

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 21, 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 8:09 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, J. Rodorigo, S. Ruhl, A. Sirowich and L. Swanson (8:11 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Enquist, S. Osowiecki

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Krenesky (8:25 PM)

MINUTES

A.Sirowich made a motion to approve the April, 2012 minutes as submitted. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. J. Rodorigo distributed the finished booklet from Future Past Preservation on the History of Bernard Matthies and Matthies Park. There are 20 copies of the document which are being handed out. Future Past needs to receive their final payment and Lucas will continue to work with the Commission on verbiage for a sign for the park, which outlines some of the park's history. The document has a lot of information on Mr. Matthies, but due to his private nature, there is not a lot of information on how/why he built the park the way he did. This document is the first step towards getting the house on the Historic Registry.
2. J. Rodorigo noted that it is not his wish to knock down the house on Carrington Pond. In the past he has stated that there are 3 options for the house: to fix it, to continue to let it deteriorate until it is no longer repairable, or to tear it down. He is not in favor of tearing it down and hopes the town will pursue funds to repair it.
3. Work has been completed on the boathouse.
4. CT Trails Day is June 2 and a Family Bike Ride event is being planned at Matthies Park from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.
5. The annual Canoe/Kayak event is scheduled for Saturday, July 21 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

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B. PENT ROAD

1. The complex is being widely used and work continues there. The nets are in place on Fields #1 & #2 and currently there is a problem with the timers for security lights and the fryer at the Sugar Shak.
2. L. Swanson asked about the bleachers on the first base line for Field #1 and if they can be angled for better viewing of home plate.
3. S. Ruhl shared a letter from Troop 138 who wishes to tackle the recycling issues at Pent Road. The commission is fully in favor of having the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts work on this problem.
4. There may be a request pending to relocate the shed on Field #4.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

Nothing to report.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. United Way of Naugatuck/Beacon Falls is interested in helping out the sports leagues in town. In the past they have given money to the Beacon Falls leagues, but they have not done so for several years. The Beacon Falls Softball League and Valley Fusion have applied for donations. The RACBL and Beacon Falls Basketball League have been encouraged to apply for donations from this organization, as it is United Way's wish to provide help to Beacon Falls.
2. The RACBL has complained that the netting on Field #1 is not high enough. The cost of the current netting was \$30,000.
3. The CT Owls sent an email to J. Roderigo complaining about the pitching mound and baselines, which did not meet their standards for a weekend game. J. Roderigo explained that the permanent 46' pitching mound was built for RACBL and the field was set up for Little League play on Friday for the weekend. There are no town employees who work during the weekend to change the baselines and the mound over the weekend.
4. CT Owls' application was approved with the condition that RACBL must be in agreement with their field usage and they were to pay for field usage. J. Roderigo has sent an invoice to the CT Owls for the practice time and game dates they have requested. Also, they have agreed on a per day price for the tournament that CT Owls plans to play this weekend. J. Roderigo has requested that the invoice is paid by Friday, prior to the tournament.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. A. Sirowich reported that the Zumba is wrapping up for the school year this week. She does not plan on teaching classes over the summer and will resume the program in the fall.
2. Final After-School programs have been completed with the bat box building class ending last week.

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3. The Karate class has grown and Mrs. Mascola from USA Martial Arts would like to secure 2 nights a week at Laurel Ledge in the fall to accommodate her students.
4. Adult Basketball is continuing through the end of the school year.
5. Family Day fireworks will take place on July 7th and this event is being put together by J. Rodorigo.
6. There will also be a 5k Summer Scorcher race at Pent Road, which will either coincide with the fireworks or take place the weekend before or after the fireworks. Application is pending.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Sophie Ziela of Beacon Falls is a graduate student conducting an aquatic life research at Matthies Park. Her friend is conducting an avian study there as well. They have permission to be in the park at night and will share their findings with the Parks & Recreation Commission. J. Rodorigo hopes to use this information to provide some signage educating the public on the wildlife at the park.
- B. The commission received a letter from Rich Minnick detailing all of the work which has been completed at Tobey's Pond.
- C. The Land Use Commission is meeting shortly and requested attendance by a member of Parks & Recreation. S. Ruhl will attend the meeting.
- D. A. Sirowich received several applications for summer employment at the Summer Recreation program.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. S. Ruhl will submit the application to register the Matthies summer house on Carrington Pond as an historic place. The application will include the Future Past Preservation study.
- B. Prospect Soccer plans on utilizing Pent Road again for the fall season and they will be submitting a Field Use form with dates for the fall.
- C. S. Ruhl reviewed the continuing education classes offered at Amity and highlighted suggestions/requests from students. Students were interested in PSAT/SAT classes and CPR certification courses among others. A. Sirowich will take those suggestions and start working on classes for fall with hopes we can utilize Woodland for adult education.
- D. A. Sirowich will be taking over as Director of the Summer Recreation Program. She is looking at hiring assistant counselors and finalizing the program for the summer. We will also be getting the registration forms out in backpacks after Memorial Day.

APPLICATIONS

- A. May 5th - Application from the Scolan family to use Matthies Park pavilion. This was approved, date has past.

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- B. June 16th – Application from the Ryan family to use Matthies Park pavilion, which is approved.
- C. August 11 and 12 – Cub Scout Pack 2010 applied for use of Matthies pavilion for their picnic and sleepover in the park.
- D. May 27 –Application from the El's family to use Matthies Park pavilion to be approved.
- E. June 26 – Application from the Segelka's to use Pent Road pavilion. Application will be approved pending receipt of insurance certificate and fee.
- F. Application from Prospect Homers for use of fields, which was declined due to too many conflicts with leagues in play. This group will reapply for field space in July when the fields are not as busy, on a new application.
- G. June 5 – Laurel Ledge PTO applied for use of Pent Road Rec Complex for 5th grade Field Day event. Rain date is June 6th.

GRANTS

- A. The Katharine Matthies grant was submitted with a request for \$15,000 for new toddler playground at Pent Road. If the playground can be relocated, the long term plan is to create a pavilion on the lower level at Pent Road, replacing the current Pent Road pavilion area.
- B. The commission also applied to Connecticut Community Foundation for a Sponsorship for the Canoe/Kayak event in an effort to expand that program.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Bill submitted by the clerk, Erin Schwarz.

BUDGET

- A. The town budget passed and the Parks & Recreation budget increased by \$11,000 overall. The main areas which saw increases are the Matthies Park line item which increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and Grounds Maintenance which increased by \$5,000.
- B. Also, the Family Day Fireworks celebration now has all of its funds in one fiscal year. In the past because a deposit is paid in January and the balance in July, the funds would be split over two years. Now all of the funds are in one fiscal year and the final check will be cut by June 30.
- C. J. Rodorigo noted line items in budget with money remaining: Prospect Soccer has not yet received their subsidy and A. Sirowich has funds left to spend under Recreation programs for the upcoming summer program.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. M. Krenesky asked about the status of the Haunted Hayride. J. Rodorigo noted that Park Pals will most likely dissolve once its funds are exhausted and they are more than willing to offer guidance and props to another town organization that wants to take over the event. M. Krenesky was discussing this possibility with the Rotary Club. J. Rodorigo advised that the event is a great deal of work, but it is a successful and profitable event.

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B. J. Rodorigo also noted that Park Pals wants to donate some items to the town, perhaps a paddleboat for Canoe/Kayak day or signage for Matthies Park.

ADJOURNMENT

B.Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission