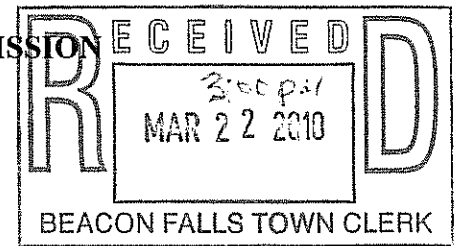


BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2010



SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

L. Swanson called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:10 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, R. Kunz, S. Osowiecki, J. Rodorigo (7:30 PM), S. Ruhl, A. Sirowich, L. Swanson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Selectmen Michael Krenesky (7:20 PM) and Domenic Sorrentino (7:45 PM)

MINUTES

A. Sirowich called for the approval of the February 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. J. Rodorigo met with TPA Group to further plan the trails at the park. TPA has drawn up the latest master plan and they have made up boards which demonstrate the types of signage and materials which could be used to create trails, footbridges, etc. These boards can be displayed to the public.
2. The covered bridge over the brook must be removed from the premises prior to the March 27th Egg Hunt at the park. While replacing the roof on the bridge, it was discovered that the structure of the bridge is unsafe.
3. The next event at Matthies is the Fishing Rodeo, which is scheduled for April 24th.

B. PENT ROAD

1. The fields are being readied for play this spring season and applications are pending.
2. Opening Day for the RACBL is April 17th.
3. The 5th Grade picnic for Beacon Falls and Prospect will be held here one day in June.

C. TOBY'S LANDING

1. This park is not dedicated to Parks & Recreation yet and remains under the Selectmen's charge. Today the park is flooded.
2. R. Kunz inquired about the status of evaluating the waters at Toby's and Matthies Park with regard to the state stocking programs, to see if the water in either location could receive the elevated classification as a trout park. Toby's has been classified as Class A water. The Conservation Commission may have more information on this issue. **R. Kunz made a motion for the Parks & Recreation to inquire on this issue via a letter to the Board of Selectmen. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.**

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D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Sports subsidy checks to RABCL and Girls' Softball Leagues were signed and will go out this week.
2. Basketball League is wrapping up this weekend.
3. Prospect Soccer would like to use fields at Pent Road for practice this spring, if there is any availability. Soccer will be starting up in April.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. A. Sirowich reported that the Drawing class is finishing up and another will begin in April.
2. B. Egan has booked five concerts: Naugatuck Community Band on June 5, Rubber City Blues on June 21, Angelo Ruggiero on June 26, Kerry Boys on July 31 and Red Dirt Road Band on August 14.
3. A. Sirowich reported that the Salmon project continues and will be releasing the fish into the river in late April/early May.
4. Karate classes and adult basketball league are continuing successfully.
5. Zumba classes regularly have 35-40 people participating each week. L. Swanson would like to put together a sign in form for the class. Zumba will also be expanding to two nights a week, Tuesday and Thursdays, shortly. Also, the class would like to continue throughout the summer and they are looking for space available in schools or in town to hold the class this summer.
6. A. Sirowich reported that April 27th at 6:00 PM at Laurel Ledge, Parks & Recreation will team with the library to offer a self defense class for ages 15 and up, taught by a Ridgefield police officer.
7. A. Sirowich is beginning to put together the summer program camps and offerings.
8. The Fishing Rodeo will be April 24th at Matthies Park from 7:00AM – 11:00 AM for children ages 15 and under. No canoes, rafts or kayaks will be allowed during the rodeo for safety purposes. B. Egan will coordinate the stocking of the fish with J. Roderigo. St. Michael's Men's Club provides refreshments and staffs the event.
9. Finally, Parent Leadership Training participant, Lisa Sizer will be putting on a playgroup called "It Takes Two" for children ages 1-4 on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:00 AM beginning the end of April and running until June. Parks & Recreation will be sponsoring her and the class will be in St. Michael's lyceum.
10. The commission hopes to have a calendar of events on the Beacon Falls website.

NEW BUSINESS

See below.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. The commission received a report from Ed Bea on the work done by the town crew in March.
- B. The commission also received several applications for Jr. Counselor positions at the Summer Recreation Camp Program, held at Pent Road.

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APPLICATIONS

- A. J. Rodorigo has a total of 6 applications for use of the Pent Road fields this spring: Girls' Softball, RACBL, Chaos, Valley Fusion, Waterbury Travel League, and Woodland High School. Applications are pending and it is evident that the field usage will be heavy this spring and the schedule will be tight. Field 5 will be used by several teams. A master schedule will be posted and rain dates could cause issues, so cooperation will be needed.
- B. The April Parks & Recreation meeting will be held after opening day of the leagues and the schedules for RACBL and Girls' Softball are still being finalized. J. Rodorigo is working to ensure there is no conflict in scheduling.
- C. Tournament applications must be submitted on separate forms.
- D. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to allow approval of the incoming applications once the schedules are coordinated by allowing J. Rodorigo sign off on the applications. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

GRANTS

- A. The Selectmen present will check to see if the STEAP application completed by A. Sirowich has gone out to the state.
- B. Katherine Matthies Foundation grant is due to be completed by May 1.
- C. J. Rodorigo has the Federal Highway Transportation Grant information for trails at Matthies. The application is lengthy and would be reviewed in October, 2010 for distribution of monies in the spring, 2011. Of course, this application cannot move forward until Matthies Park is open to the public.
- D. J. Rodorigo showed the group the Master Plan improvement made by TPA Group and discussed the cost of surveying the park. The Board of Selectmen has suggested that the commission hold an information public hearing to show the TPA Group plans and discuss the condition and the costs of repairs needed at Matthies Park and discuss opening the park to the public, to allow grant monies to filter into the park. At the information session, the commission would invite comment from the Board of Selectmen and possibly obtain a legal opinion from town counsel regarding the original bequest from Mr. Matthies. TPA Group would be present to answer questions about the plan. This information session would most likely take place after the budget has been approved during the summer or early fall. The commission will be putting together a PowerPoint presentation with visuals, cost figures, budget information, and grant opportunities to persuade the public to vote in favor of opening Matthies Park. The vote will take place at a later date.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A. Bills submitted by Erin Schwarz for clerking duties. **A. Sirowich motioned to pay these bills. . Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- B. TPA Group is owed their second payment of \$3,000, as they have completed the second portion of the plan for the park.

BUDGET

- A. The Selectmen will be holding a budget workshop at 1:00 PM on March 16th followed by a meeting with Parks & Recreation at 2:30 PM.
- B. If cuts are needed, J. Rodorigo has asked the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to allow the Parks & Recreation Commission to suggest budget areas where cuts can take place, rather than cutting out line items, as pending projects may be affected.

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- C. J. Rodorigo recommended that members of the board attend upcoming Board of Finance workshops to discuss the budget.

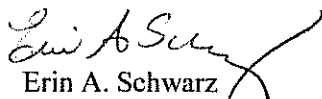
OTHER BUSINESS

- A. A job description for the part-time Activities Director position is needed.
B. Field Maintenance issues at Pent Road should be addressed by the First Selectmen's Office.
C. There have been requests for the following 3 summer programs:
 a. Tennis Lesson/Camp
 b. Summer Basketball League for all ages
 c. Swim Lessons at Woodland
A. Sirowich and L. Swanson are working on these requests.

ADJOURNMENT

B.Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,


Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Park & Recreation Commission

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