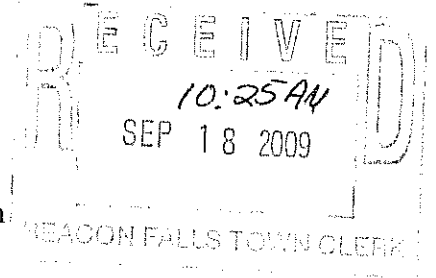


**BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETING MINUTES
ON MATTHIES PARK
SEPTEMBER 2, 2009**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: S. Osowiecki, J.Rodorigo, S. Ruhl, A. Sirowich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: R. Egan, R. Kunz, L. Swanson

J. Rodorigo began the meeting by showing the group the map of Matthies Park, generated by TPA Group with their initial proposal.

J. Rodorigo explained the work being done on the lower settling ponds. S. Ruhl asked about the sluiceways. J. Rodorigo explained the estimates to clean the sluiceways are \$70,000-\$80,000 and the estimates for concrete work and sealing them are \$100,000-\$150,000. Without the sluiceways to catch debris and filter the water, the pond would become a swamp within a short period of time.

Other repairs needed, as J. Rodorigo explained include the boathouse roof, which is \$8,000. Repointing and rebuilding the chimney of the house on the island is another expense. A larger problem is the 3 foot wall which is the base of the island is eroding, as water is penetrating the wall. The repair of this wall is a multi-hundred thousand dollar project.

S. Osowiecki stated that the most important thing in the park is the pond and everyone concurred.

J. Rodorigo stated that with regard to the TPA Group plan; the trails are the first thing to begin. They can be surveyed and marked for approximately \$30,000 and groups such as the scouts and equestrians, can help to cut the trails. Grants are available through the DEP and other sources; not only for trails but for other major repairs needed to the park, but only if the park is open to the public.

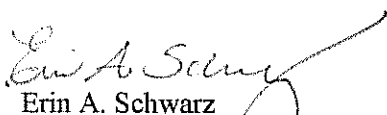
State and federal monies are not available unless the park is open to the public and the town is unequipped to advance these projects without help from grants. J. Rodorigo reminded the group that the annual Grounds Maintenance budget is \$20,000 for all the parks and more than half has been spent for the fiscal year.

The commissioners concurred that Phase 1 of the TPA Group plan would be access to the park and parking and the construction and maintenance of trails around the pond.

The commissioners discussed what would be required in order to open the park to the public, so that grant monies would be available to make the much needed repairs. The commission agreed to discuss this further at the next regular meeting on September 21.

J.Rodorigo mentioned that the Haunted Hayride at Matthies Park will take place on October 24 and October 25 and Park Pals needs help from the commission.

Respectfully submitted,


Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Park & Recreation Commission