

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 19, 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 7:07 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, A. Enquist, J. Rodorigo, S. Ruhl, and A. Sirowich (7:34 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: S. Osowiecki, L. Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the February, 2012 minutes as presented. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. A. Enquist abstained from the vote. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. J. Rodorigo reported that the town has signed a contract with Pro-am Construction for the reroofing and weatherproofing of the boathouse at a cost of \$4,253.00. Several estimates were obtained and the roofing should begin in May. Pro-am provided additional estimates for repairs which will be needed in the future.
2. Future Past Preservation provided a draft biography of Bernie Matthies. Lucas is working on the history of the park and hopes to have this portion of the report finished by the end of the month. The biography will be emailed to all members of Parks & Recreation for their review.

B. PENT ROAD

1. The leagues have been approved to begin their practices at Pent Road.
2. Regarding the A frame structure which was designed by Shelter Logic in order to fix the safety issue between Field #1 and #2, it is being taken down and the town has devised another solution. The town will be removing the structure and hopes to reuse it elsewhere. The new solution required several line item transfers from the Parks & Recreation budget as follows:
 - \$2,000 from Building Maintenance
 - \$4,500 from Recreational Programs
 - \$ 350 from Tools and Equipment
 - \$2,000 from Electricity & Water

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\$ 450 from Office Supplies
\$2,000 from Spray, Clay and Fertilizer

These monies were added to \$7,000 from the Grounds Maintenance line item and the result is Capital Improvement line item totaling \$18,900. These transfers have been approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance and the new structure should be ready for opening day on April 14th.

3. Phase 2 of this project will include the repair of the batting cages and entrances to tennis and basketball courts.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

J. Rodorigo reported that the Land Use committee met on this park, and the town is stilling awaiting monies from an organization called RNB, which is holding the monies from the State of Connecticut. No action will be taken until the monies are received. The amount is \$100,000.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Both Boys and Girls Basketball leagues have completed their seasons.
2. Opening Day for baseball and softball is Saturday, April 14 and practices will begin this week.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. A. Enquist is looking into bringing adult swim, family swim and possibly swimming lessons to Beacon Falls' residents and she is looking into reserving Woodland's pool through the end of June for this purpose. As of March 1st, school use forms for Region 16 are online and she is waiting to hear back from Region 16.
2. J. Rodorigo provided the group with a program booklet from Amity Adult and Continuing Education and asked for one of the commissioners to review the programming to bring some of the adult programs to Beacon Falls. Some of the Amity teachers are town residents. S. Ruhl is reviewing the booklet.
3. J. Rodorigo has spoken with a Crave Magna Israeli martial arts instructor, who is also willing to put on self-defense programs for teens and adults. A. Enquist mentioned there is a strong interest in self-defense.
4. The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Library are co-sponsoring an Astronomy Program in St. Michael's lyceum on April 26th.
5. Parks & Recreation sponsored two senior trips to two plays; however there was little publicity for these events, except through the Senior Center.
6. The Summer Recreation Program sign-ups will take place mostly through online registrations with one night for traditional sign-ups. It would be convenient for parents to be able to pay for the program online through the town website and it would be helpful if we could set up a PayPal account on the website.
7. B. Egan has booked 5 concerts for the summer months, beginning in early June and he has booked some new groups, including The Crystal Fiddlers and a jazz group.
8. A. Sirowich has received several requests for early childhood education, preschooler age programs.

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9. A. Sirowich is interesting is holding a program with the Beacon Falls Bakery for the teachers and staff at Laurel Ledge. She also hopes to pursue some Eli Whitney programs for later this spring, under their Social Studies/History selections.
10. Finally, she would like to offer CPR/First Aid and Babysitting certifications classes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. The commission received a thank you note from the seniors for sponsoring the bus trip to Seven Angels Theatre.
- B. The commission received an accounting from the Financial Manager showing deposits of \$1030.50 to the Special Activities Account.
- C. A letter was received from a Beacon Falls resident, Sophie Zila, who is a graduate student conducting a study on a vernal pool at Matthies Park. She will provide a copy of her report to the commission.
- D. There were several advertisements from bands and a request for summer employment through the Summer Recreation Program.
- E. The Sugar Shak is under management by a new committee and they sent correspondence asking about the food service license. Who pays the fee and whose name is on the license? Will the town indemnify them? The Sugar Shak is a for-profit entity and they are to be insured under the leagues' insurance with the town as the secondary coverage. J. Rodorigo will resolve these questions.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. There was a town meeting held recently regarding the future of Toby's Pond and at present Parks & Recreation does not have any responsibilities for this property. Volunteer efforts are being planned at Toby's and O&G is involved in helping the town.
- B. The Powanski property is no longer on the market for sale and the town has not taken any action towards acquiring that property.
- C. The commission received an invitation to a dinner honoring Susan Cable on Friday, March 30th. **S. Ruhl made a motion to fund a ticket to the event, should one of the commissioners wish to attend. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.** None of the commissioners present were available to attend.

APPLICATIONS

- A. **A. Sirowich made a motion to approve the application from the Robert A. Cole Baseball League for use of fields for the recreational season. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- B. **B. Egan made a motion to approve the Woodland Regional High School field use application for spring, 2012. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- C. **B. Egan made a motion to approve the Beacon Falls Girls' Softball League's field use application. A. Enquist seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- D. **S. Ruhl made a motion to approve the Valley Fusion Softball League's application, noting that the local recreational leagues receive first priority and upon**

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confirmation of the effective date of their insurance certificate. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

- E. The commission did not take action on the application from the CT Owls, which is a travel team because no insurance certificate was included and payment has not been made. The commission will need to review availability of the fields for the tournament dates requested and establish an agreed upon price for the tournament play. J. Rodorigo has also requested minutes from the RACBL which shows that the CT Owls application has been reviewed by the RACBL and they are agreeable to the practice and game times requested by the CT Owls. This is because the recreational leagues have priority use of the fields.
- F. The commission did not take action on the Prospect Homers Adult Baseball application requesting use of the field for 6 dates. The hours requested are late into the evening and the field is unlit. The adults would need to use Field #5, so the commission cannot act on their application until the baseball and softball league schedules are set, so there is no conflict.

GRANTS

- A. The Katharine Matthies grant is due May 1, 2012 and the final grant report will be submitted shortly.
- B. The commission hopes to apply for a programming grant through Connecticut Community Foundation again this fall.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Bill submitted by the clerk, Erin Schwarz. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to pay this invoice. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

BUDGET

- A. The commission previously discussed the line item transfer which was needed to fund the safety netting at Pent Road. J. Rodorigo advised that according to the town crew, there are adequate funds remaining in the line items for the rest of the fiscal year.
- B. The Board of Selectmen has eliminated the PT Activities Director position from the budget. The Board of Finance has reviewed the budget and at present there are no other changes to the requested budget. The budget process is being conducted differently this year.
- C. The Board of Selectmen and Finance have requested that expenses for projects come out of the department budget and moved to Capital Improvements. J. Rodorigo's concern with this method is that when unexpected repairs or unforeseen projects arise, the line items for Pent Road or Matthies may be underfunded. There should be some middle ground.
- D. Also, when formulating a 5 year plan, there is a process for gathering estimates from contractors and putting together the budget for the project, which is time consuming. Once the project is actually funded these estimates may no longer be good and contractors themselves could become frustrated with the length of the process.
- E. There has been a decrease in the grand list for Beacon Falls and J. Rodorigo encouraged everyone to attend and be aware of the budget process as it moves forward.

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OTHER BUSINESS

A. J. Roderigo noted that he received a quotation from Oxbury LLC for Port-o-lets for \$67.50 per unit and if there are no special conditions, he would like to enter into a contract with them, as this represents a savings over the current supplier.

B. J. Roderigo discussed the future of the board with the commissioners, moving forward he asked if the board's focus was to be an administrative board or a programming and activities board. If the board wishes to function as a programming board, each member must take an active role in planning activities and events. The commission would be the coordinator for the events and people can be hired to be present for each event, such as a lifeguard and check in person for swimming/family swim. The Activities Director position has been eliminated from the town budget. A. Sirowich stated she hoped the board could be administrative, and supervise a paid employee to plan activities. She is unsure as a volunteer, if the Commission can continue what it has been doing. J. Roderigo concurred that he has devoted a lot of time to Parks & Recreation and he needs help.

ADJOURNMENT

B.Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission