

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

J. Rodorigo called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:06 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, S. Osowiecki, J. Rodorigo, A. Sirowich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Enquist, S. Ruhl, L. Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT: RACBL President Scott Szturma (7:10 PM)

MINUTES

A.Sirowich made a motion to approve the December, 2011 minutes as presented. S. Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. J. Rodorigo reported that this is the time of year when the town crew is seeking quotes, for roof and masonry work, to be accomplished at Matthies Park.
2. FuturePast Preservation has completed the Matthies biographies and is in the process of conducting interviews for the Matthies Park historical study. Lucas plans to attend the February meeting to report on his findings. If any of the commissioners know of someone in town who can be interviewed for the historical study, please give the name of that person to J. Rodorigo, so that Lucas can contact them. Several names were discussed.

B. PENT ROAD

Equipment is being maintained and the crew is obtaining quotations for work to be accomplished.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

J. Rodorigo reported that he has followed up with the State of Connecticut and we are still waiting for them to approve budget revisions to the grant, so that the design plans can begin. The requests have been submitted, but have not yet been approved.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. It is time for Baseball and Softball League sign-ups and there will be a 2 week page in Citizen's News for these sign-ups. Applications will go up on the town website.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012**

The Region 16 email system, while it reaches more households, has been less effective for sign-ups, as the online flyers are easier for parents to overlook and participation is down.

2. RACBL President Scott Szturma entered the meeting to discuss several items. Baseball will be submitting 3 Facilities Applications this spring: one for RACBL Recreation, one for Travel, and one for the CT Owls travel team. Recreation receives priority and non-Beacon Falls sponsored travel teams will be subject to fees set out in the 2012 Facilities Application.
3. The requests for improvements to Pent Road from RACBL and the Softball League have been discussed with the town crew and will be discussed by the commission. Requests will go to the new Director of Public Works, who will put the items on the schedule to be completed. If the RACBL is funding an improvement with approval of Parks & Recreation, they can proceed by getting quotations and moving forward with the project from there.
4. S. Szturma has received a quotation for new nets for the batting cages which totaled \$2,500-\$2,600, including installation by Orange Fence. There was some wind damage to the poles of the batting pages which are down and the town crew is seeking quotes for this repair, which is a safety issue.
5. Sign-ups for RACBL are coming up and the commission discussed how sign-ups are being publicized. The Citizens' News will reach all households in print. S. Szturma exited the meeting.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. A. Sirowich reported that she has several after-school classes planned for the Winter/Spring session including Flanders Nature Center programs, Beacon Falls Bakery, STEM classes, Drawing class and Spanish. A brochure will go home through the schools and will include the sports league sign-up information. Soccer sign-ups are all done online.
2. Through Prospect Parks & Recreation, Family Swim will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from February 7th through April 12th.
3. Zumba continues to run every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Karate continues on Monday evenings.
4. B. Egan reported that he has begun booking concerts for Saturday evenings in June, July, and August. He is open to recommendations from the commissioners regarding new bands and performers.

E. COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER COMMITTEE

- A. Sirowich reported that the CMC Committee is meeting next Wednesday for the first time in several weeks.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Minutes and agenda are now to be submitted to the Town Hall electronically.
- B. Budget packets are out and due back on January 17th. The commissioners will begin the budget process for next year ASAP.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012**

- C. Purchasing policies and procedures were reviewed. The commission should be receiving a monthly budget report for review. All invoices should be sent to the Town Hall.
- D. Selectman D. D'Amico is the new Director of Public Works. Maintenance requests should be directed through Mr. D'Amico.
- E. J. Rodorigo reviewed a memo regarding projected Capital Expenditures for the department, which is due by the end of the month.
- F. A letter was sent to the Board of Selectmen from the Parks & Recreation Commission, regarding the purchase of the Powanski property. The letter was read at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- G. The initial draft of the Beacon Falls Plan of Conservation and Development should go to Public Hearing in the coming months. The commissioners are encouraged to review the plan and provide comment on the section concerning parks.
- H. Letter from Pond Services stating the need to reapply for a new DEP permit at an increased fee.
- I. The commission reviewed the RABCL list of requested improvements to the Pent Road Recreation Complex. J. Rodorigo has reviewed this list with the town crew and Mr. D'Amico. Taken one by one, the commissioners agreed to **approve** the following items at the expense of the league: netting for batting cages, roofing for the dugouts on Field #4, and the flagpole on Field #1. The batting cages and dugouts were purchased by the league. The town will resolve the safety issue which currently exists with the batting cages because poles are down. The flagpole should be in a sleeve which can be removed during the off season. It is now up to the RACBL to proceed with these projects.
- J. The commission **did not approve**: warm up mounds for Field #1 and Field #4. There are liabilities when players are exiting the field of play and the locations of the mounds are an issue. They also did not approve a warning track for Field #4.
- K. The town will take on the issue of the warning track for Field #1 because of issues with the sprinkler system on the first and third base lines of Field #1.

APPLICATIONS

- A. The commission discussed modifications to the 2012 Facilities Application. S. Osowiecki noted that the application should state the insurance certificate is required.
- B. For non-affiliated Beacon Falls leagues, J. Rodorigo researched the fees charged by surrounding towns and the per game fee will increase from \$20 per game (\$10 per team) to \$50 per game (\$25 per team).
- C. The Matthies Park pavilion will have a *suggested donation* of \$50 for holding an event there.
- D. The application changes will be drafted for approval at the February meeting.

GRANTS

The commission needs to begin the process for the Katharine Matthies and CT Community Foundation grant applications due this spring.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

The commission received a bill from clerk, Erin Schwarz. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to pay the bill. S. Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012**

BUDGET

The budget will be prepared for discussion and approval at the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

B.Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. S. Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission