

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
MAY 20, 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 7:05 PM.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: J. DeGennaro, S. Osowiecki

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

**MINUTES**

**D. Sorrentino made a motion to approve the March, 2013 meeting minutes, as presented.  
B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. There is an Eagle Scout project going on right now at Matthies Park for Donald Ferretti from Troop 104. The covered bridge should be built in the next 3-4 weeks. The project is going smoothly.
2. A DEEP permit was taken out for the treatment and water shield of the pond, and the application will take place in the next fiscal cycle.
3. Minor vandalism issues at Matthies and the police have been notified.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. The Family Day Fireworks celebration will take place on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. The fireworks have been paid for out of the 2012-2013 budget.
2. Routine maintenance taking place at Pent Road with fencing and holes in the roof which have been fixed, and they are working on repairs to the batting cages.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

There is no update on the grant for Riverbend Park. The project is on hold throughout the budget process.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

S. Ruhl noted that the Softball League is going fine. RACBL's season is in full swing.

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**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. D. Sorrentino and J. Rodorigo have been working on the Cardboard Boat Regatta, which will take place on July 6<sup>th</sup>, the morning of the fireworks. There is no charge for this event and rules are being set. Publicity will take place soon. This is the first year of this event, so we'd like to see as many participants as possible.
2. The Commission needs to set a date for Canoe/Kayak Day, as J. Rodorigo will be away several weekends in July. There was discussion about when this event can take place, including possibly July 6<sup>th</sup>. J. Rodorigo and D. Sorrentino will check with CT Outdoors first and then decide on the date based on their availability.
3. B. Egan noted that the Fishing Derby went well. Ron Barksdale had run the derby in the past and he passed away the week before, so the event was dedicated to him. First Selectman Smith read a proclamation and the family was very appreciative. D. Sorrentino noted that he heard all positive comments about the event.
4. A. Sirowich noted that the Summer Recreation Program applications went home with the spring brochure and more applications will go out online and by paper soon. The program is July 8 through August 9 and she has several sign-ups already. A. Sirowich has many of the same counselors coming back and she is looking into busing for trips for the summer.
5. B. Egan has booked 8 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 and August 17 – Kerry Boys.
6. J. Rodorigo has talked to Citizen's News about advertising and asked about putting the concert information in a box so it stands out, rather than paying for a costly ad.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

J. Rodorigo asked the members who were running programs to check the Parks & Recreation box often because of lot of information is coming in, the box is full and program application have been piling up.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. S. Ruhl asked about the seaplanes going into Toby's Pond and J. Rodorigo noted that Toby's is not under our jurisdiction and wondered how the pond would be affected.
- B. A. Sirowich would like to have a day of the Summer Recreation Program to take older students to Toby's Pond for stand-up paddle-boarding or kayak/canoe or to do a hike at Matthies Park. J. Rodorigo noted that maybe Sophie Zyla could do a guided nature tour for the kids.

**APPLICATIONS**

Several applications have come in:

- A. Ryan Matthews of the Suzie Foundation wants to do a Kickball Tournament on August 10 and August 11 from noon – 10:00 PM and he expects 99 people with proceeds going to the ALS Foundation.

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- B. There are two requests to use the Matthies pavilion on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both applicants have provided their insurance certificates and their \$50 donations. The applications will be approved.

**GRANTS**

- A. Katharine Matthies Grant application was submitted by the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for a \$20,000 pavilion for Pent Road to be located near Field #1 and the playground area. J. Rodorigo would like to eventually see blinds or sides made of canvas which can be attached to the pavilion, so the Summer Recreation kids could be shaded and protected from the wind. We will await word on the grant application.
- B. J. Rodorigo has spoken with the First Selectman about STEAP grants. Last year, the town applied for a Cities & Towns grant, which is managed by the same agency and did not receive a grant. This year they will be applying for a STEAP dollars and if there is room in the grant for a request from Parks & Recreation, J. Rodorigo will be advised.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

There is a \$40 bill for Ron Barksdale's event, which will be paid. The clerk needs to put her invoices in.

**BUDGET**

- A. Concerning the 2012-2013 budget, and the balance in Parks & Recreation line items, there is some money in Office Supplies and Clerk Wages. Tools & Equipment is in the red by \$200. There were recent purchases totaling \$2,000 under Spray, Clay & Fertilizer. The American Red Cross Babysitter's Course still needs to be paid for out of the Activities line item. June concerts will also be paid out of Activities line item in this year's budget. A. Sirowich can begin buying supplies for Summer Recreation Camp in June.
- B. With the Town Meeting coming up, next year's budget 2013-2014 Parks & Recreation budget is currently as it was presented to the Board of Selectmen/Finance and contains a 7.7% decrease. After the Town Meeting, the budget can be decreased before going to referendum. The entire Town budget represents a 4.4% increase over last year's budget with a .1 mil increase.
- C. J. Rodorigo noted one item of concern in the Library budget, there is \$11,000 for an architectural study of the Wolfe Avenue property for future municipal use. The concern is that this property was intended to be a multi-use structure with space for Parks & Recreation programming. While Parks & Recreation participated in past studies concerning the use of this building by providing input and ideas, Parks & Recreation has not been approached concerning this architectural study. D. Sorrentino, S. Ruhl and A. Sirowich all expressed concern over the intended use of this property, if the plan does not include Parks & Recreation space. Parks & Recreation clearly states in the plan of Conservation & Development which was put together for Beacon Falls, that there is a need for programming space and J. Rodorigo is also on record stating this need. J. Rodorigo would like to see building committee formed before an architectural study is

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put together, so that the committee can discuss the use of this space before plans are drawn up. Several studies have taken place in the past, which show the community's support of the project as a multi-use building.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission