

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2013**

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

J. Rodorigo called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:02 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. Rodorigo, B. Egan, S. Osowiecki, D. Sorrentino, S. Ruhl, J. DeGennaro, A. Sirowich (7:10 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Gerard Smith, Katharine Matthies Committee Member Jane Hull, Bill Butterworth, Sue Dowdell, a representative from Citizen's News

At the discretion of the Chair, Comments from the Public was moved to the top of the agenda, in order to present Jane Hull with an album of photos showing recent projects which have been completed at Beacon Falls parks with funds from the Katharine Matthies Foundation. J. Rodorigo thanked the Foundation for its continued generosity. J. Hull thanked the commission for the feedback and noted that the foundation will be very pleased to receive it. The commission also displayed a bronze plaque, which is to be installed at Matthies Park, recognizing the Katharine Matthies Foundation for its contributions to the park. Finally, First Selectmen Gerard Smith read a proclamation declaring March 18, 2013 Katharine Matthies Foundation Day in the Town of Beacon Falls and thanking them for supporting children and future generations of our town.

**MINUTES**

**S. Osowiecki made a motion to approve the February, 2013 meeting minutes, as posted. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Sue Dowdell thanked the commission for co-sponsoring the Animal Embassy programs. The second program took place on Thursday, March 14 and there were close to 100 people in attendance. The program was very well received. J. Rodorigo returned thanks to the library for running the program.

Gerard Smith noted that in speaking with Lee Nemeth, who is a community-minded individual, regarding the fireworks display on Family Day, he welcomes people to view the fireworks from his lot and would welcome working with Parks & Recreation for this event.

Bill Butterworth, Player Agent for the RACBL, updated the commission on the league's status. Kevin Hicks is the new president, Bobby Bulinski is the Vice President, and Joe Kalentek is Treasurer. He thanked Parks & Recreation for their donation to the league, which allowed them to keep the registration fee stable. There are 120 players registered and they are still accepting

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registrations and the late fees are being waived for late registrations. Many took advantage of the Early Bird special which saved \$10 off the registration. There will be 2 major league teams, 4 minor, 3 coach pitch and 4 T-ball teams. RACBL plans to use the Pent Road fields as much as possible for games. They have permission to use the Laurel Ledge Fields, but are unsure how construction at the school will affect the season. J. Rodorigo advised that in speaking with the new interim Superintendent, at present Region 16 does not expect equipment on that site until mid-June.

Bill asked about the status of the batting cages and J. Rodorigo advised that work will take place before the end of March, so they are structurally ready for the season. Removal of the base/grass will not take place until after the season, but the cages will have netting and be open soon.

There were some scoreboard lights out and Bill will check with members of the league to see if they have personnel who can fix them. J. Rodorigo asked to let him know if there is no one available to repair them and he would then get someone.

RACBL would also like to address the issue of field lights for Fields #1 & 2, as the switch is in the Sugar Shack and there is often no access to the Shack. J. Rodorigo is meeting with the league presidents to discuss the Sugar Shack and will address the issue at this meeting. Several parents have volunteered for the Sugar Shack committee. April 13 is Opening Day with the ceremony at noon and first games planned for 1:00 PM.

RACBL is looking into fundraisers, such as Rock Cats game and bus trips and sponsors are being sought for teams and for banners around the field. Field Use applications have been submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. Roofing on the garage was torn during the storm and J. Rodorigo received a quote for repair.
2. On Thursday, April 25 for Earth Day, Woodland High School's student council will do a clean-up of the park.
3. There is gutter damage on the pavilion, and J. Rodorigo is looking into the repair or removal of the gutters.
4. The Connecticut Preservation Trust was in touch with the commission advising that they received the application to establish the island house as a historic site and they are reviewing the request. They inquired about the age of the house on the island.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. A tree has fallen and damaged the corner fencing of the basketball court. This is a safety issue which must be repaired soon and J. Rodorigo is seeking quotes.
2. Opening Day is April 13 and the town crew will be working to get the fields ready for the season.

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**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

There is no update on the grant for Riverbend Park.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. Applications have been received from RACBL, Softball League, Woodland High School and the CT Owls.
2. The Fall College League wants to hold more games at Pent Road in the fall and they are talking about supplying some temporary fencing for their games. When they play on Field #5, Fields #3 and #4 cannot be used. Also, they play during soccer season, so the soccer goals must be moved to accommodate them. J. Rodorigo will discuss with them further.

**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. A. Sirowich is working on the spring brochure for after school programs which will include Drawing Class, Cupcake Decorating and the programs which J. DeGennaro is working on.
2. J. DeGennaro spoke with references for Mark Pizzi's Tennis program and they were all positive. He is planning a free tennis clinic on April 6<sup>th</sup> and spring tennis lessons beginning April 25<sup>th</sup>, with week-long tennis camps running during the summer.
3. J. DeGennaro has booked a Zumbatomicms class for grades K-5 which will begin April 22, a preschool Art Class for ages 3-5 beginning at the end of April and an American Red Cross Babysitting Class for ages 11-15 on May 4 at Woodland.
4. J. DeGennaro is also working on Summer Swim Lessons and the instructor has asked if the commission can purchase swim belts. The lessons would be ½ hour and leveled for ages 3-4 and up.
5. S. Ruhl has received a positive response regarding the Sound Tigers game, but he is waiting for forms and monies to come in. The deadline for sign-up is March 29<sup>th</sup>.
6. Prospect Parks & Rec is hosting a Red Cross Lifeguard Certification course which is open to Beacon Falls residents.
7. The St. Michael's Men's Club Fishing Derby will be held April 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 11:00 AM. B. Egan will work with J. Rodorigo to arrange the delivery of the fish earlier that week.
8. B. Egan has booked 7 summer concerts to date: June 15 – Ken Morr Band, June 22 – Flashback, June 29 – Bristol Fiddlers, July 20 – Angelo, July 27 – Rich Bobinski Orchestra, and August 3 – Common Folk, August 10 – Route 691.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Sophie Zyla sent correspondence regarding her next study at Matthies Park, which will be a mammal study. When she completes her studies, she would like to give a presentation on her findings, which can be held at the Matthies pavilion. She also gives Nature talks, which might be something which can be linked with Connecticut Trails Day on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**APPLICATIONS**

2013 applications are on the town website. As noted above, spring application are due now and are being reviewed.

**GRANTS**

- A. A. Sirowich has been in touch with Josh Carey from Connecticut Community Foundation regarding the application she submitted in early February.
- B. The Katharine Matthies Application is due on May 1, 2013.
- C. United Way has granted \$500 to the Beacon Falls Softball league.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

No bills at this time.

**BUDGET**

As discussed in the February, 2013 meeting, the budget has be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and no cuts have been made as of yet. The operating budget through June 30, 2013 is on target, with some maintenance issues which still need to be addressed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

J. Rodorigo is looking into purchasing some signage which are 'social rules' for spectators which could be posted for Opening Day and he is getting quotes on those. They encourage good sportsmanship, when children are playing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**D.Sorrentino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission