

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 20, 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 7:08 PM.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: B. Egan and D. Sorrentino

OTHERS PRESENT: N/A

MINUTES

A.Sirowich made a motion to approve the July, 2012 minutes, as submitted. J. Rodorigo seconded the motion. A. Sirowich and J. Rodorigo voted aye. S. Osowiecki and S. Ruhl abstained from the vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. J. Rodorigo noted that the Canoe/Kayak day at the park was successful with steady attendance.
2. A mason has recently completed work shoring up the settling ponds totaling \$5,000 with \$4,000 coming out of the Settling Pond line item and the balance from the Matthies Park line item.
3. \$2,900 in tree work is being completed at the park setting up for telephone poles which will eventually bring power to the pavilion.
4. Airway Electric will be removing 2 temporary telephone poles from Pent Road and moving them to Matthies Park to the pavilion area, so the pavilion and playground can be lit. This move should take place in the next 2 weeks.
5. The Matthies pavilion continues to be the #1 requested park facility and has been used regularly this summer at the suggested donation cost of \$50.
6. Connecticut Pond Services will be meeting with J. Rodorigo and taking water and algae samples to address some of the overgrowth issues with the pond. The lilies are gone; however there are additional problems with water shield.
7. S. Ruhl sent the paperwork to the State of Connecticut requesting that the house on the island be named to the State Historic Register.

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B. PENT ROAD

1. The summer leagues are all wrapped up with Top Dog Baseball Camp currently using the park and this camp ends this Friday.
2. Football, cheerleading, soccer and fall ball will begin shortly.
3. J. Rodorigo received several quotations for work at the park from M&M to resurface the basketball courts and for Field #2. The work on Field #2 will be done by the town crew to save on costs.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

Next week, J. Rodorigo is meeting with Manny Gomez to discuss the progress with this grant.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

Field Use applications are in process for fall leagues. Nothing to report at present.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. Summer Recreation Camp has concluded and received very positive responses from parents and counselors. The daily email which A. Sirowich sent out to campers was especially well received.
2. Summer concerts have also concluded and B. Egan will access which bands will be invited back next summer.
3. A. Sirowich is working on the fall booklet of after school programs.
4. The Rotary Club will be taking over the Haunted Hayride this year and Parks & Recreation and Park Pals will support them with props, guidance, and contacts to coordinate the event, since it is their first year running it.
5. The Mike Donnelly Basketball Camp did not run due to lack of enrollment.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. J. Rodorigo noted that there has been vandalism ongoing at both parks, mainly surrounding the Port-O-Lets which have been overturned, spray painting and broken bottles. He has requested that there be more police presence, with the police clearing the parks at 9:30 PM and patrolling more frequently.
- B. Currently, the town is looking into parking lot cameras for the parks in an effort to cut down on vandalism and to identify cars which are present at the parks.
- C. S. Ruhl asked if the overturned Port-O-Lets have a lasting effect with the waterways at Matthies Park and J. Rodorigo explained not to date, because they have been dumped into outgoing waterways.

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- D. Harboryard has been contacting J. Rodorigo to coordinate a Beacon Falls event, either a Sound Tigers game, concert or other event at their venue. S. Ruhl took the contact information and will talk to their representative to set up something.
- E. J. Rodorigo explained that with regard to Woodland High School pool facilities, he is working with Chris Moffo of Prospect Parks & Recreation to co-sponsor open swim, family swim, and senior swim activities and lifeguard training. Events which use the Woodland pool facility should be shared by both towns in the region.
- F. Sophie Zyla, who completed the amphibian study at Matthies Park, is interested in teaching environment education classes to the public.
- G. A. Sirowich has some ideas for the Summer Recreation Program next year, involving field trips for the older students, such as paddle boarding at Toby's Pond or hiking.
- H. A. Sirowich also received a request for an Aqua-Zumba class at Woodland which would be shared with Prospect.

APPLICATIONS

- A. To date, the commission received three applications for the fall: from Woodland High School for high school soccer, from Prospect Soccer requesting 6 dates and Woodland Jr. Hawks football and cheerleading requesting use of the fields Monday - Friday. These applications have been approved. The Jr. Hawks were denied the dates when Prospect Soccer is using Pent Road, but the remaining dates were approved.
- B. The registration numbers for fall baseball are low, and the commission is currently awaiting the Fall Ball application from RACBL.
- C. Sue Keane has requested the Matthies Park pavilion for August 29th. Her fee has been paid and her application is in order for approval.

GRANTS

- A. J. Rodorigo asked the clerk to follow up with the First Selectmen's Office to be sure that the Katharine Matthies grant acceptance letter was mailed out in July.
- B. The commission plans to apply for another program grant through Connecticut Community Foundation in September, to bring Eli Whitney Workshop after school programs back to Laurel Ledge.
- C. There are several large ticket projects for the parks, such as repaving the walkway at Pent Road, and the commission will request that the First Selectmen's Office consider using STEAP monies for these projects.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

One bill from the clerk, Erin Schwarz was approved.

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BUDGET

- A. J. Rodorigo will receive a monthly print out of the town budget line items showing where the department stands. To date, the parks maintenance line items are being spent as projects are getting done through cooperative efforts with the town crew. It is still early in the budget year but half of the maintenance budget has been spent and more than half of the Matthies Park line item has been utilized.
- B. Regarding the Events/Activities Checking Account, the finance office will also provide monthly Excel spreadsheets outlining this account.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Denise from the Finance Office has asked the commission to make sure to submit a form/receipt with any monies which are being deposited into the Parks & Recreation Activities account. Improved tracking will allow the commission to better understand the success of each program.
- B. S. Ruhl inquired about the vacancy on the board. J. Rodorigo explained that the board needs a commissioner who is willing to take charge with ideas, organize events and coordinate activities for Parks & Recreation and it may take some time to find the right person. S. Osowiecki plans to remain on the board until 7/1/2013.

ADJOURNMENT

A.Sirowich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission