUTES**

**B. Egan called for the approval of the October, 2009 regular meeting minutes, as submitted.**

**J. Rodorigo seconded the motion. All eyes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. J. Rodorigo is compiling list of electrical upgrades needed inside the buildings at Matthies, now that the outside electrical work has been completed.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. The fence work, which was discussed at previous meetings, is complete.
2. Winter clean up has begun. There was a list of recommendations submitted to the town crew and a few items from this list are being worked on.

**C. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. The Basketball League has begun playing and is running well.
2. RACBL submitted a list of 7-8 items for improving Pent Road that they were willing to pay for, and P&R approval is needed for them to move forward. The list includes creating a T-ball field, fenced in areas inside the ball field for pitching warm up, pitching backstop on Field #4, fenced in dugouts on Field #4, etc. RACBL has been getting estimates from fencing companies for much of this work.
3. After reviewing the list, J. Rodorigo suggested that the board review the list for approval, with the condition that work would be done by licensed and insured contractors with specs that would need to be approved by the P&R commission. Work must be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup> when the use of the complex increases. Any further work would then be reviewed after July 1<sup>st</sup>, after the town budget has been established for 2010-2011 and the use of the complex decreases.
4. The board reviewed the RACBL list of improvements to Pent Road. Discussion continued regarding the use of the fields, schedule and time management, changes that would affect the walking path, soccer, football, or other sports, the playground, and other existing elements of

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the complex. More discussion occurred regarding the fenced in pitching areas inside of Field #1 and fencing in Field #4, from the standpoint of maintenance and safety.

5. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to allow the Robert A. Cole Baseball League approval, at their expense, with a licensed, insured contractor, with all plan approval by the Park & Recreation commission, the following 3 items:**
1. **Extension of the fenced in coaching area in Field #1 and Field #4 dugout.**
  2. **Separation chain link fence inside the batting cages**
  3. **Dugouts of appropriate size on Field #4**

**All work is to be completed no later April 1, 2010 and all other site modifications will not be addressed until after July 1, 2010, when the board will review them at that time.**

**B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**D. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. A. Siowich reported that the following after school are running: 2 sections of the Drawing class and Lego Fungineering and Atlantic Salmon project.
2. Zumba class will continue with a 4 week session until Christmas, then start up again in January.
3. Adult Basketball League is continuing and going well.
4. Karate is taking December off and in January will start up with \$40 monthly session, \$30 for the second child. Publicity is needed.
5. The Holiday Lights contest will be underway soon with judging taking place mid-December.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Recently, at a Special Meeting in response to the board's request, the Board of Selectmen discussed the issue of opening Matthies Park to the public, in order to pursue state and federal monies for improvement to the park. The Selectmen responded with a letter suggesting that Parks & Recreation hold a public hearing to address the issue of opening up the park. The Selectmen suggest that the commission come prepared with information to answer questions from Beacon Falls residents. The recommendation is that the meeting; include an information session followed by a town hearing and vote.
- B. R. Kunz asked how the commission plans to disseminate the information to the public. The meeting would need to be posted with 14 days notice, after the new year. Mike Krenesky mentioned that at this hearing he would like to hear the costs involved in maintaining Matthies Park today, and then address the costs proposed by TPA Group, and an overview of the types of monies that are available for the park, if it should open to the public. L. Swanson mentioned that the future plans of the park are not as much an issue as the current costs for maintaining the park.
- C. R. Kunz mentioned that by providing quality facilities, you can generate revenue from out-of-town residents, the park can be self-supporting. J. Rodorigo does not want the park to be developed into commercial operation, even with the TPA Group plan completed in full.
- D. J. Rodorigo mentioned that the commission needs to collect estimates from various contractors for projects needed at the park, such as masonry for the sluiceways. J. Rodorigo will begin collecting those numbers for the December meeting. Mike Krenesky mentioned inquiring with contractors about correct way to fix the problems at Matthies. With grant monies available, the town would be able to afford larger companies that can propose better solutions.
- E. L. Swanson would like to pursue swimming lessons at the Woodland High Pool, hiring someone to do the lessons and obtaining use of the pool.

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- F. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to add to the agenda for December meeting, election of officers for the Parks & Recreation Commission; a Chair and Vice Chair. S. Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- G. S. Osowiecki asked if Toby's Landing falls under Parks & Recreation, and noted the commission was left off of the program at the dedication of the property. Toby's Landing should be added to the agenda and the park is owned by the town. J. Rodorigo mentioned reaching out to the Conservation Commission, the Board of Selectmen, and other boards, to determine what is wanted at this park. Mike Krenesky mentioned that at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting there will be a discussion on the Take Pride in America program, specifically using Toby's Pond.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

See the letter from the Selectmen, noted above.

**APPLICATIONS**

There is an application for Tuesday night, November 24 from the Woodland Touchdown Club, for a Bonfire on the Field #2 infield for a pre-Thanksgiving celebration. J. Rodorigo mentioned that, in the future, this is a Region 16 event, which should take place on their property. The Sugar Shak is closed for the season, and permits and insurance are needed. The Port-O-Lets are no longer available at Pent Road until the spring. Police and fire department must be notified and J. Rodorigo was awaiting a response from the applicant on these issues. **L. Swanson made a motion to approve the bonfire provided the applicant fulfills the requirements of the application and completes a conversation with designated member of the commission. J. Rodorigo seconded the motion. Future bonfires will not be approved, as this is a Region 16 activity. All ayes.**

**GRANTS**

None at this time.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

None at this time.

**BUDGET**

- A. J. Rodorigo would like to call a Special Budget meeting; once the officers are in place, to begin work on the Parks & Recreation budget. The commission should also meet with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen towards the end of January and allow for Matthies Park as a separate line item.
- B. J. Rodorigo would like Family Day to be an individual line item and to change the names of several items. There was also discussion of a seasonal part-time non-unionized employee for Field Maintenance to mow and line baseball fields at Pent Road. We also need to have a conversation with Selectmen on the Activities Director position. In short, the budget needs to be adapted to more clearly reflect where the monies are being spent.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

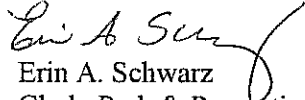
None.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. J. Rodorigo seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,



Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Park & Recreation Commission